



## Phyllis O. (Derrico) Saraceno

January 15, 1934 - May 31, 2020

NAPLES, FL/UTICA - Mrs. Phyllis O. (Derrico) Saraceno, age 86, was reunited with her husband when she passed away unexpectedly on Sunday, May 31, 2020 with those she loved most in her heart.

Born in Utica on January 15, 1934, Phyllis was the daughter of the late Stanley and Lucy (Dischiavo) Derrico. She was a graduate of T.R. Proctor High School/Class of 1951. On August 21, 1954, at St. Anthony of Padua Church, she married Cosmo J. Saraceno with whom she shared a wonderful life. They enjoyed socializing, and their home on Garden Road was filled with family, friends, food, and fun. They were blessed with 48 years prior to Cosmo's passing in 2002.

Phyllis was associated with the operation of the local family concern, Joseph Saraceno Sons, Inc. Construction Company most noted for road construction and maintenance for Oneida County. The couple was also the owners of several local properties, and Phyllis was the Office Administrator. She was a driving force behind much of their success.

Friendly and engaging, Phyllis was a beautiful woman, charming and classy in manner and appearance. As matriarch of her family, she loved her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren unconditionally. She was the pillar of the family.

Phyllis was very disciplined when it came to her physical fitness and was an avid runner. She participated in one of the very first Boilermakers and remained always prepared for any other upcoming Road Races. It was common to see Phyllis and her friends daily at the Fitness Mill keeping in top shape. They enjoyed memorable summers at their haven at Martha's Vineyard in Massachusetts. Utica was home, but during the winter months Florida was a must, so Phyllis made Naples, Florida her snowbird destination in 1998. She volunteered at the Friendship Center Clinic, played bridge and friendly card games, and enjoyed going to the movie theater. She was lighthearted and optimistic, and as her life story unfolded, she maintained her sense of humor through it all.

A devout Catholic, Phyllis renewed her soul and her strength by attending daily Mass. Above all, her children and grandchildren made her so happy, and in the autumn of life, having family by her side was all she needed.

Phyllis is survived by her children and their loves, Sandra McDonald-Doolen and her husband James, Luann and Paul DeCotis, Dr. Joseph Saraceno, and Kathy Saraceno and

wife Shelly Bouchard; her grandchildren, Sean and Dr. Angela McDonald, Drs. Erin and Shaun Russell Harker, Laura and Ryan Thomas, James and Michelle Aiello; Sara and Alex Soriano, Evan and Jessica DeCotis, Emma DeCotis, Jacqueline and Nick Barnard; and Alexis McMahon; 9 great-grandchildren; brother and sister-in-law, Donald and Ann Theresa Derrico; and sister and brother-in-law, Cynthia and Dr. John DeTraglia. She also leaves her nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, cousins, and the many friends in Utica and in Naples, Florida who blessed and enhanced her life. She was predeceased by her brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Peter and Rafaella Saraceno.

The family will honor Phyllis' life privately and funeral services will be held with immediate family only. In lieu of donations, the family asks that you raise a glass to Phyllis' memory. Please take a moment to connect with Phyllis' 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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“ Karrie DiNigro lit a candle in memory of Phyllis O. (Derrico) Saraceno



**Karrie DiNigro** - June 15, 2020 at 05:12 PM

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“ As a former Garden Road neighbor and longtime friend of both Cosmo and Phyllis, I was saddened to hear of her passing. I have many fond memories of running over the Parkway with her as well as running the Boilermaker in its early years. She was a very caring and kind individual. Kathy and I are so very sorry for your loss.  
Butch Ventura

**Ercole Ventura** - June 08, 2020 at 12:39 PM

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“ Dear Sandy, Luann, Joey, Kathy, Cynthia and John-

I was so sad to hear about the passing of your Mom, Sister , and Sister in law in. I know you all know how amazing she was but wanted you to know you know how appreciative I was to have had her in my life.

I have such fond memories of being on Garden Road with you guys. Your Mom was so welcoming to me- dinners, sleep overs, rides (and there were many)- she was so warm and always made me feel like family..

Those were awkward teenage years for me- just trying to figure it all out. Your Mom was a such a strong role role model to me. She always made everything look so easy. She worked she managed the household loved you all and loved your Dad who was larger than life! I can still see her coming home from grocery shopping bringing tons of bags in with a smile on her face. I always felt like she had it all together- she was strong she knew who she was and I always wanted to be like her one day.

Later on after college I was able to reconnect with her and her Sunday running group. It was because of her I ran the boilermaker a few times. She was just a inspiration to me.

I am so sorry for your loss-  
thoughts and prayers are with you all  
Love  
Maryrose Turi Behan

**Maryrose Behan** - June 08, 2020 at 11:58 AM

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“ So sorry for your loss. She was surely a graceous lady and a tribute to our Italian heritage of the Mohawk Valley. I have a copy of a letter to the editor she submitted to the OD when she was in distress during a Boilermaker race. Kay Hobaica and I came to her aid and she thanked us literally. Sorry we never kept in touch. I guess life got in the way. But she will always be in my memory as a good friend. I will be sending a memorial to the Knights of st. John International for a mass to be said in her memory. I would appreciate an address so I can mail you a copy of the news article and the mass card.

Adelaide Foresti, 1304 centennial Circle, Utica, NY 13502

**Adelaide A Foresti** - June 07, 2020 at 05:57 PM



“ Adelaide, thank you for your kind words. Please send to 6570 Huntington Lakes Circle Unit 202, Naples, FL 34119

**Kathy Saraceno** - June 15, 2020 at 11:14 AM

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“ My very deepest sympathy and prayers go out to Phyllis’s children and families. She was a very special woman. Truly a great friend . Always meticulous and And most definitely a class act.  
God bless you all.  
Jeanne Castronovo

**Jeanne Castronovo** - June 05, 2020 at 12:59 PM

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“ I am saddened to hear of your loss. Phil was a great lady. She was a great inspiration to me. I will always cherish her guidance, wisdom, & friendship. We shared many deep conversations about life & beyond, & did nothing but laugh & raise our wine glasses at the Vineyard. Hold your memory’s in your hearts, that is where she will always be. Dawn Bruzzese

**Dawn Bruzzese** - June 05, 2020 at 12:30 PM