



## Miss Deborah "Debbie" Poccia

September 26, 1955 - February 16, 2021

UTICA - Miss Deborah "Debbie" Poccia, age 65, passed away on Tuesday, February 16, 2021 in the comfort and dignity of her home with those she loved most in her heart.

Born in Utica on September 26, 1955, Deborah was the daughter of Anthony C. "Tony" Poccia and the late Sara (Internicola) Poccia. A lifelong Utica resident, Debbie attended Brandegees School Special Education, Washington School Special Education, and the ARC Oneida-Lewis. Years ago, Debbie's parents, Tony and Sara, were very instrumental in building the foundation of The Arc. Debbie was an original member of the Arnold Avenue Day Services program when it opened in May 1981. In 1996, Debbie moved out of her parents' home and joined the residential program at Brookside Ave.

Debbie enjoyed the company of her housemates and looked forward to summer outings such as watching fireworks, attending parades, playing mini-golf, sitting on the porch in the sun, or just going out for a leisurely drive. But attention and coffee were at the top of her list! Debbie loved Lake George and would vacation there every year. She took pride in her home and liked to help around the house as she was able.

Debbie's favorite time was visiting with her father, Tony, and going to church with him. She was the true definition of being a "daddy's girl". She was his baby and he was her world. The love was immeasurable! She was a lovable person and a charming young lady affectionately called Po-Po. Debbie had the most beautiful smile and sparkling brown eyes! Her eyes showed the

sweetness in her as well as her feisty ways. She had a zest for life and a spunky personality. She was easy to love as she gave love unconditionally. Debbie loved soft, warm hugs. She was just fun to be around and loved to joke with people. She loved to tease in a fun way as you would always get a laugh from her as she was doing it, and her laugh was contagious! She will be missed by so many people, and anyone who knew Debbie is thankful for their time with her.

Debbie is survived by her father, Anthony C. "Tony" Poccia and special friend Jean Harlow; Jean's son, Timothy (Cindy) Wandle; aunts and uncle, Mary Della Galla, and Vita and Richard Gonyea; cousins, Kathy and Michael Devine, John Poccia Jr., and Silvio Zinicola; special friend Lori Tabor and family; and her housemates at Brookside. She was predeceased by her mother, Sara; maternal grandparents, Nicolas and Rose Internicola; paternal grandparents, Antonio and Alvera Poccia; aunts and uncles, Nancy and Silvio Zinicola, Anthony Della Galla, John and Irene Poccia, Joseph and Judith Internicola, and Nicolas Internicola, Jr.

Tony would like to extend his heartfelt thanks to everyone of the ARC for their support, care, and family-like concerns, including Caroline Bywater, Nichole Marlenga, Aubrey Rys, Anne DeCola, Danielle Saunders, Mikayla Ruskey, Denise VanGerner, Kristen Fitzgerald, Rosalind Davis, Nithsana Dongsavanh, Janice Nolander, and all staff that have cared for Debbie throughout the years both at her home and day program. Thank you to the personnel of Hospice & Palliative Care for their compassion and support for Debbie and her father. A special thank you to Rev. Christine Williams-Belt and the parishioners of Grace Church for all the love that was given to Debbie over the years; and Deacon Reverend William R. Dischiavo of St. Anthony & St. Agnes Church for coming to the house and praying with Debbie.

Thank you, Debbie for teaching us what the true meaning of life is about! We love and miss you! Fly high Po-Po, until we meet again.

Visitation will held Tuesday morning, February 23, 2021 from 10:45-11:45 at St. Anthony & St. Agnes Church. Debbie's funeral service and Celebration of

Life will commence on Tuesday, February 23, 2021 at 12:00 noon immediately upon conclusion of visitation at the church where her Mass of Christian Burial will be offered. Face masks covering your nose and mouth are required and social distancing and contact tracing will be implemented. In lieu of flowers, donations in Debbie's name may be directed to the ARC Oneida-Lewis Chapter, online at <https://www.thearc.org> or by mail to 245 Genesee St., Utica, NY 13501. Envelopes will also be available at the church. Entombment will take place in Calvary Cemetery Mausoleum.

