



## Laia (Balducci) Francini

August 4, 1923 - January 27, 2019

Laia Francini, 95, devoted wife, mother, and grandmother passed away on January 27, 2019, at her home, in the company of her loving family.

Mom was born on August 4, 1923 in New Britain, the daughter of Alfred and Rose Balducci. On January 10, 1944 she married the love of her life Leo Francini.

She and dad were married for 75 years. His loss three weeks ago, at the age of 99, was a sad moment for our entire family and especially devastating to mom's will to live without him in her life.

They made their home in New Britain, where they raised their family. She cherished family gatherings, loved to cook delicious, homemade Italian dishes, and kept an impeccable home always open to company. In her younger days, mom was an active member of both St. Ann's and St. Francis Churches. Her generosity of time and support to both family and others was never flaunted; rather, it was offered in a spirit of helpfulness to those she loved.

She will be missed by her entire family. She leaves two sons, Robert Francini and his wife Diane; Mark Francini and his wife Pamela; and a daughter, Donna Miles and her husband Robert.

Mom had the good fortune to celebrate the arrival of six grandchildren: Sara Francini and her husband Alistair Paxton, Ryan Francini and his wife Amy, Joshua Miles and his wife Sarah, Brandon Miles and his wife Brittney, Justin Francini and his wife Danielle, and Amanda Quatrocelli and her husband Daniel. In the last five years, seven great grandchildren were added: Olivia, Leo, Ada, Emma, Parker, Asa and Sloane. She loved spending time with them, and in her later years, she cherished their visits to her and dad's home.

She was predeceased by her brother Leno Balducci and his wife Angie, Joseph Balducci and his wife Emily, and her beloved sister Aldria and her husband Nino. She leaves many loving nieces and nephews. A special thanks to her caregivers, especially Janet Gordon. Friends and family may call Wednesday (January 30) at Carlson Funeral Home, 45 Franklin Square, New Britain, from 9-10:30 AM, followed by a Mass of Christian Burial, 11 AM at St. John Evangelist Church, 655 East Street, New Britain. Burial will follow in St. Mary Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Aquatic

Department at the Hospital for Special Care, 2150 Corbin Avenue, New Britain, CT 06053.

Please share a memory or note of sympathy at [www.carlsonfuneralhome.com](http://www.carlsonfuneralhome.com).

# Cemetery Details

## St. Mary Cemetery

1141 Stanley Street  
New Britain, CT 06053

# Previous Events

## Calling Hours

JAN 30. 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM (ET)

Carlson Funeral Home  
45 Franklin Square  
New Britain, CT 06051  
(860) 225-6361  
carlsonfh@aol.com  
<https://www.carlsonfuneralhome.com/>

## Mass of Christian Burial

JAN 30. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. John The Evangelist Church  
31 Newington Ave.  
New Britain, CT 06051

# Tribute Wall

LM

“ My deepest condolences to the Francini and Miles families, who individually and hand in hand fulfill the inspiring lives of of Laia and Leo through the ways each of you show your love for them. Laia was a dignified and sweet matriarch to her last hour on earth, and you were all there to give her a sense of peace in leaving you strong, successful, and lovable in your own unique ways. Laia and Leo will continue to serve as vibrant examples of the quiet virtues that make for true friendships and an uncomplicated enjoyment of the moment, with solid expectations for the bright future I know your parents worked to help you achieve. I hope that all your memories of Laia and Leo are illuminated by the ways you honored - and will continue to honor - their remarkable lives. God bless you each and all. Carry on in happiness and abundance!

Lanette Spranzo Macaruso - January 30, 2019 at 09:19 AM

FJ

“ The Francini family so sorry to here of the loss your mother. Deepest sympathies.  
Frank Jr. and Nancy Carifa

Frank Carifa Jr. - January 29, 2019 at 04:18 PM

DW

“ Deepest condolences to the entire Francini and Balducci family. Deborah Intravia Wilson, Ellington, CT, Gloria's daughter, Emma Moscatelli Marchetti's granddaughter

D. Wilson - January 29, 2019 at 10:39 AM

**RADICAL  
LEFT  
SCUM**

“ Condolences to the Francini family. Laia is reunited with your dad, and watching over you all.  
Love, Paula (Stanlonis) Darling

Paula Darling - January 28, 2019 at 08:50 PM

RL

“ In 1944 Laia visited Leo at Ft. Sill, Oklahoma. His best friend Ray from Mich. also arranged to have his wife Joan visit at the same time with their 2 month old son. The couples maintained their friendship 60 years visiting each other every few years at one of their homes. Laia was like a second, loving, mother to me, Raymie, and will always be in my heart. Because of her sharing of the best Italian food I've ever eaten it is still my all time favorite.  
Ray and Nancy Ludwa (Michigan).

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**ray ludwa** - January 28, 2019 at 05:49 PM

BK

“ Our deepest sympathies to the Francini family. May Laia and Leo be again reunited. Rest In Peace.

Anne and Bruce Keller  
Milford, NH

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**BRUCE KELLER** - January 28, 2019 at 01:42 PM

NP

“ We are very sad to now learn of Laia's passing. She was the best of the best. Our condolences again to the entire family Nick & Barbara Paventi

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**nick & Barbara Paventi** - January 28, 2019 at 10:33 AM