



## Maria Vassiliou

October 10, 1934 - February 1, 2024

Maria Vassiliou was born on October 10, 1934, in Athens, Greece to Christos Vassiliou and Anastasia Vassiliou. She passed from this life on Thursday, February 1, 2024, at her home in Owasso, Oklahoma at the age of 89 years. Maria was raised and educated in Athens and on the island of Mytilene in Greece where she graduated from the Girls High School of Mytilene in 1953. In 1961 she married her first husband, Stelios Zacharopoulos, and in 1963 birthed her first child Christos. In 1965, she moved to the United States with them where her daughter, Loretta was born in 1966 in Chicago. The family moved to Queens, New York in 1967 when she got a job working for the Greek Mission to the United Nations. While working full time and raising her children, she furthered her education by earning a bachelor's degree from Fordham University in NYC, and a master's degree from New York University in NYC. Maria devoted her life to fighting for and defending human rights. She started as a Human Rights Expert working for decades for the Greek Mission to the United Nations, representing Greece on the 3rd committee of the UN in NYC. In 1991, she was chosen to serve as first assistant to the High Commissioner of Human Rights to the United Nations and moved to Geneva, Switzerland. In 1996, she "retired" to Greece where she started and ran her own Non-Governmental Organization for over 20 years "The Human Rights Defense Center." In these years, she helped many Greeks (both children with anti-bullying work and adults), many people in Balkan countries, including Cypriot prisoners in Turkey, girls and women who were trafficked throughout

Europe and so many others.

She was married on July 8, 1993, in Geneva, Switzerland to Harry Psomiades, the love of her life. In her spare time, Maria loved spending time with her children, and then her grandchildren, as well as various pastimes such as swimming, playing tennis, reading, and most of all helping others.

She is survived by: 1 Child, Loretta Anastasia Zacharopoulos Farrell; 3 Grandchildren, Michael Christos Farrell, Joshua Thomas Farrell, Anastasia Zoe Farrell; Siblings, Constance "Toto" Tagopoulos, Demetra Egan, Julia Roussou. She was preceded in death by her parents, Christos and Anastasia Vassiliou; her husband, Harry Psomiades; and her greatest devastation was the loss of her son, Chris Zacharopoulos, at the age of 26, in December 1989.

A visitation will be held from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 6, 2024. Funeral service will be held 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, February 7, 2024. Both the visitation and the funeral service will be in the Mowery Funeral Service Chapel.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB 6. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Mowery Funeral Service Chapel  
9110 North Garnett Road  
Owasso, OK 74055

## Funeral Service

FEB 7. 10:00 AM (CT)

Mowery Funeral Service Chapel  
9110 North Garnett Road  
Owasso, OK 74055

## LIVE STREAM SERVICE

FEB 7. 10:00 AM.

Mowery Funeral Service Live Stream  
<https://vimeo.com/moweryfs>

# Tribute Wall



“ Loretta, Tom, Anastasia, Joshua, and Micheal, Maria was such a sweet and special woman. She was always smiling and bubbly and I enjoyed visiting with her. Heaven is a little brighter now. Linda and Doug Johnson

Linda Johnson - February 07, 2024 at 03:23 PM



“ Steve and Jacqui Giudice planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Maria Vassiliou.

Steve and Jacqui Giudice - February 05, 2024 at 09:03 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Maria Vassiliou.



February 05, 2024 at 09:03 PM



“ from Susan and Thomas Farrell purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Maria Vassiliou.



from Susan and Thomas Farrell - February 05, 2024 at 01:52 PM

WC

“ With love, Kathy and Christine purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Maria Vassiliou.



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**With love, Kathy and Christine** - February 05, 2024 at 12:19 PM

NF

“ N. SISSANIS & family purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of Maria Vassiliou.



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**N. SISSANIS & family** - February 05, 2024 at 12:00 PM

PA

“ Primary Health Partners Admin purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Maria Vassiliou.



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**Primary Health Partners Admin** - February 04, 2024 at 08:32 PM

SM

“ Sabrina Miller planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Maria Vassiliou.

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**Sabrina Miller** - February 04, 2024 at 07:43 PM

SM

“ Sabrina Miller purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Maria Vassiliou.



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**Sabrina Miller** - February 04, 2024 at 07:43 PM