



Mrs. Carolyn (Giannatelli) DeBernardis

September 1, 1931 - February 20, 2019

UTICA - Mrs. Carolyn (Giannatelli) DeBernardis, age 87, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, February 20, 2019 at The Pines at Utica for Rehabilitation & Nursing with her loving family by her side.

Born in Utica on September 1, 1931, Carolyn was the daughter of the late Pasquale and Grace Giannatelli. She was a graduate of T.R. Proctor High School/Class of 1949. At a young age, she studied under Jon Magendanz and became an accomplished pianist. One of her greatest joys was accompanying her daughter as she played the oboe. On September 6, 1954, she married Leon J. DeBernardis, Sr., Esq. who passed away on May 17, 2013. They shared a 58-year union and were so proud of the beautiful family they created. For many years, Carolyn worked as a legal secretary for her husband at his law office. She not only oversaw the organization of the office, but kept her husband in check. This was a perfect job for her because it allowed her a portion of the day to head out to purchase her cigarettes and shop at JC Penney! One of Carolyn's greatest attributes was being a sight-reading musician, able to perform music she had not seen before with tremendous grace. Her family's fondest memories were assembling around the baby grand piano as Carolyn played while each of her loved ones accompanied her in a woodwind ensemble. Carolyn was an intuitive and expressive piano player who instilled a love and appreciation of music to her entire family. Spunky and spontaneous, Carolyn was always ready with a surprise. She was the life of the party and she knew how to have fun. She and Leon headed to

Florida every winter, most often to Deerfield Beach or the Royal Flamingo Villas in Pompano Beach, and summers were spent at their camp at Caroga Lake in the foothills of the Adirondacks. She fondly remembered the “Bradford Ave. Club”, a group of friends who enjoyed house parties and get-togethers in the 1960’s. The Christmas season, especially Christmas Eve, was the best for her and she honored the traditions and prepared the meals from scratch. She was also amazing at decorating with great flair! She was a character, known by many as “Liz Taylor” because she had a style and grace in her appearance, complemented by a personality that was a bit unfiltered. She was a fan of NY Rangers hockey and NY Mets baseball, and was well versed in the rules of the games. She loved the intensity of the sport and once again, it was a family affair. She practiced her Catholic faith as a member of the Church of Our Lady of Lourdes and in earlier years was a member of the Women’s Club, and the St. Elizabeth Guild.

Most importantly, Carolyn was a great defender and a driving force for each of her children, and her strength, confidence, and courage was an inspiration to them. She supported their endeavors and wanted them to attain their maximum potential. In return, she was blessed with three generations of loved ones who admired and cherished her. And they will always honor her memory. Carolyn is survived by her children and their spouses, Susan G. Augusto, Patty and Harry Scaramella, and Leon Jr. and Mary Ann “Mia” DeBernardis. She held close to her heart the memory of her daughter Celeste Ann Rositano who passed away in 2012; her son-in-law David A. Rositano who passed in 2000; and her grandson Marcus Joseph Rositano who preceded her in 1980. She also leaves her grandchildren, Allison Augusto, Eric Augusto; Matthew David Rositano, Valerie Grace and Mike Tomaselli, Amanda Marie Rositano and her husband Tony Lawrence; Carolyn and her husband Matthew Montalbo, Alexandra Grace Scaramella; and Thomas John DeBernardis, Esq.; great-grandchildren, Isabella, Alexis, Lucy, Marlow, Ollie, and Charles; Alexander, Aiden and Sofia; Rocco, and Violetta. She will also be remembered by her nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, cousins,

and her in-laws, Angela and Richard Zarski, Anna Trevisani, and Regina Belt. She was predeceased by her in-laws, Claude and Beverly DeBernardis, Anthony Albert DeBernardis, Frank Trevisani, and Ralph Belt.

The family is grateful for and truly impressed with the genuine love and compassion provided by the staff of The Pines at Utica Center for Rehabilitation & Nursing, especially the 3rd Floor nurses and personnel; and Carolyn's roommate Beverly Brown who watched over her.

In keeping with the family's wishes, there will be no public visitation. Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend Carolyn's funeral service and Celebration of Life which will commence on Saturday afternoon at 1:00 at the Church of Our Lady of Lourdes where her Mass of Christian Burial will be offered by Rev. Joseph Salerno. The family will receive visitors at the conclusion of the Mass. Those wishing to express an act of kindness in Carolyn's memory may make a donation to the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital online at <https://www.stjude.org>. Envelopes will be available at the service.

Interment will take place in Forest Hill Cemetery at the convenience of the family.

