



Anna "Sitto" (Abounader) Cafarelli

May 5, 1923 - November 23, 2009

Mrs. Anna Abounader Cafarelli, "Sitto", age 86, of Utica, passed away on Monday, November 23, 2009 at the Presbyterian Home for CNY, Inc. after a brief stay at their rehabilitation center.

Born in Utica on May 5, 1923, Anna was the daughter of the late Namtallah and Mary (Samaha) Abounader. A lifelong resident of her beloved Utica, Anna was a graduate of T. R. Proctor High School Class of 1940, the first graduating class. She furthered her studies and graduated from the Excelsior School of Business. It was at St. Louis Gonzaga Church that she married her "one true love" Dominick A. Cafarelli. Dominick passed away on November 17, 1978. They shared a loving and devoted union, and she always cherished his memory and was proud of all of his accomplishments.

After raising her children, Anna returned to work as an administrative assistant at the Rome Air Development Center, the position from which she retired. As a loving 'Sitto' (Arabic for grandmother) to many, Anna was a very hospitable, selfless, and welcoming woman with a great sense of humor and a beautiful smile. Her family and friends will cherish her memory as a faith-filled, loyal, and fiercely patriotic person who fostered and encouraged achievement and independence in herself and others. Her honesty, friendship, kindness, and generosity of spirit drew all who met her to call her both "friend" and "Sitto." She followed the path of the Lord and her life was centered around goodness and justice. Active and athletic throughout her life beginning with her days at Quinn Playground, playing semi-pro tennis during her teen years, swimming

at Power Dam, and in her later years, she was an avid golfer and a longtime proud member of her beloved Valley View Golf & Country Club. Additionally she found great pleasure in playing cards and dominoes with her friends every Monday for many years. Anna was a member of the GALS Club, and NARFE (National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association), and the Christ Child Society. A longtime parishioner of Blessed Sacrament Church, and now St. Mary of Mt. Carmel/Blessed Sacrament Parish, she was a 50+ year member of various local choirs. Anna held a seat on the parish council at Blessed Sacrament Church for many years. She was a longtime member and many times president of both Blessed Sacrament's Mothers' Club and Altar Rosary Society. Anna also served as both lector and Eucharistic minister. Anna is survived by her daughter and son-in-law, Joyce C. and Michael P. Duignan of Utica; her sons and daughters-in-law, Dr. David F. and Sandy Cafarelli of Green Acres, FL, and Steven D. Cafarelli of Jensen Beach, FL; her grandchildren, Danyse and John Collins of Utica, Christine and Peter Hoyt of Adams, MA, Michael and Sara Duignan of Troy, NY, Cameron Cafarelli, and Connor Cafarelli, both of Green Acres, FL, Christopher S. and Jessica Cafarelli, and Andrea Cafarelli, all of Atlanta, GA; and her great-grandchildren, Corryn Collins, Christopher Collins, and Xandria Duignan. Survivors also include her nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, cousins, and in-laws, Harry Abess of Endwell, NY, and Rocatella Petrone of Utica. She was predeceased by her sisters, Selma Karam, Lucy Abounader, Louise & Naaman Berman, Ada and John Joseph, and Lucy Abess; and brothers, Louis Abounader, and Neval Abounader.

Visitation will be held Friday (today) from 4:00-8:00 at the Eannace Funeral Home, Inc., 932 South St., corner of Hammond Ave. For those wishing to do so, please consider memorial donations in Anna's honor to Health Friends; envelopes will be available at the funeral home. Anna's funeral service will commence on Saturday morning at 10:00 from the funeral home and at 11:00 at St. Mary of Mt. Carmel/Blessed Sacrament Parish where her Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated. Interment will take place in Calvary

Cemetery.

