



Margaret Tate

June 20, 1924 - February 21, 2020

Ayer: Idilia Margaret (Martelosio) Tate, age 95, was born on June 20, 1924 in Grenoble, France. Her family was originally from Italy and had owned an Inn on the French/Italian border. In the early 1920's they were opposed to Mussolini and the Fascists who were taking over the Italian Government. Their Inn was burned to the ground by Mussolini's supporters and their lives put in danger. Her parents were secreted across the border into France by friends and they settled in Grenoble where Margaret was born, later the family moved to Lyon. Little did they know that another group of Fascists were looming over the western horizon.

When she was a teenager in 1940, the Germans overran and occupied France and much of Europe. Intimidation, restrictions and scarcity dominated their existence. When Hitler was told that the people of France were slowly starving, his response was "let them eat grass." Life was difficult until the Allies eventually invaded France in 1944 and defeated Germany in 1945. After the war she caught the attention of an American Master Sergeant, James Tate. They were married in June 1946 and remained married for 67 years until Jim's passing in 2012. Two children, Maryse and John, were born while the Tates were stationed in France and later Germany. They spent several tours in Europe after the war as well as in the U.S until Jim retired while stationed at Fort Devens in 1965 after 26 years in the Army. The family enjoyed the area, settled here and formed many lasting friendships. After the WWII, when given the ingredients, Margaret became an excellent

cook, perhaps the result of having to “eat grass.” An invitation to the Tate household for dinner, especially Thanksgiving Dinner, was welcome and coveted. She was an animal lover of the first magnitude who also enjoyed providing daily sustenance for the neighborhood wildlife. They often chattered or chirped their appreciation.

Margaret worked at George Frost Company until retiring at age 65. She became a volunteer at the Nashoba Valley Medical Center, working as a receptionist at the visitors' desk and delivering gifts and flowers to the patients. She was highly skilled knitter and crocheter and joined in with the members of the Ayer Senior Center to craft clothing, scarves and mittens for donation to charitable organizations. She and her husband Jim enjoyed an occasional bus trip to Atlantic City with the Ayer Senior Citizens, although not gamblers, they enjoyed traveling and interacting with the other riders.

Later in life she contracted macular degeneration, a familial malady, causing her to lose most of her vision, but she continued knitting scarves for the children at the Hilltop School to use during recess as her daughter volunteered there as a teachers aid. Although restricted by it she persevered and managed to function and get around satisfactorily during her daily life.

Margaret was an avowed and proud Socialist who felt it was the responsibility of the government to care for its citizenry by providing medical care, family maternity leave, aid for women and children, or any policy that supported the public well being. Recently when informed that NAZI stood for National Socialist German Workers' Party she replied “that can't be true, no Socialist would ever do what they did.”

She is survived by her daughter Maryse Tate and her companion James Hurley of Ayer, her son John Tate and daughter-in-law Nancy Tate of Townsend; a sister Maria Fiore of Villeurbanne, France, a niece Christine Bise and her husband Jean Claude, and nephews Christophe and Nicolas Bise, all of Tailloires, France. A private service will be followed by interment at Woodlawn Cemetery beside her beloved husband. She will be deeply missed by her loving family.

Margaret's family want to express its sincere appreciation to the Apple Valley Center staff for the wonderful and compassionate care she received during her recent illness.

Tribute Wall

PA

“ *Maryse we are so sorry for your loss. You were so blessed to have your Mom. You took very good care of her. Our thoughts and prayers are with you. Love Paulette and Jerry.* ”



Paulette Aragones - March 12, 2020 at 11:21 PM

BB

“ *Maryse, so sorry of your mom's passing. My deepest condolences. You were a wonderful daughter. Barbara Bottino.* ”

barbara bottino - March 12, 2020 at 06:02 PM

MS

“ *Maryse, sincerest condolences to you and your family....* ”

Mary Markham and Bob Sama - February 29, 2020 at 05:11 AM

TP

“ *Maryse, Jim, and family we are saddened to learn of the passing of your mother. Please accept our heartfelt condolences at this time and reflect on the lifetime of wonderful memories you have.* ”

Tony and Jan Pursuite - February 26, 2020 at 06:25 AM

BG

“ *Dear Maryse and John, I am so sorry to hear about your mother's passing. She lived an extraordinary life in her formative years. I hope your many wonderful memories of her provide you with some comfort in this time of sadness.* ”

Bobby Gardner - February 25, 2020 at 04:58 PM



“ *White Sympathy Baskets was purchased for the family of Margaret Tate.*



February 22, 2020 at 11:54 AM



“ *Maryse, I am so, so sorry for your loss. Your mom was a very special lady. You two were so lucky to have each other. Sending hugs! -Amanda*

amanda medina - February 22, 2020 at 07:47 AM



Maryse & Jim, I am sorry to hear about Mom. What a wonderful woman she was. My thoughts and prayers are with you both. Love to you and John and Nancy.

Donna Lavoie - February 22, 2020 at 09:53 AM



“ *Maryse and family, I am sorry for your Mother. May your love and memories sustain you during this difficult time.*
Nancy Jackvony

Nancy Jackvony - February 21, 2020 at 06:06 PM



“ *Maryse, I am sending my deepest condolences to you and your family in the passing of your mother. My thoughts are with you*

Denise Stepleton - February 21, 2020 at 04:01 PM

TC

“*Maryse, Jim and The Tate family. Please accept my condolences. I am so sorry to learn of Margaret's passing. She was a wonderful woman. May love and light guide you through life and help you during this time.*

Tobe Conway - February 21, 2020 at 03:52 PM