



## Theresa M. (Kiley) Honkala

November 14, 1928 - December 25, 2021

ASHBY: Theresa M. "Terry" (Kiley) Honkala, beloved wife, mother, nurse, and caregiver died Saturday, December 25, 2021 surrounded by her children at the Highlands Long Term Care Center, Fitchburg. She was 93 years old.

Terry was born Theresa Mary Kiley on November 14, 1928, in Great Barrington, Massachusetts. Her parents were Alan and Marybell (Bossidy) Kiley. She was raised by her aunt, Rose MacDonald, following the death of her mother. Terry graduated from Athol High School in 1946 where she very active in school activities.

Following high school, Terry graduated from Burbank Hospital School of Nursing in Fitchburg in 1949. As a new nurse she embarked out on a stellar career as a labor and delivery nurse at Burbank Hospital.

For 40 years Terry cared for mothers and helped to deliver their babies into this world. When a child is born the world is altered in an instant. A new voice is heard, new love comes into being. Terry was part of this experience with many, mothers meeting their babies for the first time.

After retirement from Burbank Hospital, Terry was a hospice volunteer for Health Alliance Hospital, fulfilling over 500 hours. Terry was also very active in the Woman's Auxiliary of Ashby.

During nursing school Terry met the dashing Rauni Honkala at a dance, whom she married in 1950. They built their home together and resided in Ashby. Together they cared for, guided, and raised seven children. Their door was always open for anyone who needed a bed to sleep in or a warm meal.

In addition, to her children Terry is mourned and will be missed by eleven beautiful, caring grandchildren and eight wonderful great-grandchildren.

Terry was predeceased by her siblings James Kiley of Lenox, Joseph Kiley of Pittsfield, Timothy Kiley of Stockbridge, and Rosemary Lundberg of Ashby. The love her life Rauni Honkala died in 2014 and her son Kevin in 1980.

She leaves behind a legacy of six children. Debbie Honkala and her companion Mike Roberts of Townsend, Keith Honkala and his wife Teresa of Ashby, Diane Carson and husband Kurt of Townsend, Dale Helle of Holden, Donna Childs and husband Jeff of Ashby and Kris Honkala of Newburyport. Terry died with her children beside her after a long struggle with Alzheimer's.

A Funeral Mass will be celebrated 11 AM Friday, December 31, 2021 at St. Bernard's Parish worshipping at St. Camillus de Lellis Church, 333 Mechanic Street, Fitchburg. Burial will follow at Glenwood Cemetery, Ashby.

There are no public calling hours.

The Anderson Funeral Home, 250 Main Street (Rte. 119) Townsend Center is assisting the family with arrangements. For additional information or to leave an online condolence, please visit their website at [www.andersonfuneral.com](http://www.andersonfuneral.com).

In place for flowers donations can be made in memory of Terry to the Alzheimer's Disease Association 309 Waverly Oaks Road, Waltham, MA

02452 or the Highland Care Center, 335 Nichols Street, Fitchburg,  
Massachusetts 01420.

# Previous Events

## Funeral Mass

DEC **31**. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Bernard's Parish at St. Camillus de Lellis Church  
333 Mechanic St.  
Fitchburg, MA 01420

# Tribute Wall

MM

“ Just seeing this now. So very sorry to hear of Terry’ passing. I knew Terry from Burbank Hospital where we both worked. She was an excellent nurse and a real professional. My condolences to her entire family and to those in the family that I knew: Deb, Donna, Kiley and Beth Ann.

Sincerely,  
Mary Majkut  
Orleans, MA

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**Mary Majkut** - January 23, 2022 at 06:20 PM

BA

“ Bob and I were sorry to be out of touch with Terri over the past several years. We last saw her at Rauni’s funeral. She will always be remembered as a very nice person. Bob appreciates all the times the Honkala Family was kind to him. He remembers working for Rauni and also house sitting when the family was away. Terri was always thoughtful sending us cards, lighting our cemetery candle for us and watering our flowers at our monument. Each time we are at the cemetery we always stop and pray for Kevin and Rauni. Now we will pray for Terri too. What a good life she had — so full of blessings. We’re so sorry to miss the funeral Mass. Brenda and Bob Annan

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**Brenda and Bob Annan** - January 06, 2022 at 09:58 PM

LK

“ We are so very sorry to hear of Terry’s passing. My parents (Miriam and Vesa) often mention the kindness that Terry and Rauni shared with them as neighbors. Wishing your entire family comfort and peace during this difficult time.

