



Shirley R. Allen

November 14, 1929 - June 16, 2017

Shirley Allen was born Ramona Shirley May Bianchi on November 14, 1929 in San Francisco California to Romeo and Enza Bianchi. She grew up in San Francisco during the 30s and 40s just a few blocks from the Palace of Fine Arts in a time when the Golden Gate Bridge was newly completed. Married to her first husband John Leahy in 1948, she moved to Spokane Washington where her first two children, Daniel and Joyce were born. She moved to San Jose in the early 60's and remarried in 1965 to Donald Allen. They had a son Jason in 1969. She lived in San Jose, working as a telemarketer part time for various charities. Shirley was also a talented artist. She loved to sketch, draw and paint as well as crochet. She took great pride in being a homemaker and mother. In 1999 she moved to Fresno California to retire with her husband who passed away in 2015. Shirley saw the great joys and great sorrows of life but she was known for her strength, kindness and love. She is survived by her sons, Daniel Leahy and Jason Allen. Daughters-in-law Lori Leahy and Danielle Allen. Grand children Jamison, Melissa, Heather, Mitchel, Leah, Emma and Taylor. Great grand children Jocelyn and Finnegan. Her sister Joan and nephews Peter and Joseph. Niece Laura, and many grand nieces and nephews.

Previous Events

Graveside Service

JUN **26**. 10:00 AM (PT)

San Joaquin Valley National Cemetery

32053 West McCabe Road

Santa Nella, CA 95322

<http://www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/sanjoaquinvalley.asp>

Tribute Wall



“ *Shirley R. Allen*

September 15, 2022 at 09:34 PM



“ *4 files added to the tribute wall*



Jason - June 30, 2017 at 06:57 PM

“ The past 10 days have been especially difficult, more difficult than I anticipated when gearing up for the inevitable (which has been about 2 years now). Nothing really prepared me for it. These are things I found myself just incapable of expressing at her service as I was overcome with the weight of the occasion.

I know that my Mom ultimately let go of a body that was tired. Tired of a world she had seen change so much. Tired of a body that could no longer keep up with her strong spirit. Although it has been a few years since I could have a real meaningful conversation with her I could always see through the looping thoughts and see her. She was a woman of character with a good moral compass, was a fierce defender of her family (Italian temperament) and always tried to create a spotless bright home environment of love and serenity, even in the face of occasional marital obstacles. A sharp sense of humor and a splash of sarcasm kept us on our toes when she wanted to be critical or passively aggressive. I was usually entertained by it, even when dad was not. ;)

When Mom was young, her talents were abundant as an artist and singer with voice that I think could have been a American songbook sensation. I remember as a young boy sitting and listening to her sing while she put on her makeup and being as transfixed as I would if Ella Fitzgerald were singing to me in person. She was always doing little sketches and drawings and wanted to be a graphic illustrator when she was young. I wish that she had been able to use these talent to some satisfaction, but life and priorities take over.

She was a supportive mother, always encouraging performance in school or in interests. She would take me to piano lessons and work with me using cue cards to learn to read music. She would take me to the hobby shops and keep me stocked with model cars and planes to build during summers. She let me have my after school drum practice even when I knew she would have found great satisfaction in setting my drum set on fire in the street. So many

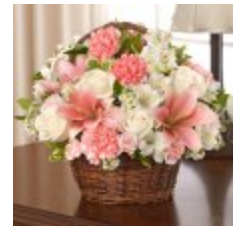
birthday parties, family gatherings, Thanksgivings and Christmases with wonderful home cooked meals. Yes the food was an event all alone when she was in the kitchen.

In the face of the many struggles in her life and those of her children I saw her stoically endure as she remained grounded and centered in her faith in God. As life happened and time drained her strength and youth and mind away, I tried to be there for her as she was always for me. My amazing wife was my strength in this. My Dad was my sergeant, my support and my teacher of all things technical but Mom... was my heart. She was the developer in me of what the bible calls "the seed of motivation". It is now ingrained, a permanent light I carry with me to ward off all that is dark. I can do nothing more for her now than pass on her legacy to my daughter. I will miss her wit, her laugh and her ability to make me laugh. She exuded beauty in and out and could capture the attention of all she encountered. Thank you Mom for all you were and all you gave up to be what you were to all of us.

Jason - June 29, 2017 at 05:02 PM

KS

“Karen Severson purchased the Peace, Prayers & Blessings - Pink and White for the family of Shirley R. Allen.



Karen Severson - June 24, 2017 at 12:33 AM



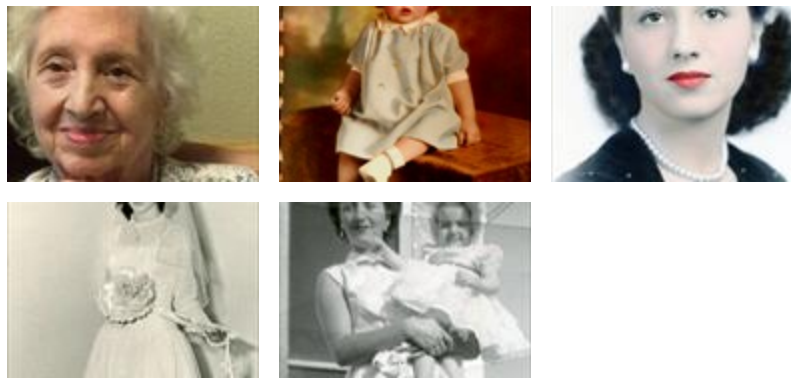
“ *Healing Tears - Yellow and White* was purchased for the family of Shirley R. Allen.



June 22, 2017 at 10:13 PM



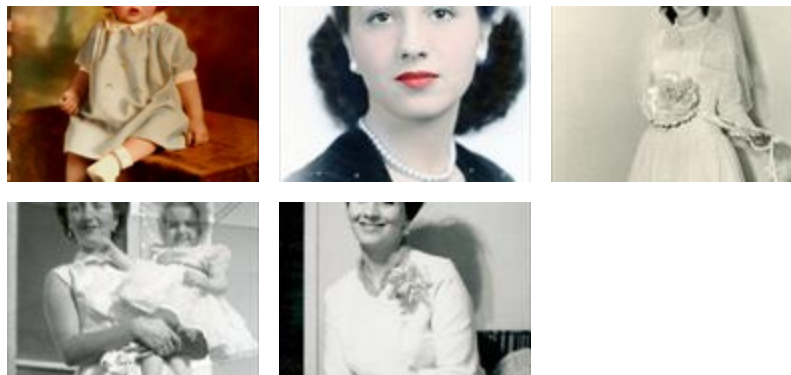
“ 16 files added to the album *Shirley R Allen*



Jason Allen - June 21, 2017 at 04:05 PM



“ 15 files added to the album *Mom*



Jason Allen - June 21, 2017 at 11:48 AM