



Mollie Eltife

April 22, 1924 - December 17, 2005

Mollie Negem Eltife, 81, passed away on December 17, 2005 after her courageous battle with cancer. She reminded us daily of her perpetual faith and independence through her spirit and her smile. She kept all those around her laughing and smiling. She was born April 22, 1924 in Tyler to Jim and Melade Negem. She graduated from Tyler High School in 1941. She married Francis Paul Eltife on February 13, 1949 and traveled with him to various Air Force Bases before making their permanent home in Tyler. She was preceded in death her parents, Jim and Melade Negem, three brothers, Ernest Negem, Fred Negem, and Jimmy Negem, one sister, Mary Negem George, and her beloved husband Francis Paul (Frank) Eltife. When her husband died in 1960, as a result of his service in the United States Air Force, she was left a widow with three children ages 1 ϕ , 4 and 9. She devoted her life to her children and her Church. She loved to cook and anyone entering her home never left without eating one of Mollie's great recipes. Her smile, spirit, and excellent cuisine brought happiness to all who came in contact with her. Once you met Mollie, you were her friend for life. She was passionate about her collection of statues of the Virgin Mary. Acquiring over 800 from all over the world, she was affectionately known as the Madonna Lady. Mollie had a talent for various arts and crafts including ceramics and sewing. She was a member of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church and the Legion of Mary. For years she donated her time at the Church arranging flowers for the Altar. She is survived by her children, Richard Steven Eltife, Laura Frances

Eltife, Kevin Paul Eltife, and wife Kelly; all of Tyler, her sister Elizabeth Fox and husband Hamlin of Tyler, sister-in-laws Shirley Negem of Tyler and Mary Negem of Jonesboro, Louisiana, three grandchildren, Kevin Walker Eltife, John Francis Eltife, and John Paul Eltife, as well as many nieces and nephews. Visitation to be held Monday, December 19th from 5:00 pm until 6:00 pm at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church immediately followed by the Rosary which will be recited by Monsignor Joseph Strickland. Funeral Mass will be held Tuesday, 10:00 am December 20th, at the Cathedral with Monsignor Joseph Strickland and Father S. J. Blank officiating. Following the Funeral Mass, graveside services will be held at Rose Hill Cemetery under the direction of Stewart Family Funeral Home. Pallbearers are Randy Fox, Ernie Negem, Gilbert George, Joseph Murad, Don Garrett, John Walker, Aylon Crawford and Bryan Rossman. Honorary Pallbearers are Kevin Walker Eltife, John Francis Eltife and John Paul Eltife. If desired, memorials may be made to the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church or Hospice of East Texas. For more information or to express condolences, visit www.stewartfamilyfuneral.com.

Tribute Wall

MW

“ We moved to Tyler from New Jersey in 1976. We didn't really know anyone or have any friends here. I opened a ceramic shop behind my house on 155 South and Molly was one of my first customers. She just adopted me and my whole family. My own Mom was eighteen hundred miles away so she was like my "Texas" Mom, always there in good times and bad. She will always be remembered by the Wright Family. We are all so very sorry for you loss and our prayers are with you.

Mary Ann Wright - December 17, 2005 at 12:00 AM

SR

“ Dear Kevin,

Ray and I wish to send our love to you, Kelly, Rick, Frances and your entire Family on the loss of your dear Mother.

She was an outstanding woman and I know how hard it is to be a single parent.

With God at her side, she raised wonderful and successful children and my Catholic education has always inspired me to know that she is in the most wonderful place now.

I am sure that she is looking down on all of you and bursting with so much pride in all that she has accomplished in bringing up three fine children and grandchildren.

Her admiration to the Blessed Mary is awesome. I am sure her collection of the Madonna statues is wonderful.

Kevin, please know that Ray, Reese, Larry, Katie and everyone in Tyler has you in our hearts.

I miss my Dad so much but I smile whenever I think of him because I know where he is. They are having the times of their eternity!

