



Concetta Jude "Connie" Citriniti

December 21, 1961 - January 17, 2026

E. UTICA – On Saturday, January 17, 2026, I, Concetta Jude “Connie” Citriniti, age 64, separated from my earth-bound spirit and began forever with my Savior and King.

Born in Utica on December 21, 1961, I was the daughter of the late Fred Joseph and Frances (Cimino) Citriniti. I grew up in a household where three generations lived under one roof, and it was the most enriching experience I could have ever imagined. I was born after fifteen years of my parents' marriage, and my family considered my birth a miracle. Every day thereafter felt like a miracle as well.

I completed my primary education at St. Mary of Mt. Carmel School and my secondary education at T.R. Proctor High School. I then attended Mohawk Valley Community College, where I earned an associate's degree, followed by the State University of New York (SUNY) at Utica/Rome, where I obtained a bachelor's degree. I subsequently pursued graduate studies at The College of Saint Rose, earning a master's degree in education.

At one time I was wed to Angelo C. Giacobelli.

I dedicated my entire adult career to the Utica City School District, teaching learning disabled children at Kemble Elementary School, John F. Kennedy

Middle School, and T.R. Proctor High School. I always knew I would be a teacher from the time I was 4 years old. During my first month teaching at Kemble, two veteran educators that had been observing me told me that teachers were not “MADE,” they were “BORN” that way; this has stayed with me for almost 40 years. It was what God had planned for me. The happiest day of my life was the first time I walked up the steps of my alma mater, T.R. Proctor High School, to begin my professional teaching career at the high school level. I was so overwhelmed with joy and gratitude that I cried.

Over the years, I was honored to hold several teaching related positions, including John F. Kennedy Service Club Advisor and Social Committee Director. I also served as a member of the T.R. Proctor Leadership Team, a trained mentor, Inclusion Team Member and Coordinator, Utica Teachers Association Representative, and was recognized as Teacher of the Month.

When sickness made it impossible for me to continue as an educator, God afforded me a new opportunity to affect change. He showed me that my writing/reflections could now be shared and help others in a different way. Sharing my thoughts and faith has been a very spiritual and satisfying outlet for me.

Throughout my life, I have enjoyed many wonderful travel experiences, especially sitting by the ocean and taking in glorious sunsets. I also enjoyed writing poetry in my leisure time and sponsoring my very own “Connie’s Coffee Club!”

I grew closer to Jesus every day – every hour – every minute of my life. I find great comfort (even now in death) knowing He carries me and loves me unconditionally. I encourage everyone to develop a personal relationship with Him. It is and will be the greatest relationship of your life! Also, because I was born so far into my parent’s marriage, I was named after Saint Jude (the Saint

of the Impossible) in thanksgiving for my long-awaited conception. Both my mother and I were very devoted to St. Jude for our entire lives. My home parish was St. Mary of Mt. Carmel/Blessed Sacrament Parish and remained so for 3 generations.

To quote Tim McGraw... "Someday I hope you get the chance to live like you were dying." Take all the life out of living that you can.

I leave behind many supportive cousins, with special recognition to Rosemary Cimino, Kelly Mercurio-Bianco, and Vinnie Rocci and Lisa M. Cimino; my lifelong friends, Renee, Frosella, and Julie V.; my godchildren, Janae Sylvester, and Robert DeFrank; my father-in-law, Angelo J. Giacobelli (the late Georgianna Kennedy Giacobelli); and the wonderful friends I have amassed during my time on Earth, far too numerous to mention. A special nod goes out to my lifelong supportive Mount Carmel classmates; the amazing girls in the "Coffee Club," who were my rock; my angels, Angela Meola, Emina, Julie (Bucciero) Zegarelli, Carmelita (Cappelino) Matyi, and Bob Hobaica for their care and compassion; and every soul who has touched my life along the way. There were so many.

I will be reunited in heaven with my beloved parents, Fred and Frances Citriniti; my maternal uncle, Ralph Cimino, Jr.; maternal grandparents, Ralph and Congetta (Sacco) Cimino; paternal grandparents, Frank and Victoria (Maio) Citriniti; and many aunts, uncles, cousins, and special friends.

