



## 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 Awards. 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

# Previous 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



“ *L.A. Muhleisen & Son Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Phyllis Ann Daroca Mandal*



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**L.A. Muhleisen & Son Funeral Home** - June 05 at 04:14 PM

JR

“ *Rebecca - I thank God for the blessing of knowing Ms. Phyllis. She was truly a firecracker and an inspiration to me and many others. May you continue to carry her spirit in your heart and soul.*

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**Jessica Vaughn, RN** - June 15 at 12:02 PM

VP

“ *Phyllis was such a sweet loving person. My parents and I have been friends of hers traveling w Vince Vance. My husband and I have known her for years through the Saints and Dr Gabe! I just spoke to her in April and May about her health and loosing my Mother in April. She's never met a stranger and you always felt the love she gave, even if you haven't spoken in a while! Just a party girl with pizzaz and love for life. Phyllis you will be missed by so many, loved and remembered always my dear friend. You, Mom and Wanda have a lot to catch up on up there, just keep an eye out on us down here our beautiful angels!*

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**Vonda Palazzolo** - June 13 at 04:10 PM

RB

“I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples.” – Mother Teresa

Robert Bement - June 05 at 01:14 PM

WB

“I see Jesus in every human being. I say to myself, this is hungry Jesus, I must feed him. This is sick Jesus. This one has leprosy or gangrene; I must wash him and tend to him. I serve because I love Jesus.” – Mother Teresa

Wanda Bement - June 05 at 01:12 PM

HS

“Holly and Steve purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Phyllis Ann Daroca Mandal.



Holly and Steve - June 05 at 12:47 PM

HS

“Holly and Steve planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Phyllis Ann Daroca Mandal.

Holly and Steve - June 05 at 12:47 PM

BC

“Blake C. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Phyllis Ann Daroca Mandal.

Blake C. - June 05 at 10:05 AM

TF

“ THE DAROCA FAMILY purchased the Rainbow Of Remembrance Spray for the family of Phyllis Ann Daroca Mandal.



THE DAROCA FAMILY - June 04 at 06:38 PM

TF

“ THE DAROCA FAMILY planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Phyllis Ann Daroca Mandal.

THE DAROCA FAMILY - June 04 at 06:38 PM

TF

“ The Maher Family purchased the Sweet Solace Spray for the family of Phyllis Ann Daroca Mandal.



The Maher Family - June 04 at 04:43 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Phyllis Ann Daroca Mandal.



June 04 at 04:36 PM



“ Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Phyllis Ann Daroca Mandal.



June 04 at 03:40 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Phyllis Ann Daroca Mandal.

June 04 at 03:40 PM



“ Phyllis , my soulmate sister, and traveling LASC buddy, our memories will never fade and our conversations on how to save the world will continue. You were the busiest retiree and devoted grandmother ! See you in my dreams, dearest friend.  
Love ya, Sandy

**Sandy Hill** - June 04 at 03:12 PM



R.I.P. Ms. Phyllis and to her family you'll have my condolences.

**Quinton Stewart** - June 04 at 04:22 PM



“ Sandra H. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Phyllis Ann Daroca Mandal.

**Sandra H.** - June 04 at 03:02 PM

AM

“ Amir M. purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Phyllis Ann Daroca Mandal.



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Amir M. - June 04 at 02:12 PM

IG

“ Upon entering Bonnabel, Mrs Mandal took interest in me quickly having found out that I had a background in Communications and studied at Loyola. She said, “I have two classes that overlap, can you help me teach one of them?” I said, “yes!” because one of them was Media Production. She took me under her wings and taught me, guided me, advised me, lead me, encouraged me, and showed me how rewarding it was to work at the school and most importantly, she shared with me the joy and excitement of teaching and inspiring students. We became good friends and colleagues and every time I saw her after retirement, she was always happy and enthusiastic about life. It was an honor, a privildge, and a pleasure to have had her lead me into what I do today, TV Production, knowing that I was, am, following her and leading now. Thank you. God bless Mrs. Mandal’s humble soul and bring comfort and peace to her family who she loved so much.

