



Mrs. Cornelia "Connie" (Nelson) Gaetano

June 21, 1926 - January 23, 2012

Mrs. Cornelia "Connie" (Nelson) Gaetano, age 85, of Utica, passed away unexpectedly and peacefully on Monday, January 23, 2012 in the comfort of her home with the support of her family.

Cornelia was born in Utica on June 21, 1926, the daughter of the late Cornelia (Gaffney) Nelson. Raised and educated locally, she was a graduate of T.R. Proctor High School. On May 25, 1946 she married Charles A. Gaetano; they celebrated 65 years as one heart united by strength from each other's passions. They were so much in love, even to the very moment of her passing.

In 1960, Connie and Chuck established the Charles A. Gaetano Construction Corporation. As a team totally committed to their endeavors, they offered their expertise and generosity to each project. They were the builders of many of the area's premier industrial, educational, and healthcare facilities. Connie proudly served the company as Secretary/Treasurer.

Connie was a multifaceted individual. As a wife, she supported her husband in their personal and professional endeavors, as well as being the love of his life. As a mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, she was a loving matriarch and had an innate understanding of each family member's needs, and she will be remembered for her fairness and love shown to all of them. Proud of her Irish heritage, you never saw Connie without a sparkle in her eye, a smile on her face, and laughter in her heart. Her life was guided by her wisdom and faith, always reflecting back upon the basis of her beliefs. Those who knew

and loved her will agree that “the likes of this wondrous woman will not be able to be duplicated”. She showed modesty and humility in spite of the graces and blessings that she worked for in life. She was tastefully stylish, graced with an indomitable spirit, and had a positive approach to adversities. Connie’s humanitarian and civic contributions will live on in her legacy. A devoted community leader, her many acts of charity were done without fanfare or the need for praise; although she was so proud of being the first recipient of the Business Woman of the Year Award in 1980. She was a woman who possessed much grace, dignity, reverence, and vitality. Connie loved her faith which was manifested in the ways she invested her time, talent, and treasure. Connie nurtured her involvements with her personal prayer and was spiritually nourished at daily Mass, many times joining the faith community at St. Joseph Nursing Home where she had a great love for the staff and residents. Her civic affiliations were numerous. She was a current board member of Sunset Woods, member of Ft. Schuyler Club and Yahnundasis Country Club, very actively involved on the Board of Directors at the St. Joseph Nursing Home, and member of the Board of Directors for the Good News Foundation. Connie supported her parish family of St. Anthony & St. Agnes Church in a variety of ways. Some of her involvements included her dedicated attendance at the Annual 13 Tuesday Novena in preparation for the Feast of St. Anthony; her staunch support of the St. Cosmos & Damian Celebration, participating spiritually, contributing financially, and volunteering at the festival events; and her membership on several communities for Parish Renewal. On a Diocesan level, Connie was instrumental for decades with her presence and presents. When she was called upon to consider ways of promoting the mission of the Church, before the caller had finished the request, she was known to respond with a heartfelt “YES”. Connie and her husband received a Diocesan Level Award from two Bishops as they were named Knights & Ladies of the Holy Sepulchre, an award for embracing the virtue of charity and leading a Christian life. In addition, Connie was a member of many groups including Board Chair of Catholic Charities in Utica, member of the Diocesan Board of

Catholic Charities, 1st Chairwoman of the Diocesan Hope Appeal, and Board Member of the Heritage Campaign to carry on the mission of the Syracuse Diocese. In the broader faith community, Connie was a supporter of the mission of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet as a member of the Development Office Advisory committee. Mrs. Gaetano truly lived her faith in every aspect of her life.

Connie is survived by her beloved husband, Charles; her sons, daughters, and daughters-in-law, William C. and Cecelia Gaetano of Schuyler, Brian and Sandy Gaetano of New Hartford, Charles N. and Vita Gaetano of Barneveld, Mary Judith Gaetano of Clinton, Colleen Gaetano of NY City, and Greg "Tucker" Gaetano and Michelle Marino of Schuyler; her grandchildren, Anthony and Meagan Gaetano, Dr. William Gaetano and Mary Rose Gaetano; Erica and Chris LoRusso, and Brittany Gaetano; Heather Gaetano, Charles A. Gaetano II, Matthew Gaetano, and Elizabeth Gaetano; and her great-grandchildren, Olivia, Francesca, Charles A. III, Anthony, Jr., and Rocco. She also leaves her 2 nieces, Brenda A. Baker, and Donna Jones; and her sister-in-law, Rose M. Jones. She was blessed with many loyal, dear, and entrusted friends. She was predeceased by her brothers, Walter Nelson, and Neal Nelson; her sisters and brother-in-law, Rosemary and Robert J. Baker, and Mary Agnes Finn; her nephew, Robert J. Baker; and her in-laws, Antonio and Congetta Gaetano, Frank and Angela Gaetano, Moelwyn Jones, and Julia Gaetano.

