

Carmella Moffa

Homemaker Extraordinaire



The smell of crisp, clean laundry was something that Carmella Moffa adored. Maintaining a meticulous household was not a chore for her – it was a labor of love.

Her sons, Paul Jr. and David, have fond memories of their mother's commitment to ensuring that her home and her family received the greatest of care.

Carmella was born on September 6, 1926 to Gaetano and Mary P. (Debone) Wass, natives of Italy. As the eldest of five siblings, she delighted in helping to raise her brothers and sisters. And as a first generation American, she spoke Italian until she entered the first grade. Carmella's family made its home on Jack Street in Greensburg, and ironically, as a young girl she was a whiz at the game of jacks.

After graduating from Greensburg High School, Carmella took a position at Westmoreland Hospital. During World War II, a local young man whose family was from a similar part of Italy caught her eye. His name was Paul Moffa. Their romance began not long before he left for Iwo Jima as a member of the U.S. Marine Corps. The Moffa family is fortunate to still have the letters they exchanged during those uncertain days.

Thankfully, Paul returned from the Pacific theatre, and the couple wed in 1947.

Even while raising two sons (one of which admits to being quite ornery in his youth), Carmella maintained order at home. She wasn't strict or harsh, but she liked routine. Home-cooked meals were always served at the same time every day and attendance was mandatory.

"My mother was very organized and hard-working," David attests. "She embodied and promoted traditional family values. As a homemaker, she was the best."

Although she took great pleasure in performing household duties (her favorite, ironing, was even better when she could watch her soaps too), Carmella also enjoyed being a member of a card club and the Rosary Altar Society.

Shopping, especially at Troutman's, was another favorite pastime. In fact, it was not unusual for Carmella, and her two sisters, Gloria and Joann, to all purchase matching outfits. It was important to her that she, and those she loved, always looked their best.

Occasionally, while at the store, Carmella's talent for mathematics would reveal itself. Paul Jr. reflects, "She could immediately tell when she was mistakenly over-charged for an item. After quickly scanning a lengthy receipt, she would show the cashier exactly where the error was made."

Those incredible skills were surely an asset during her nearly 30-year tenure as the office manager for Dr. Jay B. Peterson. She retired at the age of 70.

With relentless energy and undeniable spirit, Carmella made a lasting impression on the many lives she touched.