



Phyllis Ann Daroca Mandal

July 6, 1942 - June 1, 2026

It is with great sorrow that the Renaissance woman, Phyllis Ann Daroca Mandal, died on Monday, June 1, 2026, in the comfort of her home. She was with family and her beloved cat, Jackson, who was lying on her lap. She was a native of New Orleans and a resident of Metairie for the past 56 years. “Phyl” was a graduate of Francis T. Nicholls and Loyola University. She was an educator who loved teaching middle and high school students for 48 years. Phyl taught at Nineth Ward Elementary, T. H. Harris Middle School, Mount Carmel High School, and Bonnabel High School. She was known to be the favorite teacher among students and was referred to as the “Mama Bear.” She taught English, Leadership, Videography and was the Advisor for the Student Council and Yearbook at Bonnabel. Several years she was given the Teacher of the Year and also the Student Council Advisor of the Year. Years later students would tell

her that she was a role model who impacted their lives, showed them compassion, and taught them the love of learning.

After she became a grandmother, she retired from teaching. But she was not a stay at home kind of lady, she quickly got a job working security at the Louisiana Superdome.

She loved working the press box security for Saints and Pelican games and meeting famous entertainers while working concerts. Working at the Superdome for 9 years, she met friends that she called her 'Dome Buddies' who she talked or texted with daily until she died. She also worked as a wedding coordinator for a cruise line.

Phyl was passionate about her country and was an active member of the Alliance for Good Government.

She was the beloved wife for 14 years of the late Richard James Mandal. She was

preceded in death by her mother (Juanita Lewis Daroca), father (Gabriel F. Daroca Jr.)

and sister (Laurie D. Maher). Mother of her only child Dr. Rebecca Lynn Mandal-Blasio

(Dirk). She was sister to Juanita D. Joseph (Eli) and Dr. Gabriel F. Daroca, III (Terry).

Also she is survived by her two grandchildren Sophia Rose and Amelia Ann, who were her heart and soul and referred to her as Gigi, later shortened to "G." She traveled the Causeway Bridge daily to pick them up after school to have beignets and to watch them perform in plays or play

basketball. While traveling across the Bridge, she would talk to friends and family to get the scope of the day. She was the lover of fun and frivolity with French Quarter Fest and Jazz Fest being her favorite. She loved wearing a good costume and would dress up every Mardi Gras with her green wig.

Relatives and friends are invited to attend a Funeral Mass in the Chapel of L. A.

Muhleisen & Son Funeral Home, 2607 Williams Blvd in Kenner, LA. on Saturday, June

6, 2026 at 11:00 a.m. Visitation will begin at 8:30 a.m. Phyllis requested that visitors

wear festive shirts, aka Jazz Fest, to the ceremony. Interment in Greenwood Cemetery

to follow.

In lieu of flowers, please send donations to the Wounded Warrior Project at <https://www.woundedwarriorproject.org/>

Cemetery Details

Greenwood Cemetery

5190 Canal Blvd.
New Orleans, LA 70124

Upcoming Events

Visitation

JUN 6. 8:30 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

L.A. Muhleisen & Son Funeral Home
2607 Williams Blvd
Kenner, LA 70062
(504) 466-8577
info@muhleisen.com

Funeral Mass

JUN 6. 11:00 AM (CT)

L.A. Muhleisen & Son Funeral Home
2607 Williams Blvd
Kenner, LA 70062
(504) 466-8577
info@muhleisen.com

Tribute Wall

JU

“ *What a force of life this lady was when she walked into a room. She will be sorely missed by our entire family.*

For the past 6 or 7 years we did holidays with the Blasio's and Phyl like we had been doing them together for the past 30.

It all came together very easy with lots of food, loud talking (that's the Blasio's), football, dogs stealing a turkey, etc. - fun, organized chaos like a true extended family and Phyl was the matriarch. And man she loved Rachel's shrimp stuffed mirliton.

She always walked into our house like it was her own kids house and that was about the biggest compliment she could give us.

Too many little things to mention here but what I personally will miss the most will be her voice and that New Orleans accent. I will really miss hearing that.

The best thing Phyl brought to our family was that after my mom died about 5 years ago - Phyl was just a terrific stand in grandmother for Olivia.

She always treated Olivia like she was one of her own - I mean wholeheartedly. She included her and loved her to where for an extra 5 meaningful years Olivia had that special grandmother presence in her life that she otherwise would not have had. What a special gift that was to O that only Phyl could give.

*Rest easy, Phyl. We love you.
Who Dat.*

Julie - 15 minutes ago

JU

“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



Julie - 16 minutes ago

RW

“ Ms. Mandal was one of a kind and you had to love her even though she made it hard at times. She was a great teacher, leader and head of student council and Leadership to name a few, she will be greatly missed, her letter of recommendation started my college career. Prayers and Love to her family.

Rodney Waddell - 24 minutes ago

TU

“ A person could spend days, months and even years, trying to come up with enough beautiful words to say about this woman and they would still not have enough to say! It could be a team of people and it wouldn't matter! She gave birth to 1 child, but she was the mother to more women and men in this world than I'm sure we could count! She opened our eyes to the world in front of us. She gave it all meaning and showed us how beautiful and enjoyable life could be! She helped so many of us become good productive adults! I love her and thank God for her! But she is now 1 of God newest angels! See you in heaven someday!

Love Tugboat

Tugboat - 32 minutes ago



“ I’m so sad to hear of Phyllis’ passing. She was the best grandmother to Sophia and Amelia and the brightest light at all of our school events. I feel so blessed to have met her and known her. We had some great laughs over the years. She was spunky and joyful despite her health battles. May she rest in peace. Sending love and comfort to the Blasio family and friends. 🕊️📧

Alicia Fletcher Ford - 1 hour ago