



Anna D. (Fortuna) Leone

March 28, 1916 - February 25, 2011

Mrs. Anna D. (Fortuna) Leone, a long-time resident of Utica, passed away Friday, February 25, 2011 in Fresno, California.

Anna was born in Herkimer, N.Y. on March 28, 1916 and was raised in Ilion, N.Y. She was the daughter of the late Erminia and Libero Fortuna. She was a graduate of Marymount College, Tarrytown, N.Y. Gifted with a beautiful soprano voice, she attended the Eastman School of Music, the Julliard School of Music, and was a graduate of the acclaimed Academy of Vocal Arts, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania where she trained to fulfill her ambition of becoming an opera singer. During World War II, she appeared in numerous USO concerts given in various parts of the country and sang on two weekly radio programs in New York City. On December 28, 1946, she married Dr. Frank G. Leone at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City. They settled in Utica where they raised six children.

Anna was a warm and gracious human being. To her grandchildren she was "Nana", to everyone else she was "Dearheart" - the endearing name she bestowed on everyone she encountered. Although she did not pursue her career in opera, she enjoyed singing in church and in her kitchen where she prepared the most wonderful meals. Most of all, she enjoyed being with her children, grandchildren, and visiting with her many friends and long-time neighbors on Parkside Ct. in Utica. After moving to Fresno, California in the fall of 2001, Anna developed many new friends. Of particular mention were her three wonderful devoted caregivers who assisted her for many years in

the comfort of her own home: Martina Luna, Corazone Villaflor and Carmen Armenta.

Anna is survived by her six children: Anthony Leone and his wife Kathy (Utica, N.Y.), Dolores Tozzi (Vallejo, CA), Rosemary Wittlinger and her husband Peter (Fresno, CA), Frank Leone (Whippeny, N.J.), Roger Leone and his wife Ricarda (Pebble Beach, CA), and Mary Lourdes Leone (Fresno, CA). She is survived by ten grandchildren, and nine great grandchildren, several nieces and nephews, and daughter-in-law, Grace Leone. She was predeceased by her beloved husband of 37 years, Frank G. Leone, M.D.; three brothers and sisters-in-law, Joseph and Nancy Fortuna, Dominick and Susan Fortuna, and Roger and Marguerite Fortuna; a son-in-law, Lawrence Tozzi, and daughter-in-law, Marilyn Greer Baker.

A private entombment will be held at the Resurrection Chapel Mausoleum on Champlin Ave. in Utica. At a date and time to be announced, a memorial service will be held to celebrate Anna's life with her many relatives and friends.

Anna's family wishes to express their sincere appreciation for the superb care and compassion their mother received from the dedicated staff at Nazareth House, Fresno, CA and Hinds Hospice, Fresno, CA. In lieu of flowers, please consider donations to these wonderful organizations; donations may be sent to the funeral home, and will be available at the future memorial service.

Arrangements have been entrusted to the Eannace Funeral Home, Inc., 932 South St., corner of Hammond Ave.

Cemetery Details

Resurrection Chapel Mausoleum

Champlin Ave.
Utica, NY 13501

Tribute Wall

JD

“ *Woops!- Dear Family of Nana- I just entered my thoughts in response to Peggy Gory-Please see below
-Thinking of you
Jan Duston*

Janet Duston - March 28, 2011 at 06:57 AM



“ *We just wanted to pass on our deepest condolences on the sad loss of Anna. We had the pleasure and privilege of meeting her many years ago through our freindship with Roger and Ricci (Candice was a bridesmaid at our wedding back in 1992). We remember Anna as being very elegant, friendly (I can still see the smile) and I remember her warmth and dignity with great fondness. We are thinking of you all at this time. Much Love from the Johnson family from across the pond. X*



Steve Johnson - March 10, 2011 at 04:37 AM

BM

“ To Frank Leone and family(Delores, Anthony, Roger, Rosemary and Mary Lourdes). My mother told me about your mom this past weekend and am very very sorry for your loss. I know it has been years since we last hung around but I will always have memories of the great times we had in Utica together, at Notre Dame and the rides home from school. Many times we ended up at your house on Park Avenue where your mother was very sweet to me working in her kitchen and offering food to eat. I also remember your dad who always helped me when I was sick. I still remember when he made house calls. I am sorry for his death as well and I know you all miss him as we all miss our fathers. You have always been a great family to me and i will remember you guys always.

Hope all of you are all doing well and your famlies are healthy.

As for me, I moved to the Wash DC area and visit Utica only a few times a year.

Take care.....

Bob Montano

Bob Montano - March 08, 2011 at 10:31 AM



“ Mrs. Leone was definitely popular. I remember while growing up and her husband, Dr. Frank Leone, would visit my home (when dr's still did that) during the early-mid 60s in Utica and Mrs.Leone would accompany him. Dr. Leone was especially comforting and said the rosary bedside for my twin in 1974 when he was severely injured in a freak bike accident. He was compassionate and passionate about his medicine. Mrs. Leone and Mary Lourdes hosted my mom, twin and I @ their home not long after my dad died in 1978. Mary Lourdes always loved those Yankees! Peace to her family and hello to Mary Lourdes. I was just thinking of Mrs. Leone and wondered whatever happened to her. My mom, 'Win', also moved from her longtime home on Hilton Ave. in 2001 to live w/me and then my sister, the youngest, Therese, where she died on the feast day of St. Francis deSales on Jan. 24, of this year. We saw many people @ her memorial service @ Old St. John's in downtown Utica and then it dawned on me: where was Mrs. Leone! She was always there for everyone and her absence made me think of her. That's the presence she had. It's a gift and one that will not be forgotten. Her and the Dr. were also devoted followers of Padre Pio of Pietrelcina...many devotions/prayers were said during those days when the good Dr. was still alive. A wonderful couple who left their blessings wherever they went. Best to the Leone family during this big loss...

Sincerely,

Gerald Plante, Stockade Section, Schenectady NY

Gerald Plante - March 03, 2011 at 05:57 AM

MU

“ Dolores, Rosemary, Goodsie, Tony, Roger, and Frank, I am so sorry to hear of the passing of Mrs. Doc. She always made me feel like I was another member of the Leone family, as did you all and The Doc. So long, Mrs. Doc. Gone, but never forgotten. Murphy

Murphy - March 02, 2011 at 11:14 AM

PJ

“ When Anna lived in Utica, she attended the weekday 8:00 a.m. Mass with us at Our Lady of Lourdes Church. After Mass we said the rosary and the Divine Mercy Chaplet. We all loved Anna and missed her very much after she moved to Fresno, California. She was a beautiful lady!

Sincerely,

Peggy Jory and all the members of our Rosary Group

Peggy Jory - March 02, 2011 at 10:21 AM

JD

*To all of Nana's (Anna's) family-
Please accept our deepest sympathy on the passing of your beloved Nana. To meet (Anna) was to fall in love with one of the world's most precious people. Even though she called everyone "Dearheart", it still made me feel special to hear it-
...and I feel she DID hold everyone dear to her heart in the true sense. Losing a Mother is not easy, despite her age, so I know your hearts are aching. May your memories bring warmth.
God speed to all of you on this journey of life-
Jan and Bill Duston*

Janet Duston - March 28, 2011 at 06:55 AM