



## Loretta Ruffino Pace

February 3, 1941 - February 20, 2026

Loretta Ruffino Pace, 85, passed away peacefully on February 20, 2026, in Central, Louisiana. She was born on February 3, 1941, in Amite, Louisiana, to John Ruffino and Grace Piazza Ruffino, proud descendants of Italian heritage that shaped the traditions and values she carried throughout her life.

Loretta was, at her heart, a devoted daughter of family, faith, and heritage. Raised with strong Italian roots, she grew up understanding the importance of Sunday gatherings, good food, laughter that filled a room, and loyalty to those you love. Those values defined her life.

She dedicated many years of service to the Clerk of Court offices in Tangipahoa Parish and East Baton Rouge Parish, where she was known for her steady work ethic and reliability. Loretta also pursued her education at Southeastern Louisiana University, believing in the importance of learning and personal growth.

But her greatest accomplishments were not found in an office - they were found around the kitchen table and at family celebrations. She was a proud and loving mother to Dennis Hendry; Tammy Bendily and her husband Milton Bendily; and Deanna Bourgoyne and her husband Joey Bourgoyne.

Her legacy continues through her cherished grandchildren: Denee' Bendily

Cox and her husband Justin Cox; Kayla Bendily McCullough and her husband Hunter McCullough; Brooke Bourgoyne; and Blaire Bourgoyne. She was blessed with five great-grandchildren who brought her immeasurable joy: Caden Cox, Corbin Cox, Avere Cox, Wyatt McCullough, and Owen McCullough.

Loretta was preceded in death by her father, John Ruffino; her mother, Grace Piazza Ruffino; and her brother, Louis J. Ruffino, Sr.

She embraced life with spirit and celebration. She loved to dance, never missed the joy and tradition of Mardi Gras, treasured long card games, and most of all, valued time spent surrounded by family. Her home was a place where stories were told, laughter lingered, and everyone knew they belonged.

Her Catholic faith was the quiet foundation of her life. She faithfully prayed her rosary each day, finding strength and comfort in devotion. Through both joyful and difficult seasons, her faith remained steady.

Loretta leaves behind a family grounded in the same traditions she cherished - faith, resilience, love of heritage, and devotion to one another. That is her enduring gift.

An intimate memorial service will be held at a later date.

Arrangements have been entrusted to McLin Funeral Home. Online condolences may be shared at [www.mclinfuneralhome.com](http://www.mclinfuneralhome.com)