Visitation will be held Thursday from 4:00-8:00 at the Eannace Funeral Home, Inc., 932 South St., corner of Hammond Ave. The family will remain until all visitors have been seen. Memorial contributions in her honor may be considered to the St. Joseph Nursing Home to support the 40th Anniversary Fund which she held dear to her heart, the Utica College Charles A. Gaetano Scholarship Fund, or the Central Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired; envelopes will be available at the funeral home. Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend Connie's funeral service and

Celebration of Life which will commence on Friday morning at 11:00 a.m. at St. Anthony & St. Agnes Church where her Mass of Christian Burial will be offered by her Pastor, Rev. Anthony P. LaFache. Entombment will take place in the family's private Mausoleum in St. Agnes Cemetery at their convenience.

Cemetery Details

St. Agnes Cemetery

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

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN **26**. 4:00 PM - 8:00 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>

Tribute Wall



“ Eannace Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Mrs. Cornelia "Connie" (Nelson) Gaetano



Eannace Funeral Home, Inc. - January 23, 2012 at 12:00 AM

GC

“ I love you Big Red and forever will!
You made everyone in your life always smile. You always have truly been both beautiful inside and out and you forever will be. “Beyond” an Amazing women! You will remain FOREVER here with us – as Your contagious smile, your wonderful wit, your helping spirit will be Forever apart of those who know and love you! “George” – I love “Big Red” and she knows it...Sending my love to you and her and all the family forever, Gracie (digger too) xox

Grace Capra - February 27, 2012 at 12:08 PM

MC

“ I'm very sorry to hear about Connies' passing. My mother treasured the friendship they had and I certainly have fond memories of her also. She'll be missed by many.

Mike Costa

Mike Costa - February 01, 2012 at 07:22 AM

MF

“ *Billy and Family. I was so sorry to hear about your mom's passing. I remember her from the Notre Dame/UCA days. She was such a lovely, beautiful woman with a heart of gold. You are in my thoughts and prayers.*

Mary Ann Motto Furtek

Mary Ann Motto Furtek - January 29, 2012 at 01:28 PM

EW

“ *Mister Gaetano,Bill,Brian,and Family,
Your wfe/Mother was always a very pleasant lady.Condolences on your loss.*

Butch Waszkiewicz

Ed Butch Waszkiewicz - January 28, 2012 at 08:39 AM

MM

“ *Maria Marino lit a candle in memory of Mrs.
Cornelia "Connie" (Nelson) Gaetano*



maria marino - January 26, 2012 at 09:25 PM

MM

Mrs G....you are and always will be...a special lady to me!! May your soul rest in peace...love you always Xoxo

maria marino - January 26, 2012 at 09:28 PM

RJ

“ *My Condolences to the Gaetano Family. I got to know Mrs Gaetano and family at the restaurant where i work at, when she and her family would come in for dinner frequently. Mrs Gaetano always had a smile and sincere interest in how i was doing at work or my daily life, as did her family. I will miss her . I will always remember her smile and spirit.*

Richard G Parry Jr - January 26, 2012 at 08:45 PM

JC

“ *Dear Mr. Gaetano and Family:
Our heartfelt sympathy to you and your beautiful family for the loss of your beloved wife. She truly was one of a kind. She would light up a room with her warmth and her beautiful smile. God bless all of you during this most difficult time.*
Fred and Jeanne Castronovo & Family

Jeanne Castronovo - January 26, 2012 at 08:41 PM

PG

“ *I can't tell you how saddened I was to hear about my godmother's passing. Although it's been many years since we've seen you all in person, my deepest sympathies go out to the entire Gaetano family.*
Paul Graziano

Paul Graziano - January 26, 2012 at 04:22 PM

GA

“ Dear Chuck and family,
I was so sorry to learn the sad news about Connie. My thoughts and prayers are with all of you.
Most sincerely,
Anna Giacobbe

Giacobbe Anna - January 26, 2012 at 11:41 AM

WC

“ Dear Charlie,
Shock and sorrow was visited on us upon hearing of Connie's passing from body to spirit.
Your dear Connie and family mother has gone forth where silence needs no speech. she is safe habored beyond all sorrows reach, beyond the mists of human tears. Connie leaves you with the echo of her loveliness.

