



# Laila C. McVay

DEC 23, 1927 - DEC 13, 2015



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## **Laila C. McVay**

DEC 23, 1927 - DEC 13, 2015

**L**aila C. McVay, 88, of Syracuse and Skaneateles, NY, passed away peacefully with her children beside her on December 13, 2015. Mrs. McVay was raised in Natick and Roslindale, MA, and graduated from Simmons College with a B.S. in Chemistry under full scholarship. She worked in chemistry research for several years, first at Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, where she contributed to research involving the innovative application of sulfa drugs in patient treatment, then at Bristol Laboratories in Syracuse, using her foreign language skills to translate scientific literature. She left the field to raise her family of five children and was a devoted wife for over 62 years to George F. McVay, MD, who predeceased her in November 2012. Mrs. McVay was an avid golfer, skier and tennis enthusiast who reveled in competing in tournaments with her grandchildren. She enjoyed travel, sailing on Skaneateles Lake, discussing books, playing piano, sewing beautiful clothes, and was a generous friend with outstanding culinary skills who loved to entertain. Her years spent as a Dale Carnegie leadership training assistant were fulfilling. Yet, her great passion was family, and her grandchildren will always remember their Nana at the center of the chaos and fun at family gatherings.

She cherished her husband, Dr. George F. McVay, and her children and their spouses, Suzanne Novelli (Dr. David), Dr. Laila D. McVay, Michele McVay-Crowley (William), Janine McVay (Robert Pettersen), and George S. McVay (Nancy). She adored her ten grandchildren (Julia Pericak (Dr. Jason), Dr. Stephen Novelli (Jessica) and Sheila (Nicholas) Tober, Bill and Daniel Crowley, Andrew and Lauren Pettersen, Sarah Lardner (Dr. Thomas) and Karen and Neil McVay) and four great-grandchildren (Amelia, Mariella, Oliver and Maeve).

She was predeceased by her dear mother, Olga E. Karam, and beloved aunt, Julia E. Corey, and leaves her loving sister, Susan Theophanis, her cousin and his wife, Dr. Elia and Georgia Zughaib, and many dearly loved nieces and nephews and their families.



## Obituary

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Funeral services will be held on Monday, January 4, at 9:00 a.m. in the THOMAS J. PIRRO JR. FUNERAL HOME and 10:00 a.m. at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception Church, Syracuse. Christian burial will follow at Woodlawn Cemetery. Family and friends may call at the THOMAS J. PIRRO JR. FUNERAL HOME, 3401 Vickery Rd. (corner of Buckley Rd.), North Syracuse, on Sunday, January 3, from 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital ([www.stjude.org](http://www.stjude.org)).



# Events

**Laila C. McVay**

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## Visitation

**Sunday**, January 3, 2016

1:00 PM - 4:00 PM ET

**Thomas J. Pirro Jr. Funeral Home**  
3401 Vickery Rd, Syracuse NY 13212



## Service

**Monday**, January 4, 2016

9:00 AM ET

**Thomas J. Pirro Jr. Funeral Home**  
3401 Vickery Rd, Syracuse NY 13212

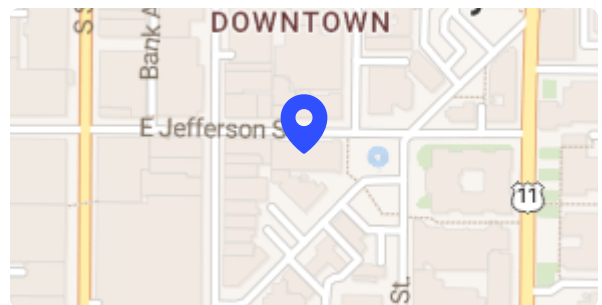


## Funeral Mass

**Monday**, January 4, 2016

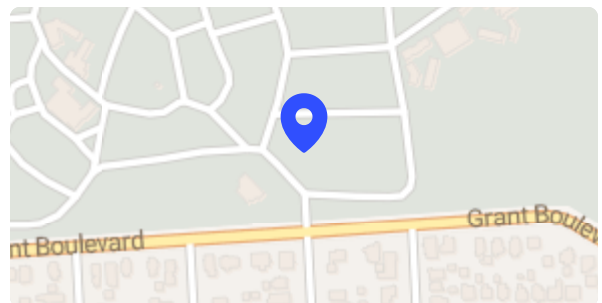
10:00 AM ET

**Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception**  
259 E. Onondaga St., Syracuse NY 13202



## Cemetery Details

**Woodlawn Cemetery & Mausoleum**  
800 Grant Boulevard, Woodlawn Cemetery &  
Mausoleum NY 13203





## Tribute Wall

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BK

**Brian Kennedy** posted:

GeorgeMy sympathies on the passing of your mother. I will always have great memories of the neighborhood in Syracuse and how your Mother helped make it feel like a big extended family. Please share my condolences with Suzanne, Laila, Michelle and Janine.Brian Kennedy

January 4 at 5:32 AM



**Anonymous** sent a Magnificent Life Spray to the McVay family.



January 2 at 4:16 AM

MS

**Marie Sarno** posted:

Suzanne, Michele and Laila,Although it has been more than 50 years, I have good memories of our time as neighbors. I am not sure it is accurate, but when I think of your mom, I think of tasty pitas and olives. Sorry for you loss..Marie Sarno..

December 31 at 6:02 PM

LC

**Lisa Donati Carlisto** posted:

We loved being neighbors with the McVay family and have such wonderful childhood memories of Dr. and Mrs. McVay. We always knew they were right over the fence if we needed anything. One of my favorite memories was when Gretchen was a puppy and slipped through the fence and got locked in their garage. All night we looked for her because we thought she ran away. I heard her barking and everyone said it was just wishful thinking because I was young. Then the McVays opened up the garage the next day and out she ran (after she had trashed their entire garage). And, they just laughed. They were wonderful, kind people who brought joy to all those around them. Our thoughts and prayers are with all of you at this difficult time.

December 31 at 2:23 PM

AS

**Anne Foley Schofield** posted:

Suzanne and Janine...Such wonderful memories of you both and your mom. She once made coq au vin with white wine so it wouldn't turn the chicken red. I am reminded of her whenever I do that. Making it tonight so she will be in my thoughts. Both of you as well. So sorry for your loss.Anne Foley Schofield

December 31 at 5:00 AM



## Tribute Wall

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RA

**Richard And Beverly Armour** sent a Sentiments of Serenity Spray to the McVay family.

December 30 at 9:53 AM



JW

**Jane And Dennis Lawler, Ed Crowley, And Susan Woodward** sent a Treasured Lilies Spray to the McVay family.

December 28 at 9:30 AM



LP

**Lynn Delaney Pitman** posted:

What a stunning photo of your Mom that reflects her beauty and radiance! I will always remember her as such a kind and true lady that always took the time to make you feel so special. My heartfelt thoughts are being sent to you kids for your tremendous loss.

December 28 at 1:39 AM



## **Memories only last if you share them**

Join us in honoring Laila by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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