



Carol (Stiffa) Robertaccio

May 23, 1947 - September 1, 2009

Mrs. Carol (Stiffa) Robertaccio, age 62, of New Hartford, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, September 1, 2009 at the Faxton-St. Luke's Healthcare Center with the love and support of her family and friends by her side.

Born in Utica on May 23, 1947, Carol is the daughter of Alfonso and Mary (Costa) Stiffa. Raised and educated locally, she was a 1965 graduate of T. R. Proctor High School. She pursued her college education at Oswego State University where she received her Bachelor of Arts degree and Master of Arts degree in Elementary Education. On August 1, 1970 she married James M. Robertaccio with whom she shared 39 years of fun and passion for life and for each other.

Carol began her career as an elementary education teacher with the New Hartford Central School District at Miles Elementary School. She left the working world to raise her children and later returned to the classroom at Hughes Elementary School on Higby Road, retiring in 2002. One of Carol's passions and greatest joys came from her involvement with animal advocacy; she served with pride as President of the Auxilia ry of the Stevens-Swan Humane Society where she enriched its mission through her hard work, and also served as a board member. She was also a board member of the Kindred Spirits Greyhound Adoption, Inc. Carol was highly respected by her colleagues in these organizations for her tireless commitment and fundraising skills. During her leisure time, she looked forward

to traveling and loved the 'beach life', and she treasured being together with Jim and her family. Above all, Carol treasured the relationship with her beloved granddaughters, Ava and Mia, who completed her life. Throughout the years, she found enjoyment from her hobbies of antiques, jewelry making, and watercolor painting, to name a few. Carol was blessed with many creative expressions which she displayed with great artistry and energy. She had style, grace, wisdom, and creativity that touched the lives of so many. She also had tenacity for justice, celebrated life, and upheld relationships with her unique spirit. She was faithful to her values and beliefs in every realm of her life, including family matters, children entrusted to her in her classroom, friendships that she honored, and the animals which were her "kindred spirits". She was equally at ease and generous with her best attributes --- her warmth and her humor. She was a communicant of Historic Old St. John's Church. Carol is survived by her husband, Jim; her daughter and son-in-law, Gabrielle "Gabby" and Freddy A. LaBella, Jr. of New Hartford; her son, Lieutenant Mateo Robertaccio, U.S. Navy, stationed in California; her parents, Al and Mary Stiffa of Utica; and her precious and adored granddaughters, Ava LaBella and Mia LaBella of New Hartford. Survivors also include several cousins; and her many wonderful and meaningful friendships, with special mention of Sharon Cleverly and Patricia Durante. She was predeceased by her in-laws, John L. and Agatha Robertaccio, John A. Robertaccio, and Francis L. Robertaccio.

The family wishes to thank the many relatives and friends who have shared their support during Carol's illness; and her numerous physicians, caregivers, and the outstanding staff of the Faxton-St. Luke's Healthcare Center, 6th Floor and ICU for their kindness and compassion.

In keeping with Carol's wishes, there will be no public visitation. Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend her funeral service and Celebration of Life which will commence on Friday afternoon at 4:00 at Historic Old St. John's Church where her Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated. The family will receive visitors at the conclusion of the service; they ask that you

respect their wishes to refrain from food or floral offerings and honor Carol's memory with donations to the Stevens-Swan Humane Society Auxiliary, the Kindred Spirits Adoption, Inc. mission to rescue greyhounds, or the St. Jude Children's Hospital; envelopes will be available at the service. Interment will take place in St. Agnes Cemetery at the convenience of the family.

Tribute Wall



“ Gabby, I am so sorry to hear about your mother. She was such a kind and generous woman. I used to run into her all the time around town, and I always really enjoyed talking with her. You mom had such a happy and genuinely sweet personality. I am so sorry Gabby. Your mother will be remembered fondly by all of those that had the opportunity to meet such a wonderful lady.##imported-begin##Amy Lamberto##imported-end##

September 11, 2009 at 12:02 AM



“ We live in Florida now and just found out about Carol's passing. We are so sorry for your loss. Our prayers are with you.
Love, Dick and Paula##imported-begin##Paula Pardi(Lazzaro)##imported-end##

September 10, 2009 at 05:17 AM



“ I would like to offer my condolences at your loss.I worked with the father Al Stiffa at Mohawk Airlines and also at PIT with Allegheny. I lost my wife three years ago so I can feel your great loss. God bless you and your family !##imported-begin##richard kamienski##imported-end##

September 06, 2009 at 12:42 PM



“ I was in carol's homeroom at proctor h.s. i found her to be vibrant and passionate about learning. i will mourn her passing.##imported-begin##michael santagata##imported-end##

September 04, 2009 at 12:26 AM



“ To the family of Carol, Carol was such a loving and caring person. I am very sorry for your loss. I know how much she loved her family she talked about all of you so often. Her wonderful outlook on life was such an inspiration to me. She had so many talents. I will miss her at the annual "open house" that we did together every year. We always set up next to each other and spent 3 fun days together every year sharing life stories and helping to sell each others products. She had such a talent with her beautiful jewelry creations quality hand knit items I will treasure my "pieces" even more now. My thoughts and prayers are with all of you.##imported-begin##Lisa Putrello##imported-end##

September 03, 2009 at 09:54 PM



“ To the Robertaccio Family,
I am soo sorry to hear of your loss. Mrs. Robertaccio was my sixth grade teacher back in 1988. I would also see her mostly recently through the various Mommy & me classes that she had brought Ava too, my daughter Bella is her same age.
She had a heart of gold & that she carried through in her life. Whether it would be teaching or through her love for her family. She will be so deeply missed. Try & hold onto all those wonderful memories and she will continue to live on in your heart & soul forever. God Bless.##imported-begin##Missy (Femia) Kolb##imported-end##

September 03, 2009 at 04:24 PM



“ Dear Gabby & Freddy,
So sorry to hear about the loss of your mom. You are in my thoughts and I will say a prayer for you and your family.

