



## Violet Callas

April 16, 2006

Callas, Violet age 95, of Minneapolis. Our inestimable Yiayia passed to her eternal habitation on April 11, leaving behind a legion of admirers who are already missing her elegance, her candor and her koulourakia. Vasiliki Kallas was born in Pakia, Greece, the oldest of George and Katherine Kallas' eight children. She left her Peloponnesian village on a donkey at age 11 and set sail from Patras for New York City. After a week on Ellis Island, she boarded a train for Minnesota to live with an uncle, John Kallas. In 1926 she married William Callas, who preceded her in death by 56 years. Together they owned the Riviera Cafe and the Campus Cafe in Minneapolis and raised three children, who survive their mother: Athena Johnson (Fred) of Rio Rico, Ariz., Michael W. Callas of Marine on St. Croix and Kathy Hoff of Shoreview. Her sons-in-law Eivind Hoff, Hank Valenti and Peter Voorlas, daughter-in-law Robin Callas, sister Eleni Kripotos and brother Tony Kallas also predeceased her. Violet is also survived by sisters Voula Ververakis of Athens, Greece; Dimitra (John) Kanavaros, Kyrani Kallas, Pota Polykandriotis and brother, Nick (Pota) Kallas, all of Vancouver, B.C., and many nieces, nephews and cousins, including Elaine Kallas of Hopkins and Jimmy (Helen) Kallas of Port St. Lucie, Fla. She cherished her grandchildren Stephanie, Peter, Will and Jennifer Voorlas; Christine Callas Kinoshita (Ken) and Bill Callas (Nancy); Paul Hoff (Mary) and Lisa Hoff (Jon Bacal), and her great-grandchildren Tony, Kate and Dan Hoff, Nick Vourlas and Lincoln Bacal. The family acknowledges with thanks and gratitude the expert attentions of Park Nicollet Drs. Greg

Lehman and Paul Carlson. Visitation is 30 minutes before the funeral service and Monday from 5 to 8 p.m. (Trisagion 6:30) at Washburn- McReavy Edina Chapel, 5000 W. 50th St. Funeral service is 11 a.m. Tuesday at St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church, 3450 Irving Av. S in Minneapolis. Memorials preferred to St. Mary's Church Foundation Fund or the Minnesota Medical Foundation (for heart research), P.O. Box 64001, St. Paul, MN 55164-0001. Ipno elafri kai onira glika.

# Tribute Wall

MM

“ Violet is one of the last of the Golden Greek Ladies of Minneapolis. She was a beauty and a kind and loving friend to my mother and to me. I will always remember her walking around Lake Calhoun with such a determined and speedy gait. I send love and my best wishes to her loving family.

~

*margo morris,*

*chicago, Illinois*

*Contact Me*

---

**margo morris** - April 24, 2006 at 12:00 AM

BC

“ *My sincere condolences to the family  
of Violet Callas.*

~

*Bill Callas,*

*Conyers, Georgia*

---

**Bill Callas** - April 21, 2006 at 12:00 AM

NV

“ I will miss my Yia Yia immensely. She was a woman of great talents from her culinary skills to her impeccable wit, she was always able to keep anybody on their feet. I will remember most, the last time I saw her, during which she explained her fondness for Dr. Phil and made me eat until I nearly exploded. EF-CARI-STOUGH YIA YIA!

~

*Nick Vourlas,*

*Sarasota, Florida*

---

**Nick Vourlas** - April 21, 2006 at 12:00 AM

PP

“ I too have wonderful memories of growing up at St. Mary's and of Mrs. Callas. May her memory be eternal.

~

*Pat Pappas,*

*Eden Prairie, Minnesota*

*Contact Me*

---

**Pat Pappas** - April 20, 2006 at 12:00 AM

DA

“ We offer our condolences to Mike and the family of Violet Callas. May God give you joy in her memory, hope because you will see her again one day, and comfort you during this time of grief.

~

*Denis and Ginny Altman,*

*Shoreview, Minnesota*

---

**Denis and Ginny Altman** - April 18, 2006 at 12:00 AM

WV

“ *My grandmother was a fantastic person with a quick wit, a great laugh, and bountiful love. She saved my life as a boy, when I tried jumping off our second story balcony...of course I thought I could fly like a storybook character...Yia Yia caught me and restrained the natural urge to chastise. A classy lady then and always. Did I mention no morsel of her cooking was safe when we grandchildren visited? No mean feat to appease my appetite, as my cousins and siblings could readily attest...my own passion for cooking is surely grandmotherly inspiration. May we meet, laugh and share stories again Yia Yia, where our paths meet beyond the material plane. Se agapo Yia Yia!!*

~

*William Vourlas,*

*Sarasota, Florida*

*Contact Me*

---

**William Vourlas** - April 17, 2006 at 12:00 AM

BD

“ *I have wonderful memories of Mrs. Callas. She was vibrant and kind, with the courage and confidence to live life to the fullest. She was one of the brightest lights as a member of that dear group "the ladies in the neighborhood." She will be so missed.*

~

*Barby Spell Dovolis,*

*Edina, Minnesota*

---

**Barby Spell Dovolis** - April 16, 2006 at 12:00 AM

JV

“ *My grandmother Violet was so elegant and beautiful. Surely her spirit lives on.*

~

*Jennifer Voorlas,*

*Agoura Hills, California*

*Contact Me*

---

**Jennifer Voorlas** - April 16, 2006 at 12:00 AM