



## Philomena "Phil" (Ciruzzi) Ficchi

November 18, 1935 - May 25, 2020

UTICA – Mrs. Philomena M. “Phil” (Ciruzzi) Ficchi, age 84, went home to the Lord on Memorial Day, Monday, May 25, 2020 at the Masonic Care Community with her loving family by her side.

Phil was born in Utica on November 18, 1935 to the late Anthony J. and Mary (Paratore) Ciruzzi. She attended Brandegees School and graduated from T. R. Proctor High School in 1953 where she lettered in three varsity sports: basketball, volleyball and field hockey. She often bragged that she needed two players to guard her on the basketball court! In November of 1960 she married the “boy next door,” Vincent P. Ficchi, with whom she shared a blessed union of 49 years until his passing in 2009.

Prior to her raising a family, Phil worked as a secretary in the New York Telephone Company’s Engineering Department. After her children entered school she reentered the work force as a secretary for the Utica City School District at many area schools including Kemble, Lincoln, Jefferson, Washington, and Seymour. She retired in 1996 from Proctor High School where she was the secretary in the guidance office. With her caring and energetic personality she formed many friendships with coworkers and students that lasted her lifetime.

Phil was a devoted Roman Catholic. Her home parish was St. Anthony of Padua Church and she later practiced her faith at St. Francis De Sales Church. She was a member of Saint Francis Altar Rosary Society where she oversaw many fundraisers including “The Lucky 7”. Phil spent much of her spare time in service to her community. Her donations of flower arrangements and baskets helped raise money for many local organizations.

Phil loved the arts and architecture. She was a proud member of the Oneida County Historical Center and the Landmark Society. Phil was also a member of Munson-Williams Art Institute. In 1966, her painting “Silhouette on Yellow Sea” was featured in Munson-Williams Proctor’s 25th Anniversary Art Exhibit, which was one of her most meaningful accomplishments.

Philomena loved every holiday, but none nearly as much as Christmas. Her home was a winter wonderland of twinkling lights, garland, colorful decorations and her precious snow village. Family, friends and neighbors were always welcome to enjoy holiday cheer and delicious home cooking.

Philomena was a wonderful mother and an exceptionally loving grandmother. She enjoyed yearly vacations with her children and grandchildren at Old Forge and Sylvan Beach. She passed her love of the arts onto her grandchildren through projects like painting clam shells, collecting seashells for displays and creating floral arrangements.

Philomena is survived by her son, Vincent; her daughter and son-in-law, Dr. Regina and John Panzone, and the memory of her beloved daughter Maria Tedesco who preceded her on February 21, 2011; her grandchildren, Ashleigh Frank, and Anthony "Nino" Tedesco; Laura, Julia, and John Panzone; great-grandson, Matao Frank; and brothers and sister-in-law, Paul and Jean Ciruzzi, and Joseph Ciruzzi.. She also leaves many nieces, nephews, cousins, and many rewarding friendships that were precious to her.

It is with much appreciation that Phil's family acknowledges and thanks the caregivers who enhanced the past seven and a half years of her life including Dr. Elif Erim and all the wonderful staff of the Masonic Care Community. We especially thank all of the staff of the Brooklyn Household, who were devoted and tender in their care for Phil who they affectionately called "Miss Glitter". We also thank Phil's long time physician and friend, Dr. Joseph Booth, for his care and compassion over many years.

Private services will be held at the convenience of the immediate family. Memorial contributions in Philomena's memory may be directed to the Oneida County History Center online at <https://www.oneidacountyhistory.org> or by mail to Oneida County History Center, 1608 Genesee St., Utica NY 13502.

Please take a moment to connect with Phil's family through the "Memories" section of her obituary on our website.

Our prayers continue to go out to all as a sign of our community support.

# Comments

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“ Vinny: She was beautiful in the love she shared unconditionally...You were blessed by her gifts and the many years you had in her care...God Bless you and your sisters forever...

**Paul Rabbia** - June 08, 2020 at 07:15 PM

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“ Selma Fumarola lit a candle in memory of Philomena "Phil" (Ciruzzi) Ficchi



**Selma Fumarola** - June 05, 2020 at 07:54 AM



“ Regina, John, Laura, Julia and Johnny, We are so sorry for your loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with you. Anthony & Selma

**Selma Fumarola** - June 05, 2020 at 04:44 PM

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“ Vinny, Regina, and family,

Phil was wonderful, and one of the sweetest ladies I knew. I worked at Lincoln School with her, and we had many fun times together. (a lot of laughs)She will be missed deeply.

Our prayers and thoughts are with you and the family. Judy & Louie

**Judy Franz** - June 03, 2020 at 08:14 PM

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“ Vinnie,

My heart hurts for you and your sister Regina, I am so sorry for the loss of your beautiful mother, I am so honored to have known her. She was one of the sweetest most caring women who always welcomed me into her home. She will be missed but her memory will live on in your hearts forever.. If there is anything I can do, please know I'm here. I love you my friend

Love,  
Felicia

**Felicia** - June 02, 2020 at 03:32 PM

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“ Regina and family,

Please accept my most sincere and heartfelt condolences on the passing of your mother. You are in my thoughts and prayers.

Sincerely,  
Margaret Beck

**Margaret Beck** - June 02, 2020 at 12:30 PM

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“ Regina, Vinny, and family, words cannot express how sorry i am for the loss of your mom... Phil was the true meaning of a friend, and i treasured our friendship. Her happiest times were making other people happy. We had a wonderful visit this past Christmas...i will miss her. You now have a very special Guardian Angel watching over you

**Mary Ann Iadd** - June 02, 2020 at 07:41 AM

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“ My sincere condolences to the family. I'm going to miss you very much .Rest In Peace , Love, cousin Gina Paratore

**Gina Paratore** - June 02, 2020 at 01:04 AM

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“ Vinnie,

My thoughts and prayers are with you, Regina and your family. There are many great memories we share because of her, let's always reminisce.