With Sympathy,
Jackie (Castronovo) Capuana##imported-begin##Jackie
Castronovo-Capuana##imported-end##

September 03, 2009 at 03:23 PM



“ Mrs. Robertaccio was my 6th grade teacher from 1991-92, and I have very fond memories of being in her class. I remember her as being a kind, very patient person, a gifted teacher who nurtured the creativity of her students. I offer my condolences and my sympathy to her family and friends.##imported-begin##Justin
Lamberto##imported-end##

September 03, 2009 at 11:22 AM



“ Mrs Robertaccio was my 4th grade teacher at myles school back in 1974 and she left to have a baby. I didn't see her again until Mateo graduated from the Naval Academy. I can always remember when she told the class about a human colony living in space. It was a newspaper clipping she read to class. To the Robertaccio Family my condolences.##imported-begin##Command Master Chief USN
(Ret) Mark Williamson##imported-end##

September 03, 2009 at 07:38 AM



“ Jim, Gabby, Mateo, Al and Mary
So sorry, So young as we know so well. She was a very special lady
too many and me. Rest assured heaven has one more angel.
God Bless Brian##imported-begin##Brian Skinner##imported-
end##

September 03, 2009 at 07:16 AM



“ I just want to tell Mrs. Robertaccio's family that I am deeply sorry for
your loss. I would like to share a story, I had a call a few weeks ago
at my job (Clinton Arena) we were putting together a Flea Market
and Mrs. Robertaccio had left a message saying that she would like
a booth for the Humane Society. When I called her back to talk
about it, I had asked her if she taught school in New Hartford and
she had said yes. I then continued to tell her that I was in one of her
4th grade classes at Myles and after all these years I remembered
how kind she was to me and she was my all time favorite teacher. I
was looking so forward to seeing her. She called me back the next
week and said she wasn't feeling well and didn't think she would be
able to make it. I didn't realize how ill she was. Again my thoughts
and prayers are with the family, Mrs. Robertaccio will be missed.
Patti Hogan Maxam##imported-begin##Patti##imported-end##

September 02, 2009 at 11:18 PM



“ *Jim, Gabby & Mateo & Family*

It was my honor to know your mom and know how she enjoyed life even through her many illnesses. She was an inspiration to all. She always smiled and was warm and friendly even when the going was tough. She had an awesome attitude. We know she will be sorely missed by the many people whose lives she touched. May the memories of her and the thoughts and prayers help you through this period of time. Be strong because she always was.##imported-begin##Judy & Mel Oster##imported-end##

September 02, 2009 at 10:06 PM



“ *Mrs. Robertaccio, I remember you were my 6th grade teacher back in 1985-86. I was sorry to hear about your death. My condolences go out to your family and friends. You will be missed.##imported-begin##Joseph P Pintar##imported-end##*

September 02, 2009 at 08:57 PM



“ *My thoughts go out to all of Carol's family members during this difficult time. I was a student in Carol's last class before she retired. She was a caring and extremely intelligent educator and in many ways influenced me throughout my life. Above all, she was a friend to all of her students and consoled us when in need. She will truly be missed and her impact on her students will be felt for the rest of our lives.##imported-begin##Richard Karrat##imported-end##*

September 02, 2009 at 03:41 PM



“ Jim, Our deepest and sincerest sympathy are with you and your family during this very difficult time of loss. Mark and Renee##imported-begin##Mark and Renee Kotary##imported-end##

September 02, 2009 at 03:03 PM



“ My deepest sympathy to Carol's family. I knew her when we were both involved with the SSHS. I valued her integrity, love of animals, and fighting spirit. Plus she was fun to be around. Kathy Corcoran##imported-begin##Kathy Corcoran##imported-end##

September 02, 2009 at 01:56 PM



“ Dear Gabby and Fred and Family,
Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time. We are so sorry for your loss.
Sincerely, Paul and Pam Way##imported-begin##Paul and Pam Way##imported-end##

September 02, 2009 at 11:32 AM



“ Jim, and family, My deepest sympathy to all of you. I met Carol (and Jim) through NYSUT. I have so many fond memories of times shared with both of you. May your memories help heal your wounded hearts at this most difficult time. You are and will continue to be in my thoughts and prayers. May Carol rest in peace. In friendship and with love, Maureen##imported-begin##Maureen R. Dourney##imported-end##

September 02, 2009 at 10:04 AM



“ I never met Carol, but have heard so much of her work with various animal groups especially Kindred Spirits Greyhound Apotion. She is in my thoughts and prayers. God Bless her family and friends.##imported-begin##Linda Weaver##imported-end##

September 02, 2009 at 08:32 AM



“ To the family of Carol,
Carol's love of life and love of animals made her a truly special woman. She fought a tough fight and now eternal peace for her. I wish you strength at this most trying time.##imported-begin##Gina Arcuri##imported-end##

September 02, 2009 at 06:54 AM