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Ignacio - June 04 at 11:45 AM

LL

“ I started teaching at Bonnabel 17 years ago. My first 8 years I worked across the hall from Mrs. Mandal. She held some of the busiest titles at the school and taught Leadership/Yearbook/Student Council and served as our Activities Coordinator, Community Service Mentor, and BruinNews Producer. This lady NEVER STOPPED! And so, I took the opportunity to match her intensity. She was an example of how one hard working leader could change the entire atmosphere of a campus for the better. She had a binder for every event on campus, helped to grow parent involvement, worked tirelessly to reward students and get them involved. After school, students lined the hallways and painted posters for sports events. Every football game had a theme and the student section roared! She led the News Station at Bonnabel that aired every week and highlighted all of the activities happening on campus. It felt like you were living in a high school movie with the nonstop engagement she provided for Bonnabel. If you had a question - you asked Mrs. Mandal. So many of my theatre students have memories of visiting across the hall and being involved in eight clubs and trying to be as well rounded as the next leader. Thank you Mrs Mandal for being the reason why students remember the positive about Bonnabel High School.

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**Lindsey Lanson** - June 04 at 10:29 AM

HL

“ Praying with the family.



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**Helana R. Lenox** - June 04 at 10:09 AM

RF

“ 1967 8th grade at T.H.HARRIS didn't mean much to me I met Mrs. Mandal and she was just another teacher. Fast forward to June 2010 I hear this voice coming out a car Randy Fenerty -- I never forgot that squeaky voice -- It was Phillis she was going to the dome to work. I started working with her at the dome and we became good friends I didn't know what kind of a person she was till then. When my daughter passed away Phillis was a GREAT COMFORT to me. FLY HIGH MY FRIEND !! There is an event at the dome Saturday and I'll be working thinking of you MRS. MANDAL

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Randall Fenerty - June 04 at 09:52 AM



“ Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Phyllis Ann Daroca Mandal.



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June 04 at 09:22 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Phyllis Ann Daroca Mandal.

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June 04 at 09:22 AM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Phyllis Ann Daroca Mandal.



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June 04 at 08:59 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Phyllis Ann Daroca Mandal.

June 04 at 08:59 AM



“ She was the embodiment of everything a teacher should be. She transformed me as a young man in 8th grade. Her belief in me emboldened me to take on challenges and strive to be better. I took her lessons and turned them into a career as a senior Navy officer and intelligence professional. None of that I could have done without Ms. Mandel's inspiration. God got back a great one.

**Brian Klock** - June 04 at 07:38 AM



“ I was her student. And she was the only teacher I felt comfortable about talking to for joining the military. Her advice was amazing and as a 34 year man her words she gave a young teenager still stick with me. On all 3 of my deployments she would write and send care packages. She had good taste on music she introduced me to country music. She is loved and respected.

**Jared braggs** - June 03 at 10:49 PM



“ All of my memories of high school she was in them. From seeing her around Bonnabel high school to her taking trips with the band to Disney world. She took care of us as a momma would.

**Brittany Ansardi** - June 03 at 09:01 PM

CS

*All of my memory of high school seeing her around BonnBel high school, she was the best teacher, she took care of us. I will miss her smile when I was her student at Bonnabel. I will miss her.*

**Charle Schmidt** - June 03 at 09:30 PM

DB

*“Mrs. Mandal was like a mother to me when I lost my mom and then also when I had my first child my senior year. She gifted me so many wonderful memories including photographing my wedding. We lost touch over the years but she was always in my thoughts. Such a bright light in the world and was there for everyone. Her loss will be felt everyday.”*

**Danica (Dunn) Bowie** - June 03 at 07:56 PM

MN

*“Miss Yvette of NOCCA purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Phyllis Ann Daroca Mandal.”*



**Miss Yvette of NOCCA** - June 03 at 07:53 PM

MN

*“Miss Yvette of NOCCA planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Phyllis Ann Daroca Mandal.”*

**Miss Yvette of NOCCA** - June 03 at 07:53 PM

LJ

“ Love, Bob and Jill purchased the Angel's Embrace Bouquet for the family of Phyllis Ann Daroca Mandal.



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**Love, Bob and Jill** - June 03 at 07:34 PM

CM

“ Thank you Phyllis Mandal for believing in me as an 8 th grader at T H Harris. The confidence I gained that year has stayed with me throughout my career and life. 8 th grade will always be my favorite year in school because of how fantastic you made it for all of us. It was truly special

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**Cindy McRae** - June 03 at 06:23 PM

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.*

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**Julie** - June 03 at 03:40 PM

JU

“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



Julie - June 03 at 03:39 PM

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 - June 03 at 03:32 PM

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 - June 03 at 03:24 PM



“ *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.* 🕊️

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**Alicia Fletcher Ford** - June 03 at 02:31 PM