



Theresa Pierina Gheno

December 3, 1918 - January 17, 2013

Theresa Pierina Gheno

Theresa Pierina (Ballestrin) Gheno, our beloved mother, grandmother (Noni) and great grandmother (Biznoni) passed away peacefully of natural causes on Thursday, January 17, 2013 surrounded by her adoring family. She was 94 years old.

Theresa was born in Santa Barbara, December 3 1918, she was the third and youngest child of Pietro and Florinda Ballestrin. Her early education began at Our Lady of Guadalupe School and she eventually worked as a cook and housekeeper for the Riviera Dairy Farm.

In 1941 she married Dante Giovanni Gheno. During WWII they moved to San Francisco where Dante worked in the Bethlehem Steel Shipyards. Prior to moving to the Bay area Theresa and Dante witnessed the 'flashing signal lights' during the shelling of Elwood. In 1952 they returned to Santa Barbara where they raised their family of four children, Madeline, Peter, Daniel, and Robert. She was an amazing cook and never let anyone leave hungry. She was famous for her spaghetti sauce, potato salad, pizelle cookies and her homemade donuts. Her home was the heart of the family; it was the gathering place. Never a holiday went by that we didn't celebrate at Noni's house. Her children and grandchildren were the light of her life. And she was especially thrilled when she became a great grandmother in 2009.

Theresa was preceded in death by her husband Dante (October 1997) and her sisters Margaret Ballestrin Lucato and Maria Ballestrin Cretti.

Noni is survived by her daughter Madeline Rogers (Lonnie, deceased), sons Peter (Lupe), Daniel (Robin) and Robert. Her grandchildren Laurie Starks (Donald), Tracy Ibarra (Jaime), Gina Gheno, Peter "Rocky" Gheno Jr. (Stephanie), Giovanni Gheno and her great grandchildren, twins Melanie and Lukas Starks.

Also surviving are numerous nieces, nephews and her beloved dog Penny.

The family would like to thank Lori Hamilton for the love and care she provided to our Noni these last few months, Dr. Sunita Beall for all her concern, expert care and kindness. And to the wonderful staff at Serenity House, their kindness, love and compassion helped guide our family and our Noni on her journey to peace.

Noni, we love and miss you dearly, you are the light and heart of our family. "Time is too short for those who rejoice"

Services for our Noni begin on Thursday, January 24th, with viewing from 4 – 6 p.m. and rosary at 7 p.m. at Welch-Ryce-Haider Funeral Chapel, 15 E. Sola St., Santa Barbara.

Funeral Mass will be held Friday, January 25th, 10 a.m. Our Lady of Sorrows Church. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to Serenity House, Visiting Nurses/Hospice Care – VNHC Foundation (805) 965-5555, www.vnhcsb.org.

Cemetery Details

Calvary Cemetery

199 North Hope Ave
Santa Barbara, CA 93110
(805) 687-8811
http://www.archdiocese.la/directories/cemeteries/info.php?cemetery_id=3

Previous Events

Rosary

JAN 24 (PT)

Welch-Ryce-Haider - Downtown
15 E. Sola St.
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 965-5145
info@wrhsb.com
<https://www.wrhsb.com>

Funeral Mass

JAN 25 (PT)

Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church
21 E Sola Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Tribute Wall

KD

“ I remember many times going to my Aunt Theresa's house.. One of the many things she used to make us was risotto.. It was my favorite! when i make it i always think of her...:) She was an amazing woman! when i think of my Aunt i will always see her beautiful smile:) she was the kindest person i have ever known. RIP Aunt Theresa I am blessed to have so many wonderful memories of you that i will cherish forever!

Kari Cretti Delkener - October 01, 2013 at 02:10 AM

LS

“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



Laurie Starks - January 24, 2013 at 11:02 AM

LS

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Laurie Starks - January 24, 2013 at 10:53 AM

LS

This picture of Noni was taken in April 1939.

Laurie Starks - January 24, 2013 at 11:08 AM

PG

“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



Peter "Rocky" Gheno - January 23, 2013 at 12:04 PM

LS

My dad took this photo of Nono & Noni at Bob's wedding. It is one of my favorite pictures of them. Thanks Rock for putting this here.....she was so beautiful in that pink dress. I miss her so much, my heart is breaking.

Laurie Starks - January 24, 2013 at 11:07 AM

PJ

“ *Peter "Rocky" Gheno Jr. lit a candle in memory of Theresa Pierina Gheno*



Peter "Rocky" Gheno Jr. - January 23, 2013 at 11:50 AM

LS

“ *Laurie Starks lit a candle in memory of Theresa Pierina Gheno*



Laurie Starks - January 22, 2013 at 08:04 PM