



Linda DiLonardo-Schlegel

February 26, 2025

Our incredible mother and grandmother, Linda Catherine DiLonardo-Schlegel, age 72, passed from this world on February 26, 2025 with her daughter Melinda and son Marcus by her side and her husband Daniel having just visited. Linda fought valiantly to overcome a series of cardiac arrests.

Linda is survived by her son Marcus Schlegel, daughter Melinda Schlegel (Max Allan Dotson) and her husband Daniel Schlegel, who remained a supportive and caring friend throughout her life despite having separated. Her greatest joy was time with her granddaughters Maisie and Danica Schlegel and Ndali Dotson. She is also survived by siblings Janet DiLonardo, Catherine Cartwright (Peter), Philip DiLonardo (Laura), and Robert DiLonardo (Marie), and many nieces and nephews and great nieces and nephews, especially Brian and Shayna Cartwright whose care and support were essential. Linda is also survived by lifelong friends Frannie Cecil, Francine Rose and husband Richard Sandow, Marsha Balint, Margie Krogh, Carol Creager Birge, Dr. Joseph Saeli, Suzy Clark, Patty Gionta, Barbara Brockhoff, and so many others whose love and joy made Linda's life richer.

Linda was preceded in death by her father Savino "Sam" DiLonardo, mother Catherine (Winkler), and brother Michael DiLonardo.

Linda passed at 11:05 pm and the position of the hands on the clock were a reminder of what she believed in most and shared so much of: peace and love. A true child of the '60s, Linda graduated from Sacred Heart High School in 1971 and embarked on an arts career studying at the Art Institute of

Pittsburgh before meeting Danny and starting a family in 1973.

Linda lived a life of service and advocacy, especially for children, families, seniors, and public education. As a mother whose children had just experienced a school closing two years earlier, Linda organized with other parents and successfully fought to keep William Penn Elementary School open. That advocacy led to running for school director in the Penn Hills School District, where she served the children and community for two decades. The memory of Linda's caring, warmth, and laughter will be a blessing to all who counted her as a friend.

In lieu of a traditional funeral, the family is planning a memorial service in summer 2025, details of which will be forthcoming. Arrangements entrusted to the GENE H. CORL FUNERAL CHAPEL INC. AND CREMATION SERVICES OF MONROEVILLE.

Tribute Wall

ND

“ So heartbroken to hear she has passed away, Linda or "Linders" as we came to know her was a wonderful woman, mother and mentor...opening her home to my 2 children and I during a very difficult time. She took care of us, fed us, and pushed us to be our best. Rest in peace 🙏

Natalie Dotson - June 07, 2025 at 07:30 PM

JP

“ I am deeply saddened to read of Linda's passing. There wasn't a greater advocate for helping children in the Penn Hills School District than Linda. She had a quiet demeanor but knew how to get positive results for our children. She was deeply respected by all who knew her and loved by many because she had a heart of gold! Rest in peace dear Linda...you are truly missed by many!

Jan Paterra - May 31, 2025 at 06:17 PM

AS

“ Me, Alexandra , and my daughter Aisha had the privilege of knowing miss Linda because of her San Diego trips to visit Melinda , Max and D'nali. We will always cherish the wonderful memories we had with miss Linda . She was an amazing , caring and nurturing person and will be missed dearly . We are so lucky to have known her . No words can describe how sorry we are for your loss . We wish you peace , courage and a lot of love at this time of sorrow . Sending many hugs from San Diego .

Alexandra and Aisha Schmied - March 20, 2025 at 04:18 PM

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Alexandra /Aisha Schmied - March 19, 2025 at 02:34 PM

FC

“ A more true and devoted friend could not be found. Sometimes there were no need for words. We could just look at each other and know what the other was thinking. Even though my heart is heavy and sad the joy she brought to my life and all her family and friends will never be forgotten. I will miss you but will always smile when I think of you and will treasure the memories of our friendship forever. Rest in Peace, my friend.

Fran Cecil - March 08, 2025 at 04:52 PM

MS

She loved you so much Frannie! Thank you for always being there for her too!

Melinda Schlegel - March 11, 2025 at 02:26 AM

PJ

“ *My dear sweet cousin, you will be missed so much. I have many memories of us as children, getting to spend the night at your house was so special to me. I'm so glad we got to spend a little time together as adults but wish it would have been more. Rest in peace*



Peggy Johnson - March 07, 2025 at 06:41 PM

CC

“ *Words just don't seem enough to express how much Linda meant to me. We talked at least 2 times a week late at night. Linda was the best listener and always had so much empathy. She helped me through the loss of my son and then my husband Ron. We both cried together and laughed as well. She loved talking about her granddaughters, She shared photos and so many stories of her love for them.*

I became friends with Linda at least 30 years ago. She worked at Beulah Preschool both in the office and Daycare. We remained friends. Barb Lazzara was a close friend as well. I haven't been able to get in touch with Barb. Linda will always be in my heart and be missed so very much. I know she is at perfect peace and watching over her beloved granddaughters, daughter Melinda and son Marcus. Her loving and gentle spirit will be with all of us. ❤️

Carol creager - March 07, 2025 at 03:33 PM

MS

“ You took care of all of who yours and many who saw you as a Mom they didn't have in their own life and you are so dearly missed Mama! I and Max and Ndali are lost without you and are trying so hard to just keep staying happy for you!