During this time of social distancing that we are all experiencing, please take a moment to connect with Debbie's family through the "Memories" section of her obituary. Our prayers go out to all as a sign of our continued support.

# Cemetery Details

## Calvary Mausoleum

2407 Oneida Street  
Utica, Ny

# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB **23**. 10:45 AM - 11:45 AM (ET)

St. Anthony & St. Agnes Church  
422 Tilden Ave.  
Utica, NY 13501  
(315) 732-1177  
<https://www.stanthonystagnes.com/>

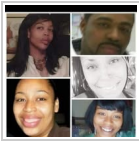
# Tribute Wall

JH

“ *Jeremy Hayes lit a candle in memory of Miss Deborah "Debbie" Poccia*



Jeremy Hayes - March 23, 2021 at 09:49 AM



“ *Poccia Jim Winston Sr. wanted to offer his condolences to you and your family. So sorry for your loss.*



Dawn Winston - March 02, 2021 at 09:50 PM

BM

“ *Tony, we are so sorry to learn of your daughter's passing. Heaven has gained another angel. We will keep you in our prayers.*

*Buddy and Mary Maunz*

Buddy and Mary Maunz - February 25, 2021 at 12:27 PM

KS

“ *Dear Tony  
My deepest sympathy on the loss of your sweet daughter. I ran the home care and family support service many years ago and always enjoyed my visits with the both of you  
Kathy Sanger*

kathy sanger - February 25, 2021 at 10:37 AM

DB

“ So sorry for your loss Tony. I have so many fond memories of Debbie, she was full of personality! Deb always looked forward to seeing her daddy on Sundays for church and that cup of coffee at Mc Donalds! She will forever be cherished by many. May you find comfort in knowing that Debbie is now with her mom in the peaceful gardens of Heaven.

*Diane Black*

---

**diane r black** - February 24, 2021 at 08:45 AM

BF

“ Tony  
Saddened by your loss of Debbie. You have our deepest sympathy. Remembering her visits to the Records Division and her welcomed hugs. Left with the Red Books. So special. Now God has another angel. May she rest in peace with Sarah.

*Bob & Jodi Flo*

---

**Bob Flo** - February 23, 2021 at 04:13 PM

RF

“ Tony, my wife and I are deeply saddened for your loss and our thoughts and prayers go out to you. While I didn't know your daughter, the posted photos reflect a beautiful and happy soul that I know was brought about by such a strong and an amazing father. God bless you Tony.

*Ron Fontaine*

---

**Ron Fontaine** - February 23, 2021 at 07:25 AM

GL

“ Tony, We are so sorry for the loss of your beloved Debbie. I will always remember her beautiful smile. Dad loved her. Our thoughts and prayers are with you. Gina LaBella and family

---

**Gina LaBella** - February 22, 2021 at 10:51 PM

BR

“ Tony,  
We are so very sorry to hear of the passing of your daughter. Our thoughts and prayers are with you. May she rest in peace.  
With sincere sympathy,  
Bill & AnnMarie Ruth

---

**Bill Ruth** - February 22, 2021 at 08:02 PM

BN

“ Tony -we are so sorry to hear about Debbie. Please know that you are in our thoughts and prayers!! Sal, Barb and Sydney Nicolette

---

**Barbara Nicolette** - February 22, 2021 at 06:19 PM



“ Tony  
My deepest condolences. I will never forget Debbie's smile and contagious laugh. She was an amazing person. Sending you love and keeping you in my prayers  
Sincerely  
Franca Chirico Armstrong

---

**Franca Chirico Armstrong** - February 21, 2021 at 04:36 PM

NS

“ 3 files added to the album Family photos



Nina Smith - February 21, 2021 at 01:44 PM

NS

*These photos were found in Debbie's Aunt Nancy's things. Aunt Na-na loved Debbie with her whole heart. I know they are together again having a cup of coffee. -Nina*

Nina Smith - February 21, 2021 at 01:46 PM

CS

“ Awe debbie we will miss you ❤️



Chelsea Snyder - February 21, 2021 at 01:40 PM

GF

*Tony sorry to see she passed ,God Bless!*

Gary Fava - February 21, 2021 at 08:13 PM

TC

“ *Tony so sorry for your loss. My prayers go out to you and your family. Terry Carone.*

terry carone - February 21, 2021 at 12:52 PM

DM

“ Tony, so sorry for the loss of your precious daughter. My thoughts and prayers are with you.