Always,  
Laura (Kellogg) Stockton



**Laura Stockton** - June 01, 2020 at 12:56 PM

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“ My deepest sympathy to Vinny and Regina, and all the family, she was a great lady, classy as you could be, but as down to earth as any person I ever knew!! Loved her, she was Amazing and will be dearly missed!! When she was the principal's secretary at Lincoln school, I got to know Mrs. Ficchi quite well, unfortunately I was in the principals office often, but more to my point it start a relationship with a woman I'll never forget and always respect and remember as a friend!! And in Jr. high Vinny and myself meet and became friends and now he is like a brother who I love and respect!! God bless and Rest In Peace Mrs. Ficchi. I Love You!! David & Amy Keiser



**David A Keiser** - June 01, 2020 at 09:01 AM

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“ Vinnie and Regina, you are in our thoughts and prayers. We can see our moms laughing and eating together finally. The time spent listening to two best friends share their stories of childhood and adulthood will be forever with us. God Bless you both and all of the grandchildren and Mateo.

**Gerard and Racheal Barberio** - June 01, 2020 at 06:14 AM

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“ My heartfelt sympathy to the family of Phil. I first met Phil when we worked together in the Utica City School District. She was so generous in taking me under her wing and sharing her knowledge and secretarial skills with me, as I was a new employee. We had so many memories and laughs during our time at Proctor. I'll never forget the wonderful dinner she made for the " Proctor secretaries" at her home; an excellent cook, hostess and decorator. I later got to reconnect with Phil at Masonic; as I was a volunteer. She loved to reminisce and talk about our time at Proctor. Her memory was very vivid about people and events we shared. I will miss you, my dear friend. You will always remain in my heart and prayers. Sincerely,  
Love  
Theresa Mazzatti

Theresa Mazzatti - May 31, 2020 at 07:05 PM

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“ Regina and Vinny,

Thinking of you and your family with heartfelt sympathy. I have fond memories of your Mom. We often visited together on Neilson St. when she was at your Grandmother Mary's home. Your Mom was truly special... so beautiful with a personality to match! God Bless.

Paula Guarniero



Paula Guarniero - May 31, 2020 at 01:58 PM

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“ Our deepest sympathy to all of the family. She was a beautiful woman both inside and out. She was always thoughtful and kind to us. Bob has a elephant collection and the most unique and precious ones came from Phil. We know she will be missed by many but none so much as her children. Love & Peace Bob & Liz Wendler.

Elizabeth Wendler - May 31, 2020 at 11:20 AM

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“ Regina and family, I am so sorry to hear of your Mom’s passing. She was a lovely person & introduced my young self to stuffed grape leaves! Prayers to you and your family xoxo  
Theresa Davis Dye

Theresa Davis Dye - May 31, 2020 at 11:01 AM

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“ Vinny and Regina so very sorry for the passing of your mom. She was a sweetheart in the true sense of the word. We always enjoyed her visits to Frannie Barberio her good friend and my sister. Vinny and Joan Zumbo

Vinny and Joan Zumbo - May 31, 2020 at 08:59 AM

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“ Vinny and family - so sorry to hear about your mom. Please accept our deepest sympathy - from Jerry and Sandy Claeys (Rochester Hardwood Floors).

Sandra Claeys - May 31, 2020 at 08:45 AM

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“ Mark Harf lit a candle in memory of Philomena "Phil" (Ciruzzi) Ficchi



Mark Harf - May 30, 2020 at 10:53 PM

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“ Phil was such a lovely lady. My deepest sympathy to your family. Her mom was my mom's neighbor and I worked with her at the school district. She was always so kind.  
Roseann Guarniero Petronella

Roseann Petronella - May 30, 2020 at 10:45 PM

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“ Linda Bronga Guarascio lit a candle in memory of Philomena "Phil" (Ciruzzi) Ficchi



Linda Bronga Guarascio - May 30, 2020 at 07:57 PM

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“ Vinny, my friend:

Please accept my sincerest of condolences.

Duke

Duke Potter - May 30, 2020 at 07:08 PM

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“ Regina and Vinny, your mother was such a wonderful woman, funny, good and kind, generous, beautiful and a great neighbor. I will remember her beauty, laughter and smile. She was a super mom and I watched her over the years being so sweet and tender to you both. She was extraordinary. God bless you all...

Barbara Laible - May 30, 2020 at 01:53 PM

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“ Vinny

My heartfelt sympathy for the loss of your beautiful Mom. You were an amazing son to her. Please extend my condolences to your family. God Bless.

Jeanne Castronovo

Jeanne Castronovo - May 30, 2020 at 01:29 PM

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“ Regina and Vinny: There are no words to express how saddened I am by the death of your beloved mother. Your mom always treated me like family. I never saw her without a smile. I loved going to your family home, especially during the holidays. May your wonderful mother Rest In Peace with your father and Maria. God bless you all.

**Denise Carchedi-Ransiear** - May 30, 2020 at 10:09 AM

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“ It was an honor taking care of phil. I love her smile. She always smiled with me. She was such a lovely women. Bless her and the family in this time

**Gabriella Baker** - May 30, 2020 at 08:20 AM

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“ Vinny ,I am so sorry for your loss.Your mom was a great lady my mom and your mom where friends she used to come to our camp and bring her pillow with her. We had more Laughs and I enjoyed working with her at proctor prayers to you and your family at this difficult time.

**julie spanfelner** - May 29, 2020 at 08:17 PM