



Linda R. Purdy

SEP 27, 1946 - JAN 15, 2022



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Linda R. (Drake) Purdy, 75, of Camillus New York passed away peacefully in her sleep on Saturday January 15, 2022. Linda was born and raised in Camillus, New York and spent most of her free time tending to her flowers in the first and only home she had ever purchased in Syracuse, New York.

She worked for the Syracuse City School District, Onondaga Community College and Jamesville Penitentiary (on the right side of the bars), and various other odd jobs she could find before settling in at the US Postal Service. Every move she made was very well thought out and the goal was to provide a better life and future for her family. As a single mom, she always made a little go a long way.

As best we can recall without digging through a bunch of paperwork, she retired from the Post Office in 2008ish. Once retired, Linda was living her dream of doing... absolutely nothing. Not true, she enjoyed seeing her grandchildren, going to see them play baseball, soccer, and any other activity they signed up for. She loved to read, and she was one of the library's best customers. She also enjoyed various computer games, not sure if anyone ever heard of Criminal Case or Bingo Blitz? She loved traveling with her daughter to "Amish Country", wherever that is. Not sure if they require a passport there, but Linda did break down and get one so she could accompany her family to Aruba on numerous occasions. She also seemed to enjoy turning down a trip to Yankee Stadium each year to see "Old Timer's Day", saying that she preferred to remember those players as we saw them on our old Zenith console television growing up, with really tiny legs.

Linda came from a relatively small family but what it lacked in size, it made up for with strength. If the phone rang and it was one of the few family members, it always got answered. If it wasn't, it went straight to voicemail. She'll get back to you within 3 business days.

She was strong and independent throughout life and that didn't change in her final



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days. She went out in much the same way she lived her life, under her own terms, not wanting to cause too much trouble which was always her way. A final message of strength for all of us to learn from.

The team she left behind consisted of her daughter, Valerie James (Joshua James- who Linda was very grateful to for “taking Valerie off her hands”), Jason Purdy (Sarah Norcross- who was never going to be good enough, until, alas, she passed her final audition), her sister Carolyn Schultz (Rich), brother Rod Drake (Sandra), close cousin who became more like a sister, Sandy Holbrook (Tom- growing up, he was the de facto “man of the house”- anytime we needed one, fixing things around the house, helping with school projects, etc.) and grandchildren Spencer James and Cooper Purdy, who we’re convinced she told years ago to make sure they followed through on her promise to Valerie and Jason when she said “wait till you have kids of your own”. There are also plenty of nieces and nephews and great-nieces and -nephews who she loved following on social media, where she got a real kick out of “liking” or commenting on nearly every one of their pictures.

Passing before her was her favorite person in the world, her mother, Lela Drake (Beardsley) and her father, Horace Drake, who was definitely on her top 10 list. There will be a celebration of Linda’s life planned for the Spring. Keep your eyes out on Ticketmaster for ticketing information. In lieu of flowers, Linda would have probably requested that everyone remember that at the end of the day, it’s the little things that matter most. You can find just as much fun in the journey as you do the destination.



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PH

Patricia Houston posted:

Linda was a lovely lady. Met her at Camillus Pointe and really enjoyed her company. Deepest sympathy to her family. Sincerely, Pat Houston

January 26 at 9:34 AM

CD

Cathleen Donegan posted:

Linda and I met when she started exercising at St. Joe's Pulmonary Rehab. She was always a bright light, one of the coolest, funniest people I ever met. Shine on, Linda, Heaven can use your spark! You bet it's "the little things that matter most"! Fondly, Cathy Donegan, RN

January 23 at 9:33 AM

CC

Cheryl Czajkowski posted:

Val and Jason, I am so sorry to hear of this loss. Your Mom was an amazing woman and I was so fortunate to call her a friend. She was the absolute light that we all needed while working together at the PO. You were both her pride and joy! May you cherish all the wonderful memories of her! ❤️

January 20 at 5:24 PM

NF

Nancy Fiumano February 15 at 4:09 PM

I just heard of Linda's passing, I am so sorry. Linda and I became best friends in 10th, 11th, and 12th grade, we went everywhere together. Many overnights were spent at either my house or hers, she was the first to get her driver's license so we always went in her parents car. When I would spend the night at her house we would help out in her parents nursing home. After graduation we lost track of each other and reconnected on FB, we were talking about getting together at her place and talking about old times, unfortunately we never got that chance. Please know that my thoughts and prayers are with you all ❤️

LB

Laureen Booth February 12 at 4:10 AM

Jason and Val, I just heard of Linda's passing. She was my absolute favorite person to work with at the PO. I had so much fun with her, both at work and outside of work. To this day, every time I hear an Aerosmith song, I think of her! She was truly one of a kind. May all your cherished memories keep her close to you. ❤️



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Kathy Jackson posted:

Valerie and Jason, so sorry for the loss of your Mom. So many fun times and laughs we had over the years and when I think of her, it is always with a smile on my face. She will be missed. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your families. Sincerely, Kathy Jackson

January 19 at 7:20 PM



Margie Nendza posted:

Jason and Val, I'm so sorry to hear this news. Linda and I go back at least 40 yrs. So many memories of working together at Bellevue school and spending our Monday night bingo at the house of Providence. Such a fun person. She will be missed by so many people. Sending thought ,prayers and hugs to all of you. 🙏🙏🙏🙏

January 18 at 4:56 PM



Mick Nendza January 21 at 6:53 AM

Valerie and Jason, sorry for your loss. Thoughts and prayers for you and your families Mick Nendza



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CE

Cindy Emin posted:

Beautifully written obit, kept light, the way she would have wanted it. Your mom was one-of-a-kind, and I loved her!!I'll always remember her great sense of humor, we shared a lot of laughs over the years! We kept each other sane at the Post Office, not always easy!!She'll be missed, but her fun spirit will live on in those of us lucky enough to call her a friend.Condolences to her family; I hope she's with her "mom"!

January 18 at 1:25 PM

DG

Dave Gangemi January 23 at 11:19 AM

Valerie and Jason. My deepest sympathy to you both. Most memorable about Linda, your mom, was her good natured demeanor. Her smile. And there was, of course, that solid side to her-that serious dedication to her work and to the two of you. She loved you both very much; that was very apparent. I'll be most vigilant now. There may be a time when I leave my car parked somewhere. You never know. If, when I return to retrieve it, the car may not be exactly where I had left it. Payback from Heaven!?!

JA

Janis January 19 at 10:57 AM

Valerie, You are in our thoughts and prayers.Janis and Ray

DM

Donna Mccann January 18 at 2:25 PM

I loved your Mom! Always told it like it was, loved her family and would do anything for you, and she already experienced Heaven with the birth of her grandsons. She was a great friend and I will miss her dearly.Donna McCann



Memories only last if you share them

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



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