Frances M. (Posco) Mercadante

January 4, 2018

Mrs. Mercadante was born in Fitchburg, June 26, 1928, the eldest daughter of Anthony V. and Mary (Carpinella) Posco and was a lifelong resident of Fitchburg. She attended Nolan Grammar School, was a 1947 graduate of St. Bernard's Central Catholic High School, and received her Bachelor's Degree in Education from Our Lady of the Elms College in Chicopee. She returned to Fitchburg and received her Master's Degree in Education from Fitchburg State College in 1953.

Mrs. Mercadante taught fourth grade in the Fitchburg school system for over 40 years beginning at Hosmer Elementary School and then at Crocker Elementary School before retiring in 1997. Following her retirement from teaching, Mrs. Mercadante devoted her time and energy to caring for and enjoying time with her grandchildren.

Mrs. Mercadante was a lifelong and active member of St. Anthony de Padua Church in Fitchburg. Beginning in 1942, at the age of fourteen, she assisted her mother who was organist and choir director for the parish. Mrs. Mercadante eventually took over these duties from her mother, playing and directing music for over sixty years. She also served as a member of the parish's 100th Anniversary Committee, as well as an active member of the St. Anthony's School PTA. She was a member and past president of the Daughters of Isabella and was instrumental in the formation of the Italian-

American Cultural Center in South Leominster that honored her as Italian-American Woman of the Year in 2001. As her children moved on to high school, she became a member of the Notre Dame Crusader Club, and in 1975, was honored with their “Mother of the Year” Award. In 2013, the Fitchburg State College Community recognized both Mrs. Mercadante, along with her husband, Nicholas, for their contribution to the area’s Italian-American Community.

A lover of nature and the outdoors, Mrs. Mercadante shared this passion with her students, children, and grandchildren. She possessed a great love of flowers and birds, and especially enjoyed the forests around her home and classroom. She was a self-taught expert of the wild flowers of the Massachusetts’ forests and could identify most species of mosses and lichens found here. She enjoyed both the ocean and the family summer cottage in Ashburnham, drawing peace and comfort from the view of the water.

She leaves four children and their spouses, Nicholas M. Mercadante MD and Alexandra Calcagno of Lunenburg, Dominic P. Mercadante and Joseph N. Mooney of Belfast, Maine, Ann Marie Pastor and Roy W. Pastor of Harvard, and Anthony J. Mercadante and Deborah A. Mercadante of Fitchburg; seven grandchildren, Talia Mercadante, Antonia Pastor, Olivia Mercadante, Sophia Mercadante, Alessandra Pastor, Nicholas A. Mercadante and Cecilia Mercadante; and a great grandson,
Theodore M. Wong. She also leaves her sister Mary A. Gravelle and her brother-in-law Mr. Peter W. Gravelle of Plymouth as well as many nieces, nephews and devoted friends.

Two sisters, Theresa A. Belli Murchie of Fitchburg and Angela A. Goodnow of Leominster, predeceased her.

Tribute Wall

DC

So sorry to hear this. She and Nick were good friends of my parents. Thoughts and prayers to the family.

David Corkum - January 26, 2018 at 06:18 AM

JM

May she rest in the loving peace of her faith and her wonderful family.

JoAnn Mooney - January 08, 2018 at 06:46 AM

VM

To our Mercadante Cousins many fond memories of times spent in Worster and Fitchburg. may Aunt Francis Rest in peace

Vincent &Lou Anne MercadanteJr - January 04, 2018 at 09:14 PM