



Eva (Mrkonja) Silvestri

December 20, 1927 - September 15, 2025

Eva (Mrkonja) Silvestri, lovingly known as “Mama Tootsie” passed away peacefully on September 15, 2025, she was 97. Tootsie was a lifelong resident of Aliquippa. She was born December 20, 1927, and is the daughter of the late Mike and Margaret Mrkonja. Tootsie was preceded in death by her husband Leo Silvestri in 2018 and several siblings: Marie (Frank) Battalini, Ann (Anthony) Marcello, Lil (Joseph) Taormina, Joan Mrkonja, Milan (Stella) Mrkonja, Joseph (Elizabeth) Mrkonja, George Mrkonja, Nicholas (MaryAnn) Mrkonja, and two infant siblings Rudolph and Rosemary.

Tootsie will be remembered and cherished for her wit, enduring strength and snappy sense of humor. The eldest sister of 13 siblings, Tootsie lived a life that was full of care and devotion to her family. Her greatest joy was spending time with her closest nieces and nephews. One would never see Tootsie without her two sisters. The trio, Tootsie, Marie and Joann would go gallivanting around town, Joann was the chauffeur. The only thing better for Tootsie was the luck of good scratch ticket. She enjoyed the simple pleasure of good company and lunch at her local McDonald’s. Tootsie was full of quick humor, proud of her Serbian heritage, and an overall joy to be around.

She is survived by her brothers, Louis Mrkonja, with whom she had a close relationship, and John Mrkonja. Tootsie is survived by numerous nieces and nephews. She maintained a close relationship with her devoted nieces, Valerie Battalini (Rick Cropper), Vicki (Martin) Thomas, nephew Tony

Marcello, and great nieces and nephews: Martin Thomas, Austa (Kevin) McDanel and their children Urban and Una, and Quinn Thomas whom she cared for with great dedication as if they were her own children. Tootsie will be buried with her husband at St. Elijah Serbian Cemetery.

The family would like to thank Dr. Gandhe and staff at the staff Gateway Hospice for the care that was extended to Tootsie.

Cemetery Details

St. Elijah Orthodox Cemetery

Aliquippa, PA