



Helen "Leni" (nee Dovellos, Thiros, Paras) Vinzant

May 22, 1956 - March 28, 2026

Helen "Leni" Vinzant (nee Dovellos, Thiros, Paras), age 69, of Hobart, IN, passed away on Saturday March 28, 2026.

Leni is survived by her husband, David Vinzant, by her son, Christos (Amanda) Paras, by her 2 sisters Marianne (Tim) Mecyssne and Johanna (JoJo) Kritikos, by her 3 grand children George Paras, Theodora Paras and Gus Paras, by her 2 nephews Niko Kritikos and Jimmy Kritikos, by many close cousins. She is preceded in death by uncles, aunts and her grand parents as well as by her parents James Dovellos and Thelma Dovellos, by her daughter Deanna Paras and by her husbands, Louis Thiros and George Paras.

Leni is a member of SS Constantine & Helen Greek Orthodox Cathedral and St. Helen's Philoptochos

Woman's Society. Leni was born in Gary, IN and attended Emerson School before her family relocated to Merrillville, IN where she graduated from Merrillville High School in 1974.

She studied Dental Hygiene at Indiana University Northwest. She was creative and an excellent homemaker, loving

mother, wife and yiayia. She loved working outdoors in her yard. She loved her bunco club.

She was the Executive Director of the Hobart Community Foundation (HIEDC) and the woman behind

Hobart's Annual Dam Duck Race, a member of Phi Beta Psi Sorority, volunteer to the Hobart Food

Pantry, member of the Board of Directors of the Maria Reiner Center and volunteer to the Hobart

Chamber of Commerce.

Friends are invited to visit with Leni's family on Wednesday, April 1, 2026 from 2-8 pm at Burns Funeral Home, 10101 Broadway, Crown Point, Trisagion

Service at 4:30. Funeral Service Thursday, April 2, 2026 at 10 am at SS Constantine & Helen Greek Orthodox Cathedral, 8000 Madison St.,

Merrillville. Rev. Theodore Poteres and Rev. Demitri Burikas officiating.

Interment at Calumet Park Cemetery, Merrillville.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be given to SS Constantine & Helen Greek Orthodox Cathedral.

www.burnsfuneral.com

Cemetery Details

Calumet Park

Merrillville, IN

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 1. 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Burns Funeral Home & Crematory - Crown Point
10101 Broadway
Crown Point, IN 46307
(219) 769-0044
info@burnsfuneral.com
<https://www.burnsfuneral.com/>

Trisagion Service

APR 1. 4:30 PM (CT)

Burns Funeral Home & Crematory - Crown Point
10101 Broadway
Crown Point, IN 46307
(219) 769-0044
info@burnsfuneral.com
<https://www.burnsfuneral.com/>

Funeral Service

APR 2. 10:00 AM (CT)

SS. Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Cathedral
8000 Madison St.
Merrillville, IN 46410

Tribute Wall

RG

“ I will always remember Helen, every summer she would be donating her time for the Duck race, always helping everyone out, Helen will be sorely missed

Randy Guernsey - April 02 at 10:14 AM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Helen "Leni" (nee Dovellos, Thiros, Paras) Vinzant.



April 01 at 12:26 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Helen "Leni" (nee Dovellos, Thiros, Paras) Vinzant.

April 01 at 12:26 PM

EA

“ Eva Alegre purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Helen "Leni" (nee Dovellos, Thiros, Paras) Vinzant.



Eva Alegre - April 01 at 10:31 AM

EA

“ Eva Alegre planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Helen "Leni" (nee Dovellos, Thiros, Paras) Vinzant.

Eva Alegre - April 01 at 10:31 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Helen "Leni" (nee Dovellos, Thiros, Paras) Vinzant.



April 01 at 09:51 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Helen "Leni" (nee Dovellos, Thiros, Paras) Vinzant.

April 01 at 09:51 AM

AF

“ Atsas Family purchased the Strength & Solace S pray for the family of Helen "Leni" (nee Dovellos, Thiros, Paras) Vinzant.



Atsas Family - April 01 at 07:48 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Helen "Leni" (nee Dovellos, Thiros, Paras) Vinzant.

March 31 at 06:31 PM



“ Dalia S. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Helen "Leni" (nee Dovellos, Thiros, Paras) Vinzant.

Dalia S. - March 31 at 02:45 PM



“ Care and Compassion Spray was purchased for the family of Helen "Leni" (nee Dovellos, Thiros, Paras) Vinzant.



