

Mary Pappas went by many loving names. Originally Mary Manthopolis. She was a daughter of immigrants and born during the depression and lost both her parents by the age of 13. She was raised by her sister, Freda, who was only a teenager and married George Pappas, our Grandpa, at the age of 20. We're not sure if it was her upbringing, situation or simply her make up but she is the strongest most hardworking person we know. The stories we heard about her growing up in Webster/Dudley, Massachusetts make it sound like she was a force to be reckoned with. One story we love is Mary bouncing into Grandpa's store with braids in her hair after having just won a drag race in the nearby dirt lot and our Grandpa said, "One day I'm going to marry that girl." And he did and the rest is history. Granny lost Grandpa to a stroke in 1994, but still managed to lead a full and busy life.

As long as we have known Granny she was always working. We have no memories of her just sitting or lounging or even any knowledge of leisurely past times that she pursued. While our mom was growing up granny worked full time for Eastern Airlines, took care of her child and managed the household all on her own. She was highly independent and did not know the meaning of lazy. She had a true gift when it comes to sales and she could literally sell ice to an Eskimo and he would thank her for it. She volunteered at the Appleton museum in the gift shop and was voted most valuable volunteer year after year.

She had a difficult life being orphaned at a young age during the depression, having to deal with our Grandpa's sports addiction (sometimes he had three TV sets going on different channels) and being a working mom before that was a real term. She didn't get any breaks in "retirement" she had not one but four different cancer diagnoses. Had to go through chemotherapy and radiation multiple times and suffered the consequences of these treatments. Even through all of this she always needed and wanted to be not only helpful but generous. She made everything she owned available to her family. She played a large role in helping with our children, her great grandchildren in the early highly demanding days. There isn't anyone who can organize and clean like our Granny. We still refer to a perfectly wrapped present as a Granny wrap.

Granny, AKA Baboo to our children, will be deeply missed. We remember her lovingly and fondly. She told us in her last days that she wanted a eulogy to be written that was funny because she didn't want anyone crying but laughing. Well... We are not comedians but we do feel very happy and fulfilled having had such a great woman as a grandmother. We strive to have her relentless tenacity, charity and work ethic.

Her granddaughters Alethia and Katina Pantazis