



Carmela M. (Nicotera) Dee

May 26, 1924 - December 9, 2023

FT. LAUDERDALE, FL / FORMERLY OF UTICA - Carmela M. (Nicotera) Dee, passed away peacefully on December 9, 2023. in the care of loved ones at her home in Fort Lauderdale, Florida with David and Barbara Dee Deacle. Carmela was born on May 26th, 1924, in Utica, New York to Salvatore Nicotera and Agnes (Perin) Nicotera. She attended Mt. Carmel School before her family moved to Duluth, Minnesota where she graduated from Duluth Central Highschool. It was there that she met and married Raymond Dee with whom she had six children.

She worked as a buyer for Glass Block Store in Duluth and after returning to Utica in 1958 Carmela began her long career with General Electric Company (G.E.). During her tenure with G.E. she worked in electronics and later in aerospace as an inspector. She received multiple awards for wiring design suggestions. Some of her accomplishments included work under military contracts on F1-11 fighter jets and heavy-lift transport helicopter communication wiring. Carmela retired from G.E. after 30 years and relocated to south Florida where she enjoyed staying busy working part time at Tropical Assemblies and for the North Broward Hospital District 7th Avenue Clinic as a file clerk.

Carmela was known for her love of travel, cruises, social clubs, bowling, as well as bingo, and playing casino slot-machines for fun. She played cello in

high school and shared her love of music with her children and enjoyed listening to her sons and daughters sing and perform. She was a devoted wife, mother, and grandmother and was affectionately referred to as “Grandma-Blue” by her first grandsons because she lived in a blue house and drove a blue car. She was a fabulous cook and well known for her home baked bread, Italian pastries and biscotti, and an all-time family favorite dinner, “Chicken and Polenta”.

She was loved by many at Blessed Sacrament Roman Catholic Church in Oakland Park, Florida for her service as a Eucharistic Minister. She served with compassion while spending time with the elderly in local nursing homes sharing the love of God through her Christian faith. She was also loved by the ladies of “The Encouragers” study group at her daughter Kathleen’s church in High Springs, Florida where she enjoyed Bible discussions and sharing in prayers.

Carmela will be remembered most of all for her love of family and her endearing sense of humor that included always telling the punchline first when repeating a joke. She loved to laugh. Many will miss her Friday calls just to “check in” and they always ended with, “I love you”.

Carmela is survived by her six children: Sharon Dee, Barbara Dee Deacle, Alan Dee, Joseph Dee, John Dee, and Kathleen Dee Dailey, sons-in-law and daughters-in-law: Jay Hooey, David Deacle, Debbie Dee, Dawn Moran, Julie Dee, and James Dailey. She is also survived by 21 Grandchildren, 18 Great-Grandchildren, 5 Great-great grandchildren, her sister-in-law Ruth Nicotera, many nieces and nephews including Richard Nicotera who faithfully visited her every year and was honored to be on her Friday call list, and many dear cousins. She was predeceased by her parents Salvatore and Agnes Nicotera, brothers John and Vito Nicotera, sister-in-law Bernice Nicotera, sister Katherine (Nicotera) Aubain, grandson Austin Dee, great granddaughter

Alexandria Dee, and great grandson Cameron Hooey.

The family wishes to thank Continuum Hospice for the wonderful care provided to Carmela and her family, especially Natalie, Dalia, and Rebecca. Rebecca's singing soothed Carmela in that while she could not respond Carmela would tap her toe and move her lips to the joyful songs Rebecca played.

We are forever grateful for our beloved mother who gave selflessly to her family and who shined her light on all of us.

A Prayer Service honoring Carmela's life will be celebrated on Tuesday, December 19, 2023 at 11:00 a.m. at Christ Our Savior Mausoleum Chapel (Hilltop), 2407 Oneida St., New Hartford. In lieu of floral offerings, memorial contributions in Carmela's honor may be made to The Continuum Hospice Foundation online at <https://continuumflorida.com/foundation/> and St. Jude Children's Hospital, which was so dear to Carmela's heart, online at <https://www.stjude.org/donate/donate-to-st-jude.html>; envelopes will also be made available at the service.

