



Mary Philomena Rasamalar Edward

January 18, 1935 - August 5, 2023

Mary Philomena Rasamalar Edward (Philomena), age 88, was called to rest with Christ her Lord on August 5th, 2023. She was the widow of Emmanuel Reginald Edward (Reggie), with whom she spent 54 years; mother/mother-in-law of Reginald Ilankeswaran and Ajita Edward, and Andrew Varuna Edward; grandmother of Reginald Aruljeevan Edward, Hannah Thivyanjali Edward, Simon Indirajith Edward, and David Piratheepan Edward.

She was the daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. S.J. Vedanayagam, daughter-in-law of the late Mr. and Mrs. G. Murugupillai; sister of the late Jeyam Vedanayagam, Pushpam Regis, the late Leela Edward, Andrew Vedanayagam, and Wigna Vedanayagam; sister-in-law of the late Viola Vedanayagam, the late Anton Regis, Christy Edward, Subho Vedanayagam, Chandra Gunasegaram, and the late Indira Johnthasan.

Philomena was born in Point Pedro, Sri Lanka in 1935. She was raised by her maternal grandparents until the age of 10, after which she went to the capital, Colombo, to live with her parents. She attend St. Bridget's Convent, and went on to earn a bachelor's degree from Queen Mary's College in Madras (Chennai), India. After graduating, she returned to St. Bridget's as a teacher. She did so until her marriage to Reggie in 1967. They left in 1969 to fulfill Reggie's dream of living in the U.S.A. They arrived in New York City with \$150 and without knowing anyone. They proceeded to build a new life in a strange

place; it was not easy, and took great effort to find jobs and a place to call home. Their two sons were born in 1970 and 1973, while they lived in a little apartment in Queens. In 1976, they purchased their first home and moved to Long Island. They would spend the next 24 years in the area. During their time in NY, they became well known for providing assistance to any new Sri Lankan immigrants they met. They never forgot what it was like to be strangers in a strange land, and did their best to give newcomers a warm welcome.

In 2000, Philomena and Reggie retired and relocated to Hilliard, OH. They spend 21 years there, and were active members of the community, and of Grace Orthodox Presbyterian Church in particular. They were both also active in the Franklin County Republican Party, and she regularly served as a poll worker for numerous election cycles.

Philomena was diagnosed with the onset of Alzheimer's disease in 2006, and struggled with the slow progression of her condition since then. After Reggie's death in 2021, she moved to a memory care facility in Georgia. This was her residence until her passing this year. She will be remembered as a strong, adventurous lady, a talented musician and literary scholar, and an artistic seamstress. She will be greatly missed by her family and friends. Above all, she trusted in her gracious Lord. May she rest in His tender care.

A Funeral Service will be held 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM on Saturday, August 12, 2023 at Covenant Orthodox Presbyterian Church, 1420 Rock Springs Road, Buford, GA 30519. Rev. Christopher Strevel will officiate. Interment will follow at Ivy Primitive Baptist Church Cemetery, Buford. The family will receive friends 6:30 PM - 9:30 PM on Friday, August 11, 2023 at Tim Stewart Funeral Home, 300 Simonton Road SW, Lawrenceville, Georgia 30046. 770.962.3100. Please sign the online guest registry at www.stewartfh.com <<http://www.stewartfh.com>>.

The service will be streamed online. Please click on the following link: <https://www.sermonaudio.com/solo/covenant-opc/>

Cemetery Details

Ivy Primitive Baptist Church Cemetery

Buford, GA

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 11. 6:30 PM - 9:30 PM (ET)

Tim Stewart Funeral Home Lawrenceville
300 Simonton Road SW
Lawrenceville, GA 30046

Funeral Service

AUG 12. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Covenant Orthodox Presbyterian Church
1420 Rock Springs Road
Buford, GA 30519

Tribute Wall



“ *Tim Stewart Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Mary Philomena Rasamalar Edward*



Tim Stewart Funeral Home - August 09, 2023 at 03:15 PM

DS

Lovely memory my great aunty

Dr kulanayagam sathiyapal - August 09, 2023 at 08:56 PM

RP

Very touching. She was a remarkable lady. She opened her home to so many people. Prayers to family during their bereavement.

Blessings 🙏

Perpy and Ralph

Ralph and Perpy Perumal - August 10, 2023 at 08:27 AM

SS

Beautiful memory! May her soul Rest in Peace!

Sumathy Sivagurunathan - August 10, 2023 at 09:44 AM

AE

Amma I love you very much and I will miss you very much, and I will always love you and Appa very much Your beloved son Andrew Varuna Edward

Andrew Varuna Edward - August 10, 2023 at 05:53 PM

RM

*Dear Family of Our beloved Teacher Philomena, We sent you flowers which is nothing compared to what you gave us as students at St Bridget's Convent Colombo- We got Rev. Father Louis Navaratne to offer a mass for her soul and to comfort the family - This is from St Bridget's Convent , Past Pupils Association in Canada Ontario. Sent by Rose de Mel-Sec/PPA Ont on behalf of our committee and all our members.
God Bless All*

Rose de Mel - August 11, 2023 at 05:52 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Mary Philomena Rasamalar Edward.



August 11, 2023 at 09:54 AM

DS

“ Our deepest condolences to illanka family and varuna from cousin Mrs Siva Kulanayagam from Australia and puloy relations
May her soul rest in peace

Dr kulanayagam sathiyapal - August 11, 2023 at 07:14 AM

DS

“ Our deepest condolences to illanka family and varuna from niece Mrs deva Kulanayagam jayabalan Mr m jayabalan m .thavachandran Dr m dujinthan Mr sivasankanran may her soul rest in peace
Australia and puloy relations

Dr kulanayagam sathiyapal - August 11, 2023 at 07:11 AM

DS

“ Our deepest condolences to illanka family and varuna from dr k sathiyapal Dr Mrs komathy sathiyapal Dr saranki sathiyapal Dr arabi sathiyapal from Australia and may her soul rest is peace .relations from puloy point Pedro

Dr kulanayagam sathiyapal - August 11, 2023 at 07:07 AM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mary Philomena Rasamalar Edward.



August 11, 2023 at 03:53 AM

DY

“ Dhaya Lili and Family from New York purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Mary Philomena Rasamalar Edward.



Dhaya Lili and Family from New York - August 10, 2023 at 08:00 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Mary Philomena Rasamalar Edward.



August 10, 2023 at 06:15 PM



“ 43 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Tim Stewart Funeral Home - August 09, 2023 at 03:08 PM