March 31 at 12:30 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Helen "Leni" (nee Dovellos, Thiros, Paras) Vinzant.



March 31 at 11:57 AM

SF

“ Schenher Family purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Helen "Leni" (nee Dovellos, Thiros, Paras) Vinzant.



Schenher Family - March 30 at 05:02 PM

SF

“ Schenher Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Helen "Leni" (nee Dovellos, Thiros, Paras) Vinzant.

Schenher Family - March 30 at 05:02 PM

ZF

“ Zaharias and Burlingame Families purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Helen "Leni" (nee Dovellos, Thiros, Paras) Vinzant.



Zaharias and Burlingame Families - March 30 at 04:30 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Helen "Leni" (nee Dovellos, Thiros, Paras) Vinzant.



March 30 at 01:56 PM



“ *Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of Helen "Leni" (nee Dovellos, Thiros, Paras) Vinzant.*



March 30 at 10:05 AM



“ *Love, Kathleen Erickson and Family purchased the Basket Full of Wishes for the family of Helen "Leni" (nee Dovellos, Thiros, Paras) Vinzant.*



Love, Kathleen Erickson and Family - March 30 at 08:27 AM



“ *Enduring Grace was purchased for the family of Helen "Leni" (nee Dovellos, Thiros, Paras) Vinzant.*



March 30 at 08:21 AM



“ *Fairest of All was purchased for the family of Helen "Leni" (nee Dovellos, Thiros, Paras) Vinzant.*



March 30 at 04:55 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Helen "Leni" (nee Dovellos, Thiros, Paras) Vinzant.

March 30 at 04:55 AM



“ Marsha Mitchell & Joel Jaggie purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Helen "Leni" (nee Dovellos, Thiros, Paras) Vinzant.



Marsha Mitchell & Joel Jaggie - March 30 at 12:16 AM



“ We are so sorry to hear of Leni's passing . We grew up with the Dovellos' in Merrillville. Many good times & fond memories were had in our neighborhood. Leni was such a bright light ! We didn't see each other often- but when we did - was like we were never apart. Rest in peace dear Leni.
Love Cindy Butch Dan & Tim Haviza

Cindy Haviza - March 29 at 10:30 PM



“ Ida Saims lit a candle in memory of Helen "Leni" (nee Dovellos, Thiros, Paras) Vinzant



ida saims - March 29 at 06:17 PM

CP

“ Leni was such a wonderful light in the world... I knew Deanna and Leni through the chamber and the city and Toastmasters and they were both such cool women. Leni lit up the room and always made you feel welcome and wanted and such a great sense of humor. The Dam Duck Race will be filled with your memory for years to come - I don't think a person who knew you won't be reminded of you and your light each and every year on that day. I'm very happy to have gotten to know you.

Christine Pierce - March 29 at 01:03 PM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Helen "Leni" (nee Dovellos, Thiros, Paras) Vinzant.



March 29 at 09:21 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Helen "Leni" (nee Dovellos, Thiros, Paras) Vinzant.

March 29 at 09:21 AM

LD

“ Laurie Kravas (Bill Kravas' daughter) purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Helen "Leni" (nee Dovellos, Thiros, Paras) Vinzant.



Laurie Kravas (Bill Kravas' daughter) - March 29 at 04:10 AM

LD

“ Laurie Kravas (Bill Kravas' daughter) planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Helen "Leni" (nee Dovellos, Thiros, Paras) Vinzant.

Laurie Kravas (Bill Kravas' daughter) - March 29 at 04:10 AM

LS

“ I am so saddened to read about Leni's passing. I had the pleasure of working with her many, many years ago at Tepe's in Merrillville (now Merrillville's Town Hall). She was always so sweet and had the bubbliest of personalities. I've run into her on occasion in Hobart and it was always a BIG hug and a "so glad to see you" every time. We'd chat and laugh about "the old days". She was truly a wonderful person. May she rest in peace. My heartfelt condolences to her family and friends.

Lynn Smith - March 29 at 01:02 AM

NF

“ Leni had the most infectious laugh and an energy for life. She and I met when she joined the aerobic class I started teaching. She was a student at first and then we became friends. She was such an easy person to talk to, laugh with and just be around. She had a special way of touching people who she came in contact with. I will definitely miss her in my life. RIP friend.

Nikki Frekot - March 28 at 11:11 PM

RL

“ Dave, so sorry to hear of your sad loss. Leni was a great lady and liked by all of us who knew her. RIP Leni

Rick Long - March 28 at 09:28 PM