



Antonia Jean Whitton

January 18, 1940 - December 4, 2020

Antonia J. Whitton

Our loving mother and wife passed away on Friday, December 4, 2020. Toni (as she was known), born on January 18, 1940, in Chicago, IL, was wife to Edward Whitton for 59 years and mother to three children - Claudine, Robert (passed), and Jerry - and grandmother to Nick.

In 1970, Toni and Ed moved from Chicago to Leesburg to raise their family in a small town. Toni worked in the Lake Country School system for over 25 years at both Skeen Elementary and at Leesburg Elementary. She was very active within the St. Paul's Catholic Community as a lector and previously as a CCD teacher. She was known far and wide for her excellent cooking skills and delicious recipes, a couple of which she even shared exclusively with the former Vic's Embers restaurant!

Toni Whitton was a great friend, was loved by many, and will be truly missed by us all. She is home now, with our Lord, her parents, brothers, sister, sister-in-law, and her son.

A viewing service will be held at Beyers Funeral Home in Leesburg on Sunday, December 13th from 2 pm to 4 pm and a graveside service at Lone Oak Cemetery will be held on Monday, December 14th at 11 am for any who

wish to attend.

Tribute Wall



“ *Beyers Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Antonia Jean Whitton*



May 11, 2022 at 07:14 PM

“ As every good mother should, my mom taught me many great Life Lessons. Some of which I've tried to pass on to my son and to my students when I was a teacher. Here are a few of my favorites:

1) *Always do a job to the best of your abilities, as if you have to sign your name to the finished product so everyone will know who did it. If it's done great then they'll know who to thank and praise. If it's done wrong or poorly, they'll know who to blame.*

2) *Make Hay While the Sun Shines! This was actually from her father, but she said it to me when I was a teenager and explained what it meant. Now I'll admit that it didn't quite sink in at the time and probably took me a few years to really grasp and appreciate it, but this saying is why I have such a good work ethic. I've had managers either ask me why am I still working so late or working while on vacation and I've said "Well, my mother always says..."*

3) *To always be frugal and look at the price tag before you purchase anything and ask yourself "do you really need this, or do you just want it?" Okay, so anyone who know me knows that I never really learned this Life Lesson at all. Nope. Unfortunately, I am my father's daughter, and like him, I never look at price tags and I buy what I want and like. Not a good thing and I never said that I learned all the things she tried to teach me. I was very rebellious!*

4) *The Squeaky Wheel Gets the Oil. My mother told me that if you believe in something, go after it. If you think you deserve something, don't be afraid to ask for it. You'll never get anything in this world if you don't try for it or ask for it, and if someone tells you no, don't let that stop you because the squeaky wheel gets the oil! Well, I thought that was quite wise and made sense. Maybe that's why I'm good at sales because the sale starts when the customer says "no". Otherwise, you're just an order taker. I had a very difficult boss once. Once, whom am I kidding, I've had a few of "em, but this one in particular was named Phil Imbrenda and he made Scrooge look like Mother Teresa. He used to yell and curse at us on a daily basis*

and play ABBA's Dancing Queen on a loop as punishment over the speakers if we weren't selling enough or fast enough or big \$ enough, whatever. WeeeIIII, one day we were really sick of listening to Dancing Queen (3 hours) and I thought that we might actually make sales if we were in a better mood. Right? So I went in and asked if he would consider changing the music for this reason. He said no and go sit back down. I did for about 20 minutes, then I tried again and tried to work the happy employees equal more sales angle. This time he shouted at me to sit down and pick up the phone and shut up. Ever the smart mouth, I asked "But if I shut up, how am I gonna make sales?" He slammed his office door in my face. So about 30 minutes later, as I was pretending to fax some paperwork to a pretend potential customer, I made my way over to the other door to his office which was still open and I tried again. This time I decided to appeal to his greed for money. When I finished speaking he looked at me and asked if I was trying to get fired. I said "No, of course not. Why would you think that?" He said "Because I've told you to sit down and get back to work several times and you aren't listening to me." I looked him in the eyes and said "That's because my mother taught me that the squeaky wheel gets the oil!" I was so proud of myself (and my mom)! How could he say no to that? Well, he looked me in the eyes and said "Did your mother tell you that sometimes the squeaky wheel gets replaced?" My heart and my face sunk and I just said "Oh crud! She didn't tell me that one!" He started laughing so hard he had tears coming out of his eyes. He had me get my mom on the phone so he could tell her himself. The whole thing put him in such a good mood that he let us go home early! A whole 20 minutes early.

These are just a few of the lessons my mom taught me, or tried. There are so many more. Some I learned well, some I learned the hard way and others I'm still learning. I'm going to miss her so much! I love ya Mom!!

Claudine Whitton - December 14, 2020 at 10:51 PM

IS

“ Dear Ed, Claudine, Jerry, and Nick, I am so sorry for your loss. Toni was a wonderful person. We have such good memories of the times we spent with her. All the fun and laughs we shared so many times. Toni will be so missed. I will still look for her shopping at Publix. May she Rest In Peace and be in your hearts forever. Our deepest sympathy and condolences. With Love, Ilene and Steve

Ilene and Steve - December 13, 2020 at 10:07 PM

JF

“ Daytona trips will never be the same! We loved Toni and the whole Whitton family and we will never forget the wonderful times together. We pray for God's peace and comfort for you all!
Love and sympathy, the Finnell's

Julie and Mike Finnell and family - December 13, 2020 at 09:52 PM

KM

“ To Ed, Claudine and Jerry,
Your mom was one if the kindest people I have ever met in my life. I will never forget all the great memories we shared at the beach and I will forever love and cherish my Florida family. My prayers are with you guys always.

Love Kelly

Kelly McCormick - December 13, 2020 at 01:06 PM

MM

“ *Ed, Claudine, and family!
My heart aches for all of you. May the peace and love and comfort that only comes from Him surround you all and fond memories flood your minds and your hearts!*

*My Love,
Mary*

Mary (Larson) Minich - December 11, 2020 at 12:50 PM

MM

“ *Oh Gosh! Toni!!!!*

When I moved to Leesburg in early June 1983, I did not know a single person. Coming from a Catholic family, I turned to St. Paul's for possible fellowship. Vacation Bible School planning and preparation were underway and I volunteered. Again, knowing not a soul. The first meeting I attended, I sat next to Toni. As we went around the table introducing and telling a bit about ourselves, I mentioned that my phone was installed, but I had no way of knowing that it was working because there was no one for me to call and no one to call me. We left the meeting and as I was walking in the door, my phone was ringing!!! It was Toni! Welcoming me to Leesburg, St. Paul's, and her friendship!

Favorite Toni-ism: "Here. Eat."

Mary (Larson) Minich - December 11, 2020 at 12:46 PM

JE

“ *Oh Claude....we are so saddened to hear of your sweet Momma's passing....Please know we are keeping you all in our hearts & prayers. She was such a sweet soul ... Now an angel in Heaven! 🙏*

Jessie - December 10, 2020 at 01:15 PM