Tribute Wall



“ Dear Joyce and family,
Very sorry to hear of your recent loss. Your mom was always a pleasure to talk to. She always had a smile and a few kind words. Her memory will live on. Take care.##imported-begin##Pete Maneen##imported-end##

December 05, 2009 at 10:16 PM



“ Steve and family,
My sincere condolences on your loss of your Mother/Grandmother. Bruce##imported-begin##Bruce Philipson##imported-end##

November 30, 2009 at 11:02 AM



“ Dear Steve, David and Joyce,
I just wanted to express my deepest sympathy at the passing of your Mom. She was a wonderful lady and I will always remember her beautiful smile and kindness. Her and Helen Ann Soscia are probably whooping it up right now. Take Care and I will keep you all in my prayers
Ann Marrone Spina##imported-begin##Ann Marrone Spina##imported-end##

November 30, 2009 at 08:25 AM



“ Joyce and Mike - As I read all the testimonies to your mother I think as well how blessed I was to have known her and how thankful I am for all the memories that I have of her. I can still see her smile and hear her laugh like it was yesterday when we worked together at Rome Lab. What a wonderful person she was. I am very saddened at her passing but know that she will remain in my heart and the hearts of all whose lives she touched! My sincere sympathy to you and your family.##imported-begin##Debi Shaver##imported-end##

November 29, 2009 at 09:28 AM



“ The Byrne family has been blessed and fortunate to have had Anna as a long time neighbor and so much more. She will be sadly missed by all of us. Our deepest and warmest condolences to her family.##imported-begin##Julie Byrne##imported-end##

November 28, 2009 at 10:03 AM



“ Oh Sitto, you will be missed. Your connection with every person you met was instantaneous. Your joy was infectious. Your love for your family was so precious. Although I only had a few occasions to be with Sitto, my memories of her are all happy ones. To the Cafarelli Family, I am so saddened by your loss. Peace be with you.

With Sympathy ~ Jeanne and family##imported-begin##Jeanne##imported-end##

November 27, 2009 at 10:25 PM



“ Dear Joyce and families,
It wasn't too long ago I ran into you and your wonderful mom at SDMG..so good to see her! She was so much like my mom..very giving, compassionate and loving. We always had such great times with "the moms" at the many events, card parties, etc. at Blessed Sacrament Church...alway said to me...no, joyce isnt coming, with a laugh...she could make anyone smile...I think of her so often. She was so wonderful to me when my mom left with the angels...I'm so sorry for your loss and everyone that knew her! I have a mass card for her and would love to send it to you.....please know that you are in my thoughts and prayers and you will feel her kisses with every flake of snow or whispy breeze that touches your face....love to all of you!###imported-begin##Judy Fellows Butts##imported-end##

November 27, 2009 at 09:57 AM



“ I am so sorry to hear my very best 'girlfriend' in the whole wide world has passed. I love her so very much and will treasure all the memories I have of her for she surely made my childhood a wonderful one. she will always hold a very special place in my heart...I love you Mrs. Caferelli.###imported-begin##Amy m. Evans##imported-end##

November 26, 2009 at 01:36 PM



“ Anna Cafarelli was one of the kindest and loving people I have ever met. She will be missed dearly. Her life was blessed by being surrounded by family that truly loved her.

Anna lived her life on her terms and filled her days with a tremendous amount of laughter and happiness.

I know with more practice I could beat her in golf.....maybe.....

Being around Anna made you feel very special and I loved her so much.

I know she is with God now and will always look down on the people she loves. Bless you Sitto always

Strickman

November 26, 2009 at 10:55 AM



“ My wife and I first met Anna at the Baptism of her grandson and our nephew Christopher. We had barely known Anna five minutes before we were calling her Sitto just as if we had known each other all of our lives. During that visit, Sitto introduced us to her famous grape leaves. A treat that we enjoyed whenever she visited Long Island or was kind enough to send us a grape leaf care package.

Sitto visited with our family on Long Island several times over the years and regardless of how long it had been since we had seen her, the time and distance just melted away. We fondly remember our visit to Utica and the warmth of Sitto's friendship. Sitto will always be in our hearts. Our thoughts and prayers are with her beloved family during this difficult time. Love Ann and Paul

Johnke

Ann and Paul Johnke

November 25, 2009 at 08:52 PM