Janet and Bill Chanatry

William Chanatry - January 26, 2012 at 11:04 AM

JJ

“ Mrs G will be remembered as wonderful women , Her beautiful smile could only be matched by her beautiful personality and gentle spirit. She treated everyone she met with respect from those she did business with to all of those who were employeed by her and Charlie in their business . She was unselfish and willing to help anyone We feel very blessed to have known this beautiful lady, and she truly was a lady . Our deepest sympathy to the Gaetano family

Dick and Judy Jones

Judy Jones - January 26, 2012 at 09:02 AM

KM

“ *Katryn Mousaw lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Cornelia "Connie" (Nelson) Gaetano*



Katryn Mousaw - January 26, 2012 at 07:48 AM

KM

“ *OUr thoughts and prayers are with the family Richard W Mousaw and family*

Katryn Mousaw - January 26, 2012 at 07:48 AM

RS

“ *Dearest Mary Judith and the Gaetano Family: My thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time. Connie was the Saint Agnes "Mom", her kindness when I was at her house,just a great lady and always modest. I would see her on Sundays at the Italian bakery, always beautiful, sweet and warm. Thinking of all of you. Love from: Roseann Miliellie Starsiak and Michele Mliellie Enright*

Roseann Starsiak - January 26, 2012 at 07:40 AM

LS

“ *My condolences and prayers to the whole family....*

Larry Schecter

larry schecter - January 25, 2012 at 09:46 PM

JT

“ *Joanne Trevisani-Donaruma lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Cornelia "Connie" (Nelson) Gaetano*



Joanne Trevisani-Donaruma - January 25, 2012 at 09:44 PM

JT

Mary Judith and all of the Gaetano Family: My memories of the days at St Agnes School are precious. I especially remember the many times I visited your home on Redfield St and the many sleep-overs we had. Connie was a beautiful woman and will be remembered for her warm personality. My thoughts and prayers are with you at this difficult time.

Joanne Trevisani-Donaruma - January 25, 2012 at 09:52 PM

LM

“ *Mr Gaetano and Family. I am so sorry to hear of the passing of your wife and mother. I met you and Mrs. Gaetano while I was working with your late sister-in-law at Proctor High School during election time. Each time I saw her she always had a beautiful smile and was so nice. I would always look forward to both of you coming in to vote. I would always see her at St. Anthony's & St. Agnes Church usually on Saturday night for 4:00 mass. She was a lovely person. I know that she will be truly missed. With Deepest Condolences, Lorrie Moyer*

Lorrie Moyer - January 25, 2012 at 09:35 PM

KD

“ *Karen A. Donovan lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Cornelia "Connie" (Nelson) Gaetano*



Karen A. Donovan - January 25, 2012 at 09:27 PM



I met Connie when my mom, was a resident at the home. We would see her at mass often. A very pretty, pleasant, caring woman. She told me that her daughter worked for Estee Lauder in the City and was always sending her lots of stuff. Too much...And she did not know what to do with it all. I told her about Evelyn's House affiliated with Our Lady of Lourdes. She called me and told me she brought the makeup to the girls there and was so excited....Her life was all about giving and she loved her God. She will me missed by many..Remember what she taught you about life and all the gifts she has left behind: love, friendship, family and so much more...

Karen Donovan - January 25, 2012 at 09:44 PM

EP

“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with each and every one of you. Craig and I have nothing but loving memories of Connie, to many to begin to list. Our hearts are so very sad. That being said, her beautiful smile, spirit and faith reaffirm that there are angels here on earth. It was an honor to have known her.*

Craig & Edie Pugh

Edie Pugh - January 25, 2012 at 08:13 PM

CS

“ *I think it's the general consensus that the world was a better place with Connie Gaetano in it.*

My sympathies to you and your family Chuck. I know that you are filled with many many memories and faith that will see you through.

