



Pauline DiGiulio Tofanelli

October 27, 1924 - November 21, 2017

Pauline found peace at home on Dunaweal Lane on November 21, with her children, Vince and Norma, granddaughter Angela and devoted dog, Little Girl, at her side.

Pauline was born to Sebastian and Irene DiGiulio on October 27, 1924 at the Pratt Avenue, St. Helena, home of her grandmother, Amabile Dal Porto, unattended by a physician because her uncle, Basilio, delayed hitching the horse and buggy to fetch the doctor on such a stormy night.

In 1929, Pauline moved with her family from the Schramsberg/Naylor estate where they were caretakers, to the prune and pear orchards purchased by Sebastian and Irene on Dunaweal Lane in Calistoga, where she farmed for 88 years. She and her older brother Guido worked with their parents in the fields as the crops changed to walnuts and grapes. She always said how she hated picking prunes.

She attended Calistoga schools and while she loved her home-making classes with Mrs. Salladay, she loved to play hooky even more, often in the company of her best friend, Rosie Cravea. Her love of wearing cowboy boots as a teenager earned her the nickname "Boots".

After her brother Guido died in an automobile accident in 1942, she took over

as the farm hand and tractor driver he had been, while also working graveyard on milling machines at Shop 31, Mare Island, during WWII.

After the war, she and the Cravea sisters worked in Vallejo's Sperry Flour Mill, an onion plant and a cracker factory, hand-snapping sheets of crackers for packaging.

In 1946, while celebrating Fourth of July at Bothe's Paradise Park, she met handsome WWII Navy vet, Vernon Tofanelli of Vallejo, who would become her husband, father of her children and farming partner. They married in 1947 and lived in Vallejo until 1951, when they moved to Calistoga, where they purchased their own small vineyard and home on Dunaweal Lane, across from the DiGiulio ranch where she grew up. Pauline and Vernon worked alongside Sebastian and Irene as they farmed both ranches together, sharing equipment and labor.

Pauline soon became wonder-woman mother, homemaker, farmer and gardener, as well as electrician, plumber, carpenter and brick-layer as she turned the run-down old Carpi/Luchetti house into a home while Vern worked at a gas station on Third and Soscol in Napa during days, farming on evenings and Sundays.

She was well-known at the Napa County Fair in Calistoga where she consistently took blue ribbons for her sewing, baking, canning and gardening skills.

After Vernon's death in 1988, she continued "doing her thing" outdoors beside her son, Vince, running both the Tofanelli and DiGiulio vineyards, because, as she always said, she hated being in the house. Her great passion was mushroom hunting and she really lamented the loss of her many hunting grounds in the neighborhood.

Pauline is pre-deceased by her younger sister Maye Anne Rued and survived by her children Norma and Vince Tofanelli (Arminée), granddaughter Angela Tofanelli-Conley (Jeff), great-grandchildren Melissa and Jackson Conley, and her beloved rat terrier, Little Girl.

Viewing will be on Thursday, November 30 from 3 to 6:30 pm, followed by Rosary at Claffey and Rota Funeral Home, 1975 Main Street, Napa. Private interment at St. Helena Holy Cross Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to We Care Animal Rescue, St. Helena.

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV **30**. 3:00 PM - 6:30 PM (PT)

Claffey and Rota Funeral Home
1975 Main Street
Napa, CA 94559
(707) 224-5210
services@claffeyandrota.com
<http://www.claffeyandrota.com>

Rosary

NOV **30**. 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM (PT)

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1975 Main Street
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Tribute Wall



“ *Pauline DiGiulio Tofanelli*

September 29, 2022 at 04:54 PM



“ *Pauline DiGiulio Tofanelli*

September 29, 2022 at 02:55 PM



“ *To the Tofanelli family so sorry to hear about your Mom- She was a great Calistogan from way back- Will miss seeing her in Cal-Mart.
Kathy Pegram*

Kathy pegram - December 03, 2017 at 11:50 PM

AT

“ My name is Tony Tofanelli and I am the son of Norman Tofanelli who was brother to Aunt Pauline's husband, Vernon Tofanelli. As a child and teen, a visit to Uncle Vern and Aunt Pauline's ranch always provided a great deal of fun and the warm company of my uncle and aunt as well as Norma and Vince. Being able to run free on 2 ranches, myself and my brother John as well as Janeen, Marc and Mike (later on) enjoyed barbeques by the barn which took place opposite the portion of the creek where Uncle Vern and Aunt Pauline constructed a dam of poured concrete and wooden planks forming a swimming hole large enough for everyone. Further down the creek was a tree house where John and I spent the night with Vince and would awaken periodically to view the changed positions of star constellations. Walks across the railroad bridge and down the railroad tracks allowed John and I a great selection of various rocks with which we created rock gardens at home in Napa. Down the railroad tracks we could view the Calistoga Airport where we watched aircraft towing gliders and releasing them on the east side of the valley. We would then watch the gliders landing, which was rather exciting. I always viewed Aunt Pauline and Uncle Vern's as a magical place where all we had to focus on was fun and adventure. Visits here were my equivalent of trips to Disneyland taken by classmates and friends.

Anthony Tofanelli - December 03, 2017 at 09:15 PM

CG

“ Vince and Norma,
I am saddened by your Mom's death as she was an icon around Calistoga and especially Dunawheel Lane. Please accept my condolences and know that I will be thinking of you both.
Cal and Denise Godward
Evanston, Wyoming

Cal Godward - December 03, 2017 at 11:33 AM

PC

“Vince, and to your family I send my deepest condolence. I remember your mother when we were in grade school, left a lasting memory. Pierce Clegg

pierce clegg - November 30, 2017 at 11:32 PM

AT

“Had a lovely, memorable dinner while visiting the Tofanelli family back in 2007. We send along our warmest regards and heartfelt sympathies.

(Cousin) Art and Janel Tofanelli

Art Tofanelli - November 30, 2017 at 09:21 PM