*Laura Kuosmanen Helmuth and family*

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**Laura Kuosmanen** - January 03, 2022 at 06:32 PM

PD

“ Just hearing of this sad news. Thoughts and prayers go out to the entire Honkala family during this difficult time. Terry was the most wonderful person, always looking after us “kids” with a mother’s smile. I was lucky to see her and the some of the girls every year when delivering the Senior Holiday dinner, and reminded of what a special lady she is. 🙏🙏

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**Porter Dodge** - January 03, 2022 at 09:57 AM

HY

“ We send love, prayers, and peace to the entire Honkala family. Thank you for sharing your mom with us, and we thank your mom for each and everyone of you.

*Helen and Jim Yetman-Bellows*



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**Helen Yetman-Bellows** - December 31, 2021 at 08:48 AM

JB

“ Condolences to the entire family

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**Joanne Belliveau** - December 30, 2021 at 11:50 AM

MP

“ I first met Rauni & Terry Honkala while working for Ed Kaarela in his office. They were such beautiful and loving people. Always asking how I and my family were. Even after Rauni passed, Terry would come into the office and say she was visiting “me” and ask how I was doing. She cared for everyone she met. I would see her in church, and she would go out of her way to seek me out to say hello. She was a special lady.

*My sincerest sympathies go out to the Honkala family.*

*Mary Anne Pepin-Ellis*

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**Mary Anne Pepin-Ellis** - December 30, 2021 at 11:19 AM

EK

“ I first met Rauni Honkala at the time his father died and, thereafter I was blessed by having Rauni and his beautiful wife “Terry”, as well as others of their family, as my wonderful, steady and loving friends. The matter that kept the family going wonderfully, is the love I witnessed between Terry and Rauni, that was strong, understanding and caring....which I was able to observe and to feel some of its benefits.

*I will always remember Terry and Rauni, keeping my love for them and holding on to the love I have for their family.*

*Edwin E. Kaarela*

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**Edwin Kaarela** - December 30, 2021 at 11:02 AM



“ *Healing Tears - Blue and White was purchased for the family of Theresa M. (Kiley) Honkala.*



December 29, 2021 at 07:00 PM



“ *My deepest sympathy goes out to the Honkala family. Terry was truly a one of a kind person. I loved seeing her at the restaurant for lunch and enjoyed talking with her. She will be missed.*

**Nancy Boyer** - December 29, 2021 at 06:48 PM



“ *Wishing you peace and happy memories in this difficult time. Terry trained me in L/D, I have fond memories working with her. She was a kind, compassionate person and nurse, a true professional. My sincerest sympathy to her family. Marylu Finneron*

**Marylu Finneron** - December 29, 2021 at 03:49 PM



“ *My deepest sympathy to the Honkala family, May she rest in peace*

**Ronnie Knox** - December 28, 2021 at 01:44 PM



“ *Healing Tears - All White was purchased for the family of Theresa M. (Kiley) Honkala.*



December 28, 2021 at 12:32 PM



“ *Red & White Sympathy Floor Basket was purchased for the family of Theresa M. (Kiley) Honkala.*



December 28, 2021 at 11:34 AM



“ *She was a wonderful, compassionate caregiver who I worked with while working doing Hospice care. You could always depend on her to take care of the patients and they all loved to see her coming to visit. She and Rosemary were two of the best! ❤️* Jeanne Ordway

**Jeanne Ordway** - December 27, 2021 at 10:00 PM



“ *So sorry to hear about your mother, I have many fond memories of her and your father and brother Kevin. Loved them all so much. Know that you are all in my heart, sending love and prayers to you all.* Lauren (Mountain) Sullivan

**Lauren Sullivan** - December 27, 2021 at 08:58 PM



“ *May your beautiful mother be welcomed home by the loving arms of Kevin & Rauni (Mr. Honkala) and rest in eternal peace. She was a wonderful person* ❤️ 🙏



**Ann Shaughnessy Romano** - December 27, 2021 at 08:40 PM

CQ

“ *Chip, Aracely, Derek, Ryan and Quinn purchased the Healing Tears - All White for the family of Theresa M. (Kiley) Honkala.*



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**Chip, Aracely, Derek, Ryan and Quinn** - December 27, 2021 at 09:17 AM