Cynthia S'Doia

Cynthia S'Doia - January 25, 2012 at 07:57 PM

DL

dear liz and family my thoughts and prayers are with all of you at this time. dale

dale lynch - January 26, 2012 at 04:30 AM

MJ

“ *Tucker & Colleen,
We're so sorry to hear about your mom's passing. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your entire family.
Mark & Pam Johnson*

Mark & Pam Johnson - January 25, 2012 at 06:22 PM

VC

“ *Victoria Festine Ciccone lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Cornelia "Connie" (Nelson) Gaetano*



Victoria Festine Ciccone - January 25, 2012 at 06:02 PM

FW

“ *FIORA GRANDINETTA WILSON lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Cornelia "Connie" (Nelson) Gaetano*



FIORA GRANDINETTA WILSON - January 25, 2012 at 05:59 PM



“ I haven't lived in the Utica area for over 20 years but one person I'll never forget is Connie. My mom who died a year ago was from the de Sales community downtown Utica for years until she decided to send my siblings and I to St. Agnes closer to our home in East Utica during the 1960s and that's where we met the Gaetano family. She and Chuck were good to my twin brother when he was first injured in the 1970s. She was also one of the first, if not the first one, to receive holy communion in her hands when the Church first allowed it. She was a forward thinker. She was always supportive of Pop Warner Football when I and my friends would show up @ her door selling items. Also, Chuck's first construction project was @ my uncle's restaurant in Oriskany, the beautiful Trinkaus Manor. They built the motel. She was in a family photo from that era and my cousin wanted to know who Connie was so I told him and he couldn't believe it was her! She was very young and beautiful and always very poised, a true lady in every sense of the word. I'll miss her, everyone who came in contact will miss her and most of all, her husband and wonderful children will miss her immensely. My heart and prayers go out to all of Connie's family. My own mother used to say; when a loved one dies they're another one to pray to. How true.

Sincerely,

Gerald Plante/Stockade District, Schenectady, NY

Gerald Plante - January 25, 2012 at 03:58 PM

RK

“ I am sorry for your loss. I am sure she will be missed.

Rob Korrie

Rob Korrie - January 25, 2012 at 03:26 PM

BM

“ *BOB & ROSEMARY MCELWAIN lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Cornelia "Connie" (Nelson) Gaetano*



BOB & ROSEMARY MCELWAIN - January 25, 2012 at 03:02 PM

CK

So sorry to hear of Connie's passing. We will miss chatting with her at Michael T's on Fridays. Prayers to the family. Joe & Cynthia Kowalczyk

Cynthia Kowalczyk - January 25, 2012 at 06:41 PM

AA

“ *I remember Mrs. Gaetano from the Charlestown days. One of the classiest ladies EVER! May she Rest in Peace. Anna Jones Ambrose*

Anna Jones Ambrose - January 25, 2012 at 02:58 PM

CP

“ *Colleen, I am very sorry to read your Mother passed away. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family at this difficult time. Cathy (Scicchitano) Preacher*



Cathy (Scicchitano) Preacher - January 25, 2012 at 02:36 PM

BH

“ Bruce & Tracey Harris lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Cornelia "Connie" (Nelson) Gaetano



Bruce & Tracey harris - January 25, 2012 at 01:10 PM

MP

“ Mr And Mrs T Powers lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Cornelia "Connie" (Nelson) Gaetano



Mr and Mrs T powers - January 25, 2012 at 11:23 AM

PM

“ If the way Colleen spoke of her wonderful Mom was any indication, then Mrs. Gaetano was surely an extremely special woman, and will be missed by the many whose lives she touched. All of us here send our best wishes and prayers for peace for your family. Paul Mitchell and Mar Jennings

Paul Mitchell - January 25, 2012 at 11:17 AM

JP

“ Mr. Gaetano and all the Gaetano family:

I met Mrs. Gaetano just a couple of times. I was so taken by her warmth, kindness and wonderful personality. She made you feel good just being around her.

My very sincere and heartfelt condolences.

John Pitarresi - January 25, 2012 at 10:59 AM

FB

“ *Frances Blazer lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Cornelia "Connie" (Nelson) Gaetano*



Frances Blazer - January 25, 2012 at 10:49 AM

FB

Mr. G., My thoughts are with you and your family on the loss of your best friend and sweetheart.

Frances Blazer - January 25, 2012 at 10:52 AM

LS

“ *So Sorry for your loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with all of you.*



Lloyd and Andrea Schor - January 25, 2012 at 10:08 AM

WC

“ *Wendy Hickey Caliguire lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Cornelia "Connie" (Nelson) Gaetano*



Wendy Hickey Caliguire - January 25, 2012 at 09:25 AM



“ *In the Love of God, may your family find strength and peace. In the prayers of friends, may your family find comfort and love.*
David & Gina Haley, Lake Delta, New York

David Haley - January 25, 2012 at 07:46 AM



“ *To the Gaetano Family: I was saddened to hear of Connie's death. She was a wonderful person and someone that I always looked up to. I have such fond memories of her growing up. My mom & I used to go to her house for coffee - I used to love going there! She was such a great hostess. My prayers are with you.*