*Our love,
Susie Robinson*

Susan Robinson - December 17, 2005 at 12:00 AM

JB

“ *To Kevin
Our family wishes you our condolences to your family during this time of your loss.
We know that your belief God's devine love will give you comfort in this time of sorrow.
Sincerely
Joe Barron*

Joseph R. Barron - December 17, 2005 at 12:00 AM

KB

“ *My deepest sympathies and most heartfelt prayers are with you and your family in this time of loss. Rejoice in the knowledge that your Mother has been received unto the fold and has met with her just rewards from our Savior Jesus Christ. Again, my prayers are with you and your family in this hour, please do not hesitate to let me know of anything I could do to assist you. May GOD bless you all.
Kevin R. Bowden
City Manager
City of Rusk Texas*

Kevin R. Bowden - December 17, 2005 at 12:00 AM

BV

“ *With deepest sympathy from the Senate Messengers.
Brenda Vaughan
messenger supervisor*

Brenda Vaughan - December 17, 2005 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ Well Honey, here I am without you (physically) to run the roads and get in trouble with. But I'm betting that you've already caused a ruckus in Heaven! About right now they're probably wondering what to do with you!! If they give you any problems you just tell them that we'll gladly take you back! But I know you've already got them wrapped around your little finger and used that "honey" stuff and charmed your way into getting what ever you want and that you've made Heaven more fun than it has ever been. Just wanted to remind you that while you are goofing off up there that you better take some time to watch out for us -- we are counting on you to keep us in line. So don't be too busy and listen when we call you. Mollie by Golly - see you later gator - be sure and check out the article about you - they said you published 3 cookbooks - made you sound real famous and all -- i love you more - janet

Janet Fair - December 17, 2005 at 12:00 AM

BC

“ Rick, Kevin and Family

Please call if there is anything that we can do for you during this time. You are in our thoughts and prayers.

Bobby and Melinda

Bobby Mims & Melinda Carroll - December 17, 2005 at 12:00 AM

JJ

“ Kevin,
My prayers are with you and your family during this time. Having lost a mother who was also a widow, I can somewhat identify with your sense of loss. God's grace and strength will be there to help provide the support you need. Just think of the Christmas celebration she must be having.

Jack Jones - December 17, 2005 at 12:00 AM

DD

“ Kevin, Rick and Laura:

We are so sorry for your loss; however, your mother is no longer suffering and has gone to a much better place. My family's thoughts and prayers are with you at this very difficult time. We will be thinking of you and asking God to comfort and guide you during this difficult time.

Sincerely,

Daryl and Crystal Derryberry

Daryl and Crystal Derryberry - December 17, 2005 at 12:00 AM

EH

“ *My deepest sympathies are with you and your family at this time of loss.*

Eugene Harkness - December 17, 2005 at 12:00 AM

IH

“ *Rick, Laura and Kevin my deepest sympathies and prayers are with you at this time of loss.*

Sincerely, Irene Harkness and Family

Irene Harkness - December 17, 2005 at 12:00 AM

GB

“ We will miss sweet Mollie so much and are so sorry for your loss. Please know that you are in our prayers during this very difficult time.

She was a wonderful, gracious woman. One of a kind. We are so proud we were able to count her as a friend for so many years. She was very special to us. We hope that the MANY happy memories you have will eventually help ease the pain you are feeling.

Much, Much love to all you,

Gillian and Harold

Gillian and Harold Brasfield - December 17, 2005 at 12:00 AM

MP

“ *My thoughts and prayers are with you all!*

Merigale M. Pyron - December 17, 2005 at 12:00 AM

DF

“ *Mollie,*
You are my friend. I love you. As I put out my Christmas things, I gently handle the ceramic Christmas tree that you so lovingly made for me those many years ago. We spent many nights and wee morning hours together. I will never forget you... We'll make grape leaves in heaven with my mom one day.

Ricky, Laura, Kevin, and Kelly,

You all remain in my heart, and in my prayers.

Dottie Sue

Dottie Manziel Frank - December 17, 2005 at 12:00 AM