Much appreciation is extended to the entire staff of Wynn Hospital, especially of the Emergency Department, fifth, and eighth floors, as well as the staff of the Utica Rehabilitation and Nursing Facility for their professionalism. They rendered personal attention and care to Connie that was much needed and for which she was so appreciative... and she only reported 1 person!

Visitation will be held on Sunday, January 25, 2026, from 2:00-4:00 p.m. at the Eannace Funeral Home, Inc. 932 South St., corner of Hammond Ave. In lieu of floral offerings, memorial contributions in my honor may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital online at www.stjude.org/donate or the Y.W.C.A.'s Hall House for Domestic Abuse online at www.ywcamv.org/donate; envelopes will also be available at the funeral home. Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend my Mass of Christian Burial and Celebration of Life, which will commence on Monday, January 26, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. at St. Mary of Mt. Carmel/Blessed Sacrament Parish, 648 Jay St. My earthly vessel will be laid to rest alongside my beloved parents in St. Agnes Cemetery.

Her life story was composed by Connie with love, strength, and dignity prior to her passing.

Cemetery Details

St. Agnes Cemetery

601 Arthur Street
Utica, NY 13501
(315) 732-8588

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 25. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Eannace Funeral Home, Inc.
932 South Street
corner of Hammond Ave.
Utica, NY 13501
(315) 724-6714
eannacefh@roadrunner.com
<https://www.eannacefuneralhome.com>

Funeral Service

JAN 26. 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Mary of Mt. Carmel/Blessed Sacrament Parish
648 Jay Street
Utica, NY 13501
(315) 735-1482
<https://www.mountcarmelblessedsacrament.com/>

Tribute Wall

QM

“ I had the honor of being directly involved in Ms. Citriniti's medical care in the end stages of her life. She was one of the bravest patients I've ever met. Her sense of peace and humor in the face of death was astonishingly rare. She joked about getting to wear her perfectly tailored funeral suit. From my conversations with her, she cared deeply about making a lasting and positive impact on those who had the privilege of knowing her. I think, at the end, she at least knew that to be true. She read various messages of support on facebook to me, from students and friends and neighbors. This outpouring meant the world to her. I wish we knew each other under different circumstances and in better health. She was truly a remarkable woman.

Quang Huynh, MD

Quang Huynh, MD - February 11 at 11:20 AM

RT

“ Connie, my forever friend. So many wonderful memories... from kindergarten through all the stages of our lives. Like sisters, we shared a special bond that will remain in my heart for always. We both knew how blessed we were to have God in our lives, and I know you are now at peace with Him and your family. I will miss you, my forever friend, until we meet again.
Roseann T (Frozella)

Roseann Tutino - January 24 at 09:51 PM

LS

“ *She was a great teacher she will be missed* ”



Leona smith - January 22 at 10:58 PM

JD

“ *Rest in eternal paradise* ”



Julie DiPierro - January 21 at 10:56 PM

ML

“ *Michelle Leone lit a candle in memory of Concetta Jude "Connie" Citriniti* ”



Michelle Leone - January 21 at 02:44 PM

DS

“ *Dineen Sardelli-Nemeyer lit a candle in memory of Concetta Jude "Connie" Citriniti* ”



Dineen Sardelli-Nemeyer - January 21 at 06:50 AM

GO

“ Gary Ollerenshaw lit a candle in memory of Concetta Jude "Connie" Citriniti



Gary Ollerenshaw - January 20 at 09:06 PM

TZ

“ We became friends thru Facebook. You are an inspiration to everyone. Your battle is over and God will take you into his Kingdom and your soul will rest in peace. 💔💔💔🙏🙏

Terry Zangrilli - January 20 at 08:16 PM

SR

“ Salimah A Rahman lit a candle in memory of Concetta Jude "Connie" Citriniti



Salimah A Rahman - January 20 at 06:16 PM

BO

“*Connie, we've known each other for many years, but in the last several years, I've really got to know you. We were raised from the same roots, Mt Carmel, and eventhough I was a few years older than you we were blessed. I'll always remember walking up Mohawk St and saying hello to your mother and you.*

Our faith was instilled in us during our early years. Our mothers were our rock like St Peter was. The past several years, you've been a big part of my support team, and I tried to be the same for you. It's hard to think that you won't be on the other side of a chat, but I know you'll be in a better place. I can picture Jesus standing there with His arms open and saying, "You've done great my child".