Melinda Schlegel - March 07, 2025 at 12:39 PM

MK

You all look so great together!! What a wonderful day it must have been!

Margie Krogh - March 09, 2025 at 03:55 PM

MC

“ Linda treated me like family from day one. She listened, laughed, and truly loved. I remember she always told me she loved me when we spent time together. I'll never EVER forget her and will always feel her absence.

Margeaux Cronce - March 06, 2025 at 08:47 PM

MS

Thank you so much for sharing your memory of our mother.

Marcus Schlegel - March 07, 2025 at 12:24 PM

CC

“ 4 files added to the album *Linda and some amazing friends from Beulah preschool*



Carol Creager - March 06, 2025 at 03:50 PM

MS

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Melinda Schlegel - March 06, 2025 at 03:37 PM

MK

Too adorable! Love this shot!!

Margie Krogh - March 09, 2025 at 03:57 PM

MS

“ You always made everything feel like it was going to be ok! Your love was amazing Mama!



Melinda Schlegel - March 06, 2025 at 12:44 PM

SC

“ Linda will always remain in my heart 💕 she was an angel on this earth

Linda was always so easy to talk to and always made a bad day turn around to a good day. She loved children and was the best hugger and Had a heart of only love and kindness. We shared many memories of laughing and telling stories she was the best babysitter when my son was little she always loved when my son Christopher would say peccanoni instead of pepperoni. She would always bring that up when we would get together. Thanks Linda for all of your love and giving me all these memories to cherish and tuck away in my heart ❤️. Rest in peace my sweet friend until we meet again. Love you to heaven and back.

Suzy

Suzy Clark - March 06, 2025 at 12:34 PM

PB

“ I was blessed to have worked with Linda when she was at Beulah Christian Preschool in the 1990's. She ended up being a lifelong friend!! She was a wonderful soul! The Carpenter's "Merry Christmas Darling" is and will forever be a reminder of you! Rest in peace my friend.

Peggy Brown - March 06, 2025 at 07:16 AM

MS

“ You were the best Gramma! Ndali always knew she could count on Gramma to be there for her!!! You brought her so much light, laughter, love and support!



Melinda Schlegel - March 06, 2025 at 02:35 AM

MS

“ I Love you Mama, I miss you already, I need you Mommy
I wish there are spirits and you will show up and be with us forever
I love your voice and your love
I am so thankful for your amazing love I hope I told you enough just
how AMAZING you were as my Mama and as an amazing person
and a hero who helped so many people
I will give Ndali all of the hugs she should've had with you and I
should've had with you
We will remember you and talk about our memories of you and
smile and laugh about them and heal this unhealable hole you have
left in our hearts
I wish I had the power to make you last forever with us like you
made me believe you would
And we will be ok, but it's not ok
Come back to us Mama, Gramma, Linda, Miss Linda
You made everyone who knew you feel loved and cared for like
everyone's Mom or best friend.
Your beautiful heart lives on for eternally in so many hearts
You made profound impacts in not just my life and your son's, and
your Granddaughters, but your friends and so many children and
the world
You made this world and everyone's lives you touched better!
You were my hero and you were a true hero Mama! I am so proud
of you!
You left a legacy of kindness and love and caring and empathy and
laughter! Everyone who loved you could always count on you!!! You
were unlike any other soul that has ever lived!!
Thank you Mama Thank you Mama
You gave so much strength and all you had to fight every battle for
good and justice! I am just so sorry, you could not win your own!
Please watch over all of us that adored you forever!
I love you Mama, Linda Dilonardo Schlegel
I urge everyone who loved you and misses you to always stand for
the good fight and give your heart to all that you do and find
happiness in family, laughter and kindness!

Melinda Schlegel - March 06, 2025 at 02:27 AM

FR

“ Linda's name appears on my phone as a frequently called number, just underneath the names of my children. That's how much I relied and drew on her warmth, support, wit, and love. I remember many long talks about our kids, and how proud she was of Marcus and Melinda and her grandchildren. I remember how she helped me when I had a problem, talking it out with her deep intelligence and fierce loyalty, telling me I needn't feel badly about whatever it was I felt I had messed up. I remember how she always fought for the underdog and never abandoned her principles to fit in anywhere, how she always maintained her fiercely independent spirit. I remember how she took in anyone who came across her path who needed help, regardless of her own financial security. When Linda loved you, you felt it wrap you like a warm blanket on a cold day. I look at her name on my phone and can't quite believe she is no longer there. The huge hole she leaves in my life is a tribute to the size of her loving heart. I will always love her, and will try to honor her memory by becoming a more loving person.

Francine Rose - March 03, 2025 at 11:46 AM