Previous Events

Prayer Service

DEC 19. 11:00 AM (ET)

Christ Our Savior Mausoleum at Calvary Cemetery
2407 Oneida Street
Utica, NY 13501
(315) 735-2727

Tribute Wall

SD

“ Grandma was never more happy than when she was surrounded by family. The more family members the better. That joy was contagious and it was nearly impossible to not catch it yourself while in her presence. I will always remember her hug and kiss. It was the same every time and she always made sure to let you know something about yourself that she remembered. For me it was still being the baby of the 4 siblings and how in her eyes I would always be that. I will miss those moments. And, of course, Yahtzee games will never be the same. Love you, Grandma.

Sean Dailey - December 19, 2023 at 10:51 AM

JD

“ My greatest memories of “Grandma Dee” will be her smile and hugs. Her smile would light up a room. I honestly can’t remember a time when she didn’t smile the moment we made eye contact. Her smile, alone, would work wonders. But she was more than able to combine that smile with her long warm hugs. She left such an impact with the simplest gestures and kind hearted words. There wasn’t a child, grandkid or great grandkid she didn’t make these same impacts on. I miss her dearly and I know without a doubt she’s with her Heavenly Father waiting for the rest of us to come home. I love you, Grandma Dee.

justin dailey - December 18, 2023 at 09:37 AM

BD

“ I remember my mom telling me how she held each of her babies on the day they were born and introducing herself to us - “Hello - I’m your mom and I’m going to take good care of you, watch over you and love you always...”

Thank you mom, for keeping your promise ❤️❤️❤️❤️❤️



Barbara Dee - December 17, 2023 at 10:04 PM

JP

“ Always in my heart. I ❤️ you Grandma



Jessica Piccione - December 16, 2023 at 11:54 AM

KD

“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



Kathleen Dee Dailey - December 15, 2023 at 05:31 PM

KD

Beautiful flowers were received from Greg & Annie Nicotera Mayden (niece), Jason Dailey, and Justin Piccione (grandson)

Kathleen Dee Dailey - December 15, 2023 at 05:35 PM

LP

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Lorraine Panella - December 14, 2023 at 06:39 PM

LP

“ *I was deeply saddened in to learn of Carmella's passing She was a close friend of my mothers Mary Panella. Meeting for the first time when working at General Electric. Carm added my mother to her list of Friday phone calls and something she continued with me after my mother's passing. I totally enjoyed those calls. We would laugh and cry. Often Reminiscing about her love and friendship for my mother. Also, how much Carmela loved and care for her family on is earth and above. I find Solis in knowing she is now reunited wiith Her friends and family In heaven especially her sister. The last time I spoke to carmella she had told me she was having "setbacks" I got the distinct feeling she wa s telling me goodbye and trying to spare me any heartache. That's the kind of woman Carmella was loving caring and willing to share herself with anyone that needed her. I was truly blessed to get to know her. My deepest condolences to her entire family and all the people that were lucky enough to be in her life. Heaven has gained a very special angel. Lorrane Panella*

Lorraine Panella - December 14, 2023 at 02:36 PM

SD

Thank you Lorraine for your beautiful tribute to my mom. I believe that tge last time we had contact was when your beautiful mom passed. I hope you will stay in touch with me now. Sharonldee@gmail.com. I will send my other information to you. Our moms were from a wonderful time and I am do glad that I have many wonderful memories that will stay with me until I join my mom.

Sharon Dee - December 15, 2023 at 07:35 PM

KD

Mom talked about you often Lorraine. She loved you very much as she did your mother. I hope to maybe meet you if not at the memorial perhaps another time. Thank you, and God Bless You.

Kathleen Dailey - December 16, 2023 at 11:36 AM

LP

Sharon and Kathleen, thank you so much for the kind words your Mom will always hold a very special place in my heart. I will always carry with me the memory of the love kindness and concern she showed to me after my mother passed. Thank you so much for sharing your mom with me. Love to you both and your entire family.

Lorraine Panella - December 17, 2023 at 12:24 AM

BD

Thank you for sharing this photo Lorraine - two beautiful women we were so fortunate to have as our moms. God Bless. ❤️

Barbara Dee - December 18, 2023 at 07:33 AM