Becky (Simbari)Almstead

Becky (Simbari)Almstead - January 25, 2012 at 07:42 AM



“ *Carol Polimino sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Cornelia "Connie" (Nelson) Gaetano*



Carol Polimino - January 25, 2012 at 07:26 AM



*Dear Chuck and Family,
We were shocked and saddened to hear of Connies death. She was such a wonderful friend to my Mom & Dad. I'm sure she will be greatly missed. You are in our thoughts and prayers.*
Carol & Patsy Polimino

Carol Polimino - January 25, 2012 at 07:28 AM

LO

“ Uncle Chuck and family,

I was so shocked to hear of Aunt Connie's passing. She will be sorely missed. My thoughts and prayers go out to all of you.

Lyn (Fontaine) Oyer, Clifton Park, NY

Lynette (Fontaine) Oyer - January 25, 2012 at 07:19 AM

DR

“ Diane Fiorentino Robertello lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Cornelia "Connie" (Nelson) Gaetano



Diane Fiorentino Robertello - January 25, 2012 at 07:15 AM

DR

Mrs. Gaetano was a beautiful woman inside and out. She was very much part of our family (Larry Fiorentino), and I know she will be greatly missed by her family. My most recent memory is of her just this past July when I saw her wheeling in residents at the St. Joseph Nursing Home in and out of mass, where she volunteered countless hours. God bless her and the Gaetano family. ~ Diane (Fiorentino) and Dan Robertello

Diane Fiorentino Robertello - January 25, 2012 at 07:17 AM

TF

“ Tim & Colleen Moylan Family lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Cornelia "Connie" (Nelson) Gaetano



Tim & Colleen Moylan Family - January 25, 2012 at 06:52 AM

CS

“ thoughts and prayers to the family...

christine sike - January 25, 2012 at 06:28 AM

AD

“ Gaetano Family,
We are so very sorry for your loss....She was a very loved lady and will be missed by many. Our thoughts and prayers go out to your entire family. May she rest with the angels now. Sincerely, Pete and Amanda DiNardo

amanda dinardo - January 25, 2012 at 06:21 AM

AG

“ 2 files added to the album New Album Name



Anthony & Meagan Gaetano - January 24, 2012 at 09:15 PM

CM

“ Colleen Moccaldi Morris lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Cornelia "Connie" (Nelson) Gaetano



Colleen Moccaldi Morris - January 24, 2012 at 08:52 PM

DJ

“ *Mrs. G, was an amazing lady. Always kind and compassionate. She will be greatly missed.*



Donna and David Jones - January 24, 2012 at 08:43 PM

SN

“ *Connie was an exceptional woman in every way: so warm and compassionate, so generous and thoughtful; so proud of her family. She left a beautiful mark in our world by her very presence and by her beautiful family whom she loved so dearly. Heaven is very lucky to have Connie among all the saints. Mr. Gaetano, Colleen, Greg and all the Gaetanos, be assured of my prayers now and in the days to come. I am honored to have known Connie.*

Sister Mary Rose Noonan, Latham, NY - January 24, 2012 at 06:15 PM

KC

“ *Karen Constabile lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Cornelia "Connie" (Nelson) Gaetano*



Karen Constabile - January 24, 2012 at 05:13 PM

MM

“ Mrs. G will be sorely missed, she always had a smile, kind word and was an inspiration to all. A lady through and through! My condolences to the whole family - I know that she will be missed greatly!
love,
Michelle Manning



Michelle Manning - January 24, 2012 at 04:27 PM

JG

“ I am so sad to hear about the passing of ONE of my favorite people in the world-never ever have I met a more pleasant and lovely women in my life-she will be deeply missed and my heart goes out to her loving family-my thoughts and prayers are with all of you
Love,
Judy Gorea



Judith a Gorea - January 24, 2012 at 03:43 PM

CR

“ Continental Roofing lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Cornelia "Connie" (Nelson) Gaetano



Continental Roofing - January 24, 2012 at 02:05 PM

CP

“ Continental Roofing-Anne And Paul lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Cornelia "Connie" (Nelson) Gaetano



Continental Roofing-Anne and Paul - January 24, 2012 at 02:03 PM

JY

Connie Gaetano was a beautiful woman ... inside and out, with a huge heart and zest for life.

Her warmth and loving nature will be with me forever.

Joan E. Yale

Joan E. Yale - January 24, 2012 at 07:36 PM