---

**Don Marino** - February 21, 2021 at 12:29 PM

LF

“ Love The Zinicolos -Silvio, Nina, Todd, and Family purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Miss Deborah "Debbie" Poccia.



---

**Love The Zinicolos -Silvio, Nina, Todd, and Family** - February 21, 2021 at 12:21 PM

DG

“ Dear Uncle Junior, I am beyond sorry to hear of the loss of Debbie. She was such a special girl and I feel truly blessed to have known her and had her as such a loving cousin. Her light will never dim as she shines bright from above! Your cousin Denise loves you debbie. Rest in peace sweet girl!

---

**Denise Gonyea** - February 21, 2021 at 11:55 AM

NP

“ Tony,  
So sorry for you loss of your daughter Debbie, remember her well,  
always a smile on her face, and I can still see her running to you  
with open arms and you hugging her. My heartfelt sympathy and  
prayers, my Debbie Rest In Peace, I am sure she is hugging Sarah  
to Pieces.  
Nick Parrotta

---

**Nick Parrotta** - February 21, 2021 at 10:43 AM

FS

“ Tony, very sorry for your loss. May Debbie Rest In Peace. ❤️🙏

---

**Francine Sansone** - February 21, 2021 at 10:22 AM

TW

“ Tony, we are so sorry to learn about Debbie. There's not much we  
can say at this time, but we want you to know that our prayers and  
thoughts are with you and that old friends are sharing you sorrow.  
We have many great memories of our times with you, Sara and  
Debbie that we will cherish forever. Please take care of yourself and  
accept our deepest sympathy.

---

**Tom & Rosemary Walker** - February 21, 2021 at 07:29 AM

RO

“ MR. Poccia,  
*I'm so sorry to hear of Debbie's passing. My most vivid memory is of my Mom, and the neighborhood Moms getting together to come to your house and do exercises with Debbie. As I was also a young child at the time and can not recall the details, I believe Hope Longeretta might have been the organizer. I remember Mom coming home and telling us how much she loved Debbie and her beautiful smile. Debbie passed on my Mom's birthday, I know her Mom and all those neighborhood Mom's welcomed her into heaven. May she rest in Peace. Rose Cavo*



---

**Rose OToole** - February 20, 2021 at 06:34 PM

SA

“ Tony....  
*I'm so saddened to hear of Debbie's passing. She was a beautiful, loving soul. She's home now with Sarah and both are sharing eternal life in the light of Jesus' face,*



*God bless you...in my thoughts and continued prayers.*

*Sue Arcuri*

---

**Sue Arcuri** - February 20, 2021 at 05:10 PM

DT

*Tony very sorry to hear about Debbie She was very nice girl and now she will be with her mother my she RIP. David & Joanne Taurisano*

---

**David R Taurisano** - February 21, 2021 at 09:41 AM

FH

*Tony, my sincere condolences on the loss of your daughter. May the Lord bless and keep her.*

*Fran Horgan*

---

**Francis Horgan** - February 21, 2021 at 11:24 AM

BP

*Debbie, I will always think of you. You and my husband had that special cousin bond. Only a year apart, When he walked into the room nobody could get in the way of you two. I watched you grow and looked after you many times for Uncle Junior, always having the "coffee" ready for you. .Love and God Bless, your devoted cousins Beverly Poccia and Antonio Jr.*

---

**Beverly Poccia** - February 21, 2021 at 05:24 PM

NK

*Tony so sorry to hear of your loss. Natalie Kuczek*

---

**natalie kuczek** - February 21, 2021 at 07:17 PM

CH

*Tony, it was great to learn how you were able to be there for Debbie until she went to be with the Lord. Debbie's ability to love and be loved were boundless. I feel that my life has been better since I have enjoyed the time that the three of us have spent together in church. I would like to give you this quote from a poem and I feel it is appropriate for Debbie: Only when you drink from the river of silence shall you indeed sing. And when you have reached the mountain top, then you shall begin to climb.