



Leona Georgina Schonlau

October 3, 1932 - May 12, 2022

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Leona was the fourth of seven children born to Susie and Bert Potestio Sr. Leona came into this world on October 3, 1932 in Vineland, Colorado. Leona is survived by her brother Alfred Potestio, her sisters-in-law Mary Potestio, Viki Potestio, and Peggy Koons as well as sixteen nieces and nephews and numerous grandnieces and grandnephews. She is preceded in death by her parents, her sisters Helen Dingle, Virginia Gilley, Marie Philips, her brothers Vincent Potestio, Bert Potestio, Jr., her brothers-in-law Robert Philips, Edward Gilley, and Robert Dingle, her sister-in-law Beverly Potestio and, her beloved husband of nearly sixty years, William (Bill) Schonlau.

Leona worked as a bookkeeper for many years at the Pueblo Clinic and later, ABEX before she and Bill moved to Texas and Louisiana for Bill's work where she continued to work as a bookkeeper for various businesses. Leona and Bill eventually moved back to Colorado and upon Bill's retirement from Aurora Public Schools, returned to the Potestio family home in Avondale, Colorado.

Leona maintained that home as the Potestio family gathering place with the door open to all of the family at all times for over forty years. She greeted everyone with a smile and her memorable laugh. Leona ensured that any member of her family had a seat at the kitchen table at any time. Leona loved

flowers and birds and she and Bill turned the family home's yard into a beautiful and peaceful sanctuary. Leona's door was never locked. If she and Bill were not at home, she would leave a note on the kitchen table saying "You're here, I'm not, be back later. [signed] Puss" (her childhood nickname). Later, she often was called "Onee" by her nieces and nephews.

Leona loved to see and experience what her world had to offer and went on many trips and adventures with her aunts, sisters, nieces, nephews and her husband. She and Bill would often take drives just to see where the road led them. Likewise, Leona and Bill would often take their nieces and nephews on impromptu daytrips to see the changing of the Aspens, the Royal Gorge and other sites (sometimes without their nieces' and nephews' parents' knowledge).

Leona was a voracious reader who devoured the daily newspaper as well as books regarding history, current events, and political figures. Leona was also a prolific writer of handwritten letters and notes to everyone in her orbit. It was not uncommon for anyone in the family to receive a letter or note marking a special occasion or to just catch everyone up on what was going on with the family.

Leona was the guardian and, indeed, the curator, of the Potestio family's history. She gathered, preserved and shared as many photographs, artifacts, heirlooms and family stories as possible. If someone had a question about a family member or an event, Leona could likely produce an annotated photo album or notes regarding that very person or event. Nearly everything in her home had a family story behind it and Leona was not at all shy about sharing those stories.

Leona, was an extremely loyal and fierce protector of both her family and her family's legacy. Leona deeply loved her husband and each and every member

of her family. She would always respond to a parting “I love you” with “I love you more” and genuinely meant it. Leona will be profoundly missed.

Previous Events

Viewing

MAY **20**. 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (MT)

Roselawn Funeral Home
1706 Roselawn Rd.
Pueblo, CO

Funeral Service

MAY **20**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (MT)

Roselawn Funeral Home Chapel
1706 Roselawn Rd
Pueblo, CO 81006

Tribute Wall

“ Well, Leo, you really did it this time!

These past few weeks you really put the skewer into all of us!

We all knew you would pass at some point; however, it is difficult to accept when it finally happened!

You may have wondered at times, why you were left behind after Bill and almost all of your siblings had passed on; well, it was because God knew how much joy he brought to your family every day.

Although you never had children of your own, you shared the love, wisdom, and devotion of a mother to all of your nieces and nephews.

You will recall on one Mother's Day you received a card prepared at school from one of your nephews, addressed to "Onee, the best mother ever!". What a simple way to clearly state what each of us felt.

From a lifetime of fond memories that are too many to mention; however, a few examples that stand out are:

1. I recall that as a child when you were holding me, you would never let moon light fall directly on my face; it could make a child crazy. (Obviously, you were not ALWAYS there to protect me.)

2. We went on many wonderful family vacations together. You loved birds, including figurines. After an enjoyable day trip from Tucson to Nogales, you purchased some beautiful bird figurines. Before you went to bed that evening, the birds were placed carefully in the front of the window, so they could enjoy the early morning light.

3. On a trip to Hawaii, the plane experienced some unexpected



turbulence. To console the family, you quickly retrieved a large photo of Jesus from your bag, and stated, "There is no need to worry, we are in his hands!"

4. The large Italian gatherings during holidays in Avondale were magical. Many enjoyable and memorable conversations occurred around the kitchen table where everyone was welcome.

You mentioned recently that you greatly missed the companionship and advice of Marie, Helen, and Virginia (with which you shared a crib as a child). At long last, you are all finally together, along with the rest of your beloved family.

You have always been there when I need you the most. Since we share adjoining plots in Roselawn, I will lie there next to you when I pass. I very much look forward to being there with you and the rest of our family in heaven. (I have no need to worry, I am in his hands.) I pray that all of our family will somehow be able to fit in.

Leo, you are deeply loved and will be greatly missed.

Goodbye for now,

John

John E. Gilley - May 19, 2022 at 07:02 PM

MA

“*Maria lit a candle in memory of Leona Georgina Schonlau*



Maria - May 17, 2022 at 10:48 PM



“ *Bright and Beautiful Spray was purchased for the family of Leona Georgina Schonlau.*



May 17, 2022 at 02:54 PM



“ *My heart is deeply saddened by the loss of Leona. I had many conversations with this lovely lady and will forever remember her love and kindness. Love you Leona RIP*
Diana Montez

Diana Montez - May 17, 2022 at 10:09 AM



“ *Treasured Lilies Spray was purchased for the family of Leona Georgina Schonlau.*



May 16, 2022 at 04:35 PM