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# Mary Lee Guerriero, 89

By **Staten Island Advance** Print  
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Mary Lee Guerriero, 2003  
*Family Photo*

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. - Mary Lee Guerriero, 89, of West Brighton, remembered as the loving family matriarch behind a Staten Island sports dynasty, died Monday in Richmond University Medical Center, West Brighton.

Born Mary Lee Morgan in Gatesville, Texas, she was raised on a farm with her siblings and attended Sam Houston State Teachers College, Huntsville.

She met her husband, Raffaele (Ray), who was then a minor-league pitcher for the St. Louis Cardinals, while he was serving in the Army and stationed in Texas in 1943. She moved to Rosebank in the late 1940s; to Brighton Heights in 1988, and to West Brighton in 2005.

Mrs. Guerriero was a parishioner of St. Joseph's R.C. Church in Rosebank, where she periodically taught kindergarten in the parish elementary school, as well as sixth-grade in the former St. Elizabeth's School on the grounds of the Mission of the Immaculate Virgin at Mount Loretto, Pleasant Plains. She also worked as her husband's secretary, assisting him with his home-based business as a tax preparer and real estate broker.

As her husband went on to become an Island sports legend in pitching and coaching, Mrs. Guerriero was there at every game to support him. She did the same with her three sons, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, who followed in the family's sports tradition. In all, she spent some 60 years quietly rooting on the sidelines.

"Her life was spent taking care of her family," said her granddaughter, Cathy Guerriero, who lost her bid to become New York City's public advocate in last week's primary election.

"As the unequivocal matriarch of our very large family, she would spend countless hours attending ballgames of her husband, her children and her grandchildren. She was quite comfortable and happy counting pitches at a sandlot game, or keeping score at a CYO game or a high school game over the decades," her granddaughter continued.

During Thanksgiving and Christmas, Mrs. Guerriero also gathered her family around the table. According to her granddaughter, "Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Eve for the Guerriero clan was completed only with the love that Grandma Guerriero poured into her menu and her home."

Mrs. Guerriero's husband of 62 years, Ray, died in 2006.

She is survived by three sons, Raffaele (Ray) Jr., Gene and Sal; a brother, Thomas Morgan; nine grandchildren, and 17 great-grandchildren.

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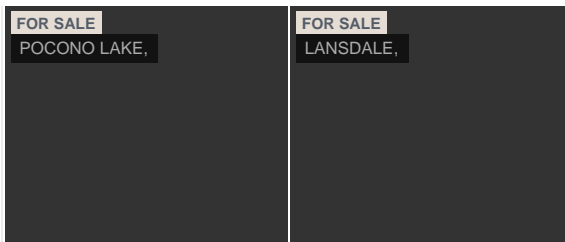
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The funeral will be Friday at 10:30 a.m. in the Harmon Home for Funerals, West Brighton. Burial will be in Moravian Cemetery, New Dorp.

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