



## Celeste M. Ripanti

May 18, 2026

Celeste M. (Iacona) Ripanti, 95, of Scituate, passed away on May 18, 2026, surrounded by her family. Celeste was born in Providence to the late John and Antonetta (Carlone) Iacona. She spent most of her life in Providence until 2022, when she moved in with her daughter, Sandra, and granddaughter, Lisa.

She was the former wife of the late Algy F. Ripanti and longtime companion of the late Italo Fagnoli. She is survived by her four children, Linda (Henry) McLaughlin, Marie Hickey, Sandra Patterson, and John Ripanti. She was predeceased by her brothers, Michael, Joseph, and John Iacona; her sister, Theresa Studley-Abatiello; her son-in-law, Kerry Patterson; and her grandchildren, Sean McLaughlin and Rebecca Hickey. She also leaves seven grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Celeste left school in the 10th grade to work and help support her parents. She worked as a salesperson at Pinkerson's in downtown Providence at the age of 14, in a jewelry shop on Charles Street in North Providence, and eventually at the Providence Census Bureau located at Veazie Street School. While working there, she was encouraged to earn her GED. When she did and that position ended, she went to work for the Department of Employment Security, where she remained until her retirement in 1995.

Throughout her life, she enjoyed cooking, sewing, crocheting and knitting, playing cards, line dancing, and, most especially, spending time with her family both near and far. She marveled at technology and loved being able to see and talk with family members through her iPad. She especially looked forward to monthly “Family Day” dinner gatherings with her nieces and nephews, as well as luncheons with friends.

The family extends their sincerest gratitude to HopeHealth Hospice & Palliative Care for their compassionate support. We would especially like to thank her nurse, Jenn B, and caregiver, Rebecca, for the tender, loving care they provided to Celeste, treating her with grace, dignity, and kindness throughout her journey. We are also deeply grateful to social worker Laura, whose guidance and support were invaluable during the most difficult and stressful times.

Celeste will be missed by family and friends alike.

# Tribute Wall

MA

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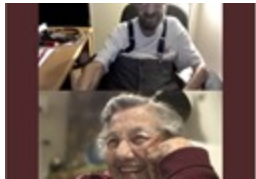


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**Marie** - 57 minutes ago

LM

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**Linda McLaughlin** - 1 hour ago

“*My beautiful Mom....One of my favorite memories of my mother was hearing how she attended trade school to become a seamstress and even made her sister Terry's wedding dress. To me, that was a beautiful expression of love between sisters and a reflection of her talent, dedication, and willingness to give of herself for those she loved.*

*While I have many memories of my mother throughout my life, some of the most treasured are from the later years when my mother, father, my siblings, and I would gather together each evening for our online game sessions. Those nightly moments gave us an opportunity to laugh, talk, tease one another, and simply spend time together as a family. Looking back, those evenings represented a closeness that I now sorely miss. They remain some of the fondest memories I have of both my parents.*

*Like every family, ours experienced both good times and difficult seasons. My mother and I certainly had our share of disagreements and periods of distance over the years, but my love for her never stopped. No matter what challenges arose between us, I always hoped we could move beyond them, and I always tried to extend the olive branch.*

*My mother was a hardworking woman who provided for her family and carried many responsibilities throughout her life. She was talented, determined, and resilient. She was also a person with strong opinions and firmly established ways of seeing the world. We did not always view life through the same lens, particularly when it came to money, generosity, and what it means to give freely without expecting something in return.*

*As I have grown older, I have come to recognize that many of my mother's traits continue to live on through her children. Some are qualities I deeply admire—her work ethic, determination, and resourcefulness. Others are characteristics that unfortunately make relationships more complicated. In that sense, I still see parts of my*

*mother reflected in my siblings today, just as I know parts of her live on in me.*

*No one is perfect, and my mother was no exception. But neither were her imperfections greater than her value as a person, a mother, and a human being. I remember her strengths and her flaws because together they made her who she was.*

*Most importantly, I remember that she was my mother. Despite our differences, I never stopped loving her, and I never stopped hoping for closeness and understanding. I love her still, I miss her deeply, and I always will.*

*May you be resting in the peace we all one day hope for.*

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**Marie** - 1 hour ago