

OBITUARY

Jennie Pittenger, the elegant, tenacious 94-year-old matriarch of the Pittenger, family departed this world on Wednesday, June 6, 2018, following a short stay at the Karen Ann Quinlan Home for Hospice in Fredon, after 63 years living in the family homestead on Creek Road in Green Township, NJ.

She is survived by her daughter and patient caregiver, Lori (her partner, Lou Tommaso); son, Russell (wife, Lin), of Saratoga Springs, N.Y., and their children Jenifer Wygant (Alex, great-grandchildren, Ian and Luna Wygant), Spencer (wife, Gina Zetts), and Skyler. She is also survived by her grandchildren, Alyssa Paskoski (great-granddaughter, Aalaiah), David and Heather, all children of son, NYPD Sgt. Jeffrey Pittenger (deceased 1999).

Jennie lost her "sweetest and most adorable husband in the world," Harold (Hick) Pittenger, (b. April 19, 1923; d. February 9, 2000) dairy farmer (and himself a memorable personality), in 2000, after 57 years of marriage.

Jennie was the youngest of three daughters born to immigrant parents, Marian and Katherine (Suhanya) Firuta, on Cat Swamp Road and lived in a humble home without running water or electricity. She attended Allamuchy Elementary School. Jennie graduated from Hackettstown High School with salutatory honors where she excelled in her studies and penned the school song. Her teachers encouraged her to attend college, offering to underwrite a loan, but she declined, ever reluctant to incur debt.

During World War II, she worked as a riveter, fabricating wings for Navy Wildcat fighter planes at Eastern Aircraft Company in Linden. After the war, she worked a short time at the Hackettstown Auction Market before landing a position at the new M&M/Mars plant in the bookkeeping department. There, she rose to the head of accounts receivable, patiently teaching a long line of supervisors how to perform their jobs for 22 years.

She had an adventuresome spirit, loved music, bowling and travel, and was a stalwart supporter of her family and community. She was a true-blue daughter, sister, wife, mother, grandmother and friend. They just don't make 'em like her anymore.

Visitation will be held from 2-3:30 p.m. Saturday, June 9, at the [Smith-McCracken Funeral Home](#), 63 High St., Newton. A Celebration of Life will follow at 3:30 p.m., at the funeral home. Interment is private in Tranquility Cemetery.

Memorial donations may be made to Karen Ann Quinlan Hospice, 99 Sparta Ave., Newton, NJ 07860. Online condolences may be offered at www.smithmccrackenfuneralhome.com.

The New Jersey Herald: June 8, 2018

NAME: Pittenger, Jennie (nee Firuta)

DATE OF DEATH: June 6, 2018