Cemetery Details

Forest Hill Cemetery

2201 Oneida Street
Utica, NY 13501
(315) 735-2701

Tribute Wall



“ *Rosemary Brown lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Carolyn (Giannatelli) DeBernardis*



Rosemary Brown - February 24, 2019 at 08:44 PM

HE

“ *Dear friends-I read of your loss with sadness. Carol was a lovely lady, so smart and beautiful! She was a wonderful wife to Leon, and a great legal secretary and mother. It was such a pleasure to know her and I cherish the memory of her talking about Leon in preparation for the Bar Association memorial. Sincere condolences to you, and best regards. Joan Shkane*

Hon. Joan E.Shkane - February 23, 2019 at 12:19 PM

GL

“ *Susan, Patty and Leon, I send my heartfelt sympathies to you all. I have many fond memories of your mom, and your dad, sitting out on the front porch of Parkside Ct. and visiting with my mom (Anna Leone) and me ('Goodsie'). We had a lot of laughs. I remember how your mom used to love to play Andrea Bocelli's CD really loud so we could all hear it outside. She had a great sense of humor and all the neighbors loved her. She will be in my thoughts and prayers.*

Goodsie Leone - February 23, 2019 at 01:40 AM

SG

“ Sue C. Giruzzi lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Carolyn (Giannatelli) DeBernardis



Sue C. Giruzzi - February 22, 2019 at 11:52 AM

SG

“ Leon and family, Bob & I send our deepest sympathy. May she Rest In Peace.

Thoughts & prayers to you & your family. Bob & Sue Giruzzi

Sue C. Giruzzi - February 22, 2019 at 11:51 AM

AF

“ Ahlanna Russell & Family lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Carolyn (Giannatelli) DeBernardis



Ahlanna Russell & family - February 22, 2019 at 10:27 AM

PY

“ Patrick Young lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Carolyn (Giannatelli) DeBernardis



Patrick Young - February 21, 2019 at 08:02 PM



“ *With deepest sympathies.....Leonarda Priore*

Leonarda Priore - February 20, 2019 at 05:19 PM



“ *Leon and Mia. I was so sorry to hear of your mom passing. I always enjoyed my conversations with her at the family get togethers. Be consoled by all the memories you have. Alberta*

alberta - February 20, 2019 at 03:51 PM



Patty, Harry and family, May you be consoled and comforted in the knowledge that Jesus keeps His promises. She rests in the Messiah's Peace. Peter and Judy Hobaica

Peter M. Hobaica - February 20, 2019 at 03:56 PM



Dearest Matt, Valerie, Amanda, Patty, Susan, Leon and families;

Our deepest sympathy to you all. What an amazing lady your Grandma/Mom was. We have so many great memories and stories. Our love and prayers . ❤️🙏 Rocky and Carol Rositano

carol rositano - February 20, 2019 at 08:47 PM



Carolyn was a remarkable woman who impressed everyone she met with her grace and her organizational abilities. She always made everyone feel comfortable and important.

Barry Goodwin

Barry Goodwin - February 21, 2019 at 10:30 AM

CN

*Patty, Harry, Carolyn, Alex and family.
Although I never met your mother, I'm so very sorry to hear of her passing. My thoughts and prayers are with you all during this most difficult time.*

Cindy Near

Cindy Near - February 21, 2019 at 03:11 PM

KC

Patty, Harry, Alex, Carolyn and family. We are so very sorry for your loss. It is profound and painful. May the wonderful memories you shared and the prayers and thoughts of so many be of some comfort to you at this time. Sorry we cannot be with you but we are hugging you all from a distance. 🙏 Jeff and Karen Corigliano

Karen Corigliano - February 21, 2019 at 04:10 PM

MA

Condolences to Mia and son Thomas; Patty and daughter Carolyn, and the entire family for your loss. Thankfully we have memories that keep our loved ones alive.

Martha Mancuso

Martha - February 22, 2019 at 07:33 AM

AM

Patty, Harry and Family, please accept our sincere condolences on the loss of this special lady. Hope good memories sustain you and bring comfort. Our thoughts and prayers are with you. Andrea & Ed McFadden

Andrea McFadden - February 22, 2019 at 05:16 PM

SG

Patty & Harry and Family, Though many years have passed, I remember your Mom & Leon with love and affection. I recently arrived back to my home in PA after my Dad's Funeral in Utica this past Saturday and am sorry I couldn't be with you. Belated sincere condolences. Steve Graham

Stephen W. Graham - February 27, 2019 at 10:29 AM