For the rest of my Christmases, when I put the ornaments on the tree, I'll smile as I put the ones you've sent me over time on my tree.

I will not say goodbye, but instead, I'll just say I'll see you on the other side with a big smile on your face. May your soul RIP. I'm sure you have had a special time reuniting with your family. If you see my parents/David give them a big hug for me. Love Bobby O ☐ 💜💜





Bobby Ollerenshaw - January 20 at 10:42 AM

BO

“*Connie, we've known each other for many years, but in the last several years, I've really got to know you. We are raised from the same roots, Mt Carmel, and eventhough I was a few years older than you we were blessed. I'll always remember walking up Mohawk St and saying hello to your mother and you.*

Our faith was instilled in us during our early years. Our mothers were our rock like St Peter was. The past several years, you've been a big part of my support team, and I tried to be the same for you. It's hard to think that you won't be on the other side of a chat soon, but I know you'll be in a better place. I can picture Jesus standing there with His arms open and saying, "You've done great my child".

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*I will not say goodbye, but instead, I'll just say I'll see you on the other side with a big smile on your face. May your soul RIP. I'm sure you have had a special time runtime with your family. If you see my parents/David give them a big hug for me. Love Bobby O. 
*

Bobby Ollerenshaw - January 20 at 10:24 AM

JS

“ My FB post says it all... I will re-post here for posterity.
Today we said goodbye to Connie Citriniti from cheer captain to special ed teacher, all at the same Proctor High that shaped her. I watched as she came of age and we came of age with her. She was anchor on the cheer squad back in the eighties, bottom girl in every lift, top voice in every cheer...strongest one out there. The embodiment of school spirit, the quintessential, Proctor Panther. Connie would return to her beloved Campus in East Utica as a teacher. All the while serving as a moral compass for all who were fortunate enough to be engaged by her. East Utica lost its rhythm over time... she felt that deeply. But she never let go of who we used to be. She showed nothing but courage in so many aspects of her life where many of us wouldn't be anywhere near as dignified. And when it got too heavy, she didn't rage. She bowed out gently, like she always bowed us in for prayer. Still think she's on that line, grinning, holding everyone upright. I miss you, Connie. Proctor's still yours. And you're right, as we said so many times in a recent years, it could never be the same, but we were so lucky to have what we had.

Jerry Stucchi - January 19 at 11:07 PM

SM

“ She was the best teacher I've ever had. 💔🙏
🌸



Samantha McDonald - January 19 at 06:32 PM

LF

“ *Lynette Franco lit a candle in memory of Concetta Jude "Connie" Citriniti*



Lynette Franco - January 19 at 05:10 PM

JS

“ *Oh my friend, your obituary was beautifully written as I knew it would be. As much as I know you are in the presence of our Lord and Savior as well as your beloved family, I still can't believe it's real. So many beautiful memories shared and tears cried throughout the years. From crazy high school escapades to almost being sister in laws to baptizing my youngest daughter Janae who loved you immensely, I will never forget you. Please give my love to my parents who loved you like their own. Until we meet again Rest In Peace. Julie Vis.*

Julieann Visingardi Sylvester - January 19 at 02:33 PM

GK

My beautiful cousin-in-law and dear friend. I will miss you dearly, even though I know you are where you were always meant to be, with your wonderful parents and our Lord Jesus Christ. I'm sure those pearly gates were open wide for your arrival, I hope they were bathed in purple light! Until we meet again, know how much you were loved and how knowing you has made so many lives better, mine included.

Gina Kerr - January 19 at 03:45 PM

SM

*I wouldn't know where to start or where to end and some tales are best untold..lol
I'm going to miss the Coffee Club and our telephone sidebars and pur shared irreverent humor. So I will miss your hearty laugh. We'll catch up later! Susan Murray*

Susan Murray - January 19 at 03:49 PM

LB

I'm sad to read about your passing. I will miss seeing your words of wisdom every week. You were a wonderful role model and mentor to so many young educators and students during your career. May you rest peacefully.

Lisa Balzano - January 19 at 03:59 PM

AA

I am so sorry to hear of Connie's passing., we went to Proctor high school together, and for members of the cheerleading squad. He had so many great times! Her smile and laugh or infectious. May she rest in peace. Angela Azzarito

angela azzarito - January 19 at 08:23 PM