



Irene Katharina LaRocca

April 7, 1953 - June 22, 2015

Irene Katharina LaRocca, 62, Topeka, passed away Monday, June 22, 2015, at her home.

Irene was born April 7, 1953, in Bitburg, Germany, the daughter of Oskar and Maria Zahnen Pläschke. She met her future husband, Vincent LaRocca, who was serving in the US Air Force in Germany and came to the USA where they were married in 1986 in South Carolina. She was a member of Christ the King Catholic Church.

Irene owned and operated LaRocca's Pizza with her husband and son, where she made many friends. Irene was kind and generous with a big heart who touched the lives of many. She was dearly loved and will be sadly missed.

Grateful to have shared her life are her husband, Vincent; son, Oskar Pläschke; step-son, Vincent LaRocca, Jr.; siblings, Roswitha Kierdorf (Thomas), Germany, Walter Pläschke (Monica), Germany, Helmut Pläschke (Hannelore), Germany, Maria Davis (Charlie), North Carolina and Christine Anderson (Eddie), Arizona; father-in-law, Charles Bowers, Chicago; and she was godmother to Oskar and Pierre. She was preceded in death by her parents and her brother, Berthold (Bettina).

Following Irene's wishes, no services are planned.

Memorial contributions are suggested to the American Cancer Society, 1325 SW Arrowhead Road, Topeka KS 66604.

Tribute Wall



“ Irene Katharina LaRocca

January 28, 2023 at 12:08 PM



“ Pain is a horrible feeling when one loses a loved one. Vincent and family I'm sad for your loss of a wife, mother, best friend, sister. Time will pass slowly but remember all of the happy times, it eases the pain. I pray for you and your family. May the lord bless you in this time of pain, loss and sadness.
Geoff Zeller and family.

Geoff Zeller - June 27, 2015 at 08:29 AM



“ Vince and family,
Our community has lost a very special person, as Irene was so nice and friendly to every soul she met. We will keep you all in our prayers as you return to work and back to the routines of daily life without her. We will be in soon to enjoy one of your wonderful dinners. Godspeed. Sincerely, Howard and Councilwoman Elaine Schwartz

Elaine Schwartz - June 24, 2015 at 06:13 PM



“ Lyle And Katen Savage lit a candle in memory of Irene Katharina LaRocca



Lyle and Katen Savage - June 24, 2015 at 12:19 PM

LS

We are so sorry for your loss. We first met your Wife when you had the other Piza Place that she worked at. Best Pizza we ever tasted!! We still go to the other location. I loved talking to her. Such a nice and pleasant person! Was shocked to see she had passed. Will miss her!! Loved her accent but will still be in to see you and eat your delicious Pizza. Prayers are with you and your family!

Lyle and Katen Savage - June 24, 2015 at 12:26 PM

LS

“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with you Vince and your family.
Sincerely, Ron and Laurie Sadler*

Laurie Sadler - June 23, 2015 at 10:26 PM

JP

“ *Irene was my closest friend in Holland. We were born 1 day apart and felt like sisters. We were together every day while living in Soest... LOL Never will forget out shopping sprees and card games. Those were the best days ever! So very sorry I didn't get the chance to see you before God took you in his arms. Rest in peace my friend.*

Janet and John Panagos

Janet Panagos - June 23, 2015 at 12:12 PM

PE

“ *Our deepest sympathy and prayers of comfort during this difficult time. Irene was a very special lady with a lot of spunk and it was a pleasure to know her.*


"Those we love can never be more than a thought away. . . for as long as there is a memory, they live in our hearts to stay."

Keith & Peggy Bell

Peggy - June 23, 2015 at 09:45 AM

VL

“ Irene,
I already miss you so much! I love you from the bottom of my heart. Thanks for making me the man who I am. Without you, it wouldn't have happened. I know you will be my guardian angel. I will continue to lead a Christian life and can't wait until you welcome me into heaven to join you. I'm sure you are enjoying gathering with your family as well as my family who proceeded you to heaven.



Again, with a very heavy heart I sincerely thank you for being a Great wife, mom & sibling

Rest in Pearce sweat heart , God Bless

Love always XXO

Vince

Vince LaRocca - June 22, 2015 at 08:05 PM

BW

Oh, our hearts are sad for your loss Prayers will be with you. Irene was a dear lady and we love you Oskar and Vince. It's difficult to give up your soul mate. I have done that. See you soon hopefully.

Bev Woodford - June 24, 2015 at 08:47 AM

VL

Thanks all for the kind words . They mean the world to us. The outpouring of support and kind words is overwhelming. This site. Facebook, Cards. Letters, Flowers, Food, TV News, Newspaper Article.....Unbelievable....She is so dearly missed....Hoping and praying that time will heal. From Family to St Judes Hospice to Fr. Zimmerman to friends to Co-workers @ Frito-Lay @ LaRocca's to customers to neighbors to community members. What a tribute to the love of my life - Thanks from the bottom of my heart.

God Bless

Vince LaRocca - July 02, 2015 at 07:59 PM