

My Mother, Papali'i Taimalelagi Latamanu Litara Rita Alaimo, lived an amazing 94 years!! She was a lover, entertainer, teacher, leader, businesswoman, nurse, volunteer, an amazing Mother and Grandmother, Great Grandmother and Great-Great Grandmother and the best Wife and life partner to her three beloved husbands. Most of all, Mom was a Woman of God! She loved the finer things in life and knew it took faith and hard work to achieve success. You know, the finer things...like fine men, fine jewelry, and fine wine – not necessarily in that order.

She loved her family so much! She was proud to be from the Sa Maliatoa Gatuitasina from Sapapali'i, Savai'i. She always reminded us to carry ourselves and treat others with RESPECT. She was born on July 17, 1926 in Lepa, Samoa to her parents, Rev Taule'alo and Ulavao Taulealo. She has 15 wonderful brothers and sisters, as you can see in her program.

When she came to American Samoa to live with her sister, Mere To'alua Jessop in Utulei, she worked in their store and helped with the family children. She eventually caught the eye of Navyman, George Kent. He ran the military store and would give her plenty of ice to cool her off because she was HOT! Her and George had a whirlwind romance and married. They were best friends with Fa'afetai and Spencer. They even moved to Hawaii together and homesteaded on the North shore of Oahu. Their children Bobby and Dotty came along and they had a very happy life in Hawaii. In 1952, they moved to the land of Golden opportunity in San Francisco, California. While Mom was in the City now, she still always remembered her family back home. She sponsored many of them to move in with her own growing family and start a new life in California. My brother Donald come along soon after and that made three. Here in San Francisco, my parents had so many great friends. Many who were part of the Samoan Civic Association. She even hosted the Honorable Maleatoa and Tamasese and shown them about the town. Her many friends then included, Poiva & Ernie Reid, Senira & Tenari Lutu, Tafaoga & Milton McMullin, Fata & Kava Cassidy to name just a few.

Litara followed in her Mother's footsteps and became a nurse. She worked for Kaiser Hospital while she did her Polynesian dancing on the weekends. Dancing and entertaining were always a big part of our family. She was the first ever female Samoan knife dancer to perform at the famous Tonga Room at the world-

renowned Fairmont Hotel. In 1962, a little surprise came their way and baby number four, Linda (me) came into their lives disrupting her glammers dancing career and my sister Dotty's teenage years. Litara and George parted ways but remained friends and we know she was the love of his life. Litara re-married a happy Sicilian, Bill Alaimo in 1968 in San Francisco. Litara and Bill had many adventures, trips around the world, a life filled with family and love. His big Sicilian family loved her dearly. He made sure the little girl from Lepa had all the lovely things like a big ring, big house, big pool and her big Lincoln Continental car.

Mom was considered the 'Luau Queen' and our family put on many a grand Luau affair. She had a full-fledged catering and entertainment company, South Seas Island Catering. Ask any of my cousins, collectively we've all wrapped over 1 million won tons. In 1974, opportunity came their way and they picked up from their life in California and moved to American Samoa to manage the popular Malaeimi Hotel. The hotel once stood where the Manumalo Church and School is now. My brother Bobby and sister Dotty came along too. The hotel was very popular and we put on a fantastic floor show with the best band on the island and Dad Bill always closed it out with his rendition of 'God Bless Samoa' with Mom dancing by his side.

When the hotel shut down, they came back to California where she continued to excel in her nursing career and even finished her nursing degree at age 46. Opportunity came calling again. They decided they wanted to start a Taro export business in Samoa in 1980. Mom at first was hesitant because she had the life she always dreamed, a beautiful home with a pool and my Dad wanted to take her back (Way in the BACK) to her home village. But she followed his lead and moved to Potasi, Samoa and started the taro plantation and export business LTA Enterprises. This is where they also started the beginnings of A & A Pizza. After a couple of years of hard work, and bad government practices they packed it up and came back to American Samoa.

In 1984, they moved to American Samoa and continued their thriving A & A Pizza restaurant. Dotty and Mac helped to run the business and eventually take it over. It was during this time that Mom was so happy to be involved in all her Holy Family church activities, committees, and volunteer positions. She was a founder and active member of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal Movement, a member of the International Community Legion of Mary. She also volunteered for Nazareth House when the Poor Sisters of Nazareth were here. She would sing and dance for the residents who looked forward to her visits. She was a member of the Women's Hospital Auxiliary, the American Nurses Association, and of course the famous 50 Plus Women's Group CHEEHOOO!

She loved her family, friends and her church family so much! She was such a great host and would make sure there was plenty of everything. Many a night was spent singing songs and dancing at our family home in Ili'ili. In fact, wherever there was a song or a band, Mom would usually grace us with a dance. She danced here this very church. At special events or parties, Mom never liked dead air or boring so she would love it if any of us were around her we'd be voluntOLD to get up and dance with a smile.

Mom worked at LBJ Hospital for many years. Her and her dearest friend Poiva Reid were called back to work even after they retired. They are legends there and Mom helped especially at the end of her career there in the surgical clinic. She had so many favorite staff and Doctors that she remembered so fondly.

Wait it's not over yet! In 1994, my Dad Bill passed and Mom tried to stay busy working at the hospital and with her many volunteer activities. But she was lonely. Her and Marcus Langkilde long time family friends, found each other, got married and were a happy couple. His children were wonderful to my Mom and especially niece Fatima! However, when Marcus passed on in 1999, we begged Mom to be a 'merry widow'. Be happy and marry Jesus!!!

She loves ALL her grandchildren and had so many happy memories of the children playing and making noise around her place. She would look forward to their visits to American Samoa. She loved Sundays because that is when she was wore her favorite styles and jewelry and got to see all her amazing friends at church. She has so many dear friends, it would be impossible to start naming them and not leave someone off. Anytime we visited, she made sure we brought the gifts and

the offering up. Her routine after church, was she would share a glass of “MILK” – Wine – with her dearest friend Monica Miller.

Our Mother was a very strong person and had all her wits about her. She started slowing down last month. She would fool us sometimes, we would be say hello loudly wondering if she heard us because she didn’t reply, but then she would say, “Is that a new ring?” Or she would comment if you had lipstick on or your nails painted. She was so well taken care of by our dear Reta and Sulu who have been by her side for over 10 years. Our Heavenly Father decided it was her time join him in heaven the early morning of Sunday, December 27, 2020. Much to our heartache, we had to say goodbye to our ROCK, our beloved matriarch.

Our family owes a debt a gratitude to you all. Her family near and far across this world who always showed her loyalty and respect and more importantly love. To her wonderful friends, know that she loved you dearly. For my sister Dotty and her Husband Mac Ane, thank you for being here with Mom all these years and taking the very best care of her every need.

Mama, thank you teaching me about love and life, to trust in the Lord, strive to do right and keep it moving.

There’s a saying, “You only have one life to live – **if you do it right** – you don’t need another one.” Mom you did just that. You did **LIFE** right. So let’s ALL continue her legacy. DO IT RIGHT!

Forever in my heart, your Daughter, Linda Litara Masoli

“Well Done Good and Faithful Servant” -Matt 25:23