



Deanna Marilyn Canavati

May 6, 1939 - May 8, 2026

Canavati, Deanna M. age 87 of Mendota Heights, passed away peacefully on May 8th, surrounded by her devoted family.

Deanna was born on May 6th, 1939 to Frank and Florence Skaff in Albert Lea, MN. She graduated from Bethesda Hospital as a Radiology Technologist. She loved her work and took pride in all she did. She was married to Saleh Canavati on July 3rd, 1960, and together they raised their family in the Orthodox Church. There was nothing more important to her than her family, and her absolute pride and joy were her three children. She was the epitome of family and family first. Her love for her grandchildren was profound, and she loved being "Siti." She was a part of everything she could be in their lives, just like she was with her children. Named after Deanna Durbin, a soprano and actress, she herself became a beautiful soprano, performing countless operas, weddings, church choirs, and was invited to perform in the Metropolitan Opera in New York. In her last years, she sang for the residents in the senior living home she lived in. She was an avid sports fan, with a special love for baseball, the St. Paul Saints and the Minnesota Twins. She was always the hostess with the mostess. She hosted the best parties and celebrations, and ALL were welcome at her table.

Deanna is preceded in death by her parents, Frank and Florence Skaff; and her forever dance partner and husband of 61 years, Saleh Canavati.

She is survived by her children Mitri Canavati (Laura Haugen), Chris Canavati (Lori), Elizabeth Canavati-Skoog (Mark); grandchildren Michael (Kelly), Caitlin (Milton), Nicole (Eric), Christian, Kelsey, Ellie and Preston; great grandchildren Teddy, Welles, and Lucy.

In lieu of flowers, memorials preferred to St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church.

Visitation will be held on Wednesday, May 13th from 5-8 PM with Trisagion service at 7 PM at Washburn-McReavy Eden Prairie Chapel, 7625 Mitchell Road, Eden Prairie. Funeral service will be held at 11 AM on Thursday, May 14th with visitation half hour prior, at St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church, 3450 Irving Ave., S., Minneapolis. Entombment at Resurrection Cemetery, Mendota Heights.

Washburn-McReavy Edina Chapel 952-920-3996

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 13. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Eden Prairie Chapel
7625 Mitchell Road
Eden Prairie, MN 55344

Visitation

MAY 14. 10:30 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church
3450 Irving Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55408

Funeral Service

MAY 14. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church
3450 Irving Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55408

Tribute Wall

BB

“ Brent, Amy, Maverick & Griffin Bitzan purchased the Angel's Embrace Bouquet for the family of Deanna Marilyn Canavati.



Brent, Amy, Maverick & Griffin Bitzan - May 12 at 09:11 PM

BB

“ Brent, Amy, Maverick & Griffin Bitzan planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Deanna Marilyn Canavati.

Brent, Amy, Maverick & Griffin Bitzan - May 12 at 09:11 PM

LF

“ Love your Woodwinds Surgery Family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Deanna Marilyn Canavati.



Love your Woodwinds Surgery Family - May 12 at 05:40 PM



“ Lily and Rose Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Deanna Marilyn Canavati.



May 12 at 10:41 AM



“ I only knew Mrs Canavati as a member of the parish but she was a very nice, welcoming, friendly person whom everyone liked. May the Lord give her rest and repose and may her memory be eternal. May God bless all the family.

Mike G. Boosalis
5-18-26

Mike Boosalis - May 11 at 07:01 PM



“ Dreams From the Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Deanna Marilyn Canavati.



May 11 at 06:30 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Deanna Marilyn Canavati.

May 11 at 06:30 PM



“ It was always fun to see her when she would visit Chris & Mitri in our office. Always a smile and a hug

Penny Trenne - May 11 at 05:08 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Deanna Marilyn Canavati.



May 11 at 03:34 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Deanna Marilyn Canavati.

May 11 at 03:34 PM



“ Angel's Embrace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Deanna Marilyn Canavati.



May 11 at 11:51 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Deanna Marilyn Canavati.

May 11 at 11:51 AM



“ Gracious Lavender Basket was purchased for the family of Deanna Marilyn Canavati.



May 11 at 09:20 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Deanna Marilyn Canavati.

May 11 at 09:20 AM