



Shirley Ann Ballard

June 30, 1932 - May 13, 2016

SHIRLEY A.
BALLARD, 83

LAKELAND - Shirley A. Russell Ballard, formerly of Syracuse, New York, passed away May 13, 2016, at her Azalea Park residence in Lakeland, Florida. She was born on June 30, 1932, in Syracuse to William and Carmel Russell. Shirley was a graduate of Valley Academy. She retired from Nestle's after 25 years and married Edward G. Ballard (now deceased) in 1984. Shirley and Ed spent 24 plus years together, loving and living between Lake Ontario and Florida.

Shirley is survived by her children, Michelle Ellis of Freeville, New York, Michael (Suzanne) Ellis of Syracuse, New York, Randy Ellis of Frankfort, Kentucky, Martin Ellis of Syracuse, New York, Robert (Judy) Ellis of Camillus, New York, and Christine Ellis of Portland, Oregon; stepchildren, Margaret Ballard Holley of Daytona, Florida and Paul Ballard (now deceased) of Syracuse, New York; her 9 grandchildren; 9 great grandchildren; 2 step grandchildren; and many cherished friends.

There will be a private family memorial to celebrate Shirley's life. Words of comfort may be expressed online at Gentry-Morrison Funeral Homes website, gentry-morrison.com , obituaries-@syracuse.com , or at theledger.com .

Tribute Wall

MC

“ Dear Christine,

I just saw your mother's obituary in the paper, and I am so so sorry. I got to know her only a year or so ago, but I liked her very much. She stopped the car one day to thank me for feeding Azalea Park's community cat every day. From that point on we would look for each other every morning and wave. If I didn't see her, I would wave anyway, just in case she was watching.

She was a lovely lady, and I enjoyed our visits. She could not say enough nice things about you and how much she appreciated your help these past few months, and I enjoyed finally getting to meet you. When I saw the obituary tonight, I called the Azalea Park Office and Lucy told me Lily will stay in your family. I am so pleased one of you is giving her a home. She was good company for your mother, and your mother loved her very much.

I last visited your mother Monday morning May 9th. When Lily jumped into your mother's lap, her back claws scratched your mother's legs, so I offered to trim them. When I first began visiting your mother, Lily would hide under the bed when I entered the room. But Monday she actually let me pick her up, held still while I trimmed her claws, and then purred while I held her! Your mother and I were pretty surprised. Then we talked about this and that before I had to leave for work.

It is going to feel strange not having her to wave to anymore. I think I will keep waving for a while anyway.

Take care of yourself, Christine. I'm glad I got to know your mother, and I am glad I got to meet you. You and your family are in my prayers.

Melissa Causey

Melissa Causey - May 17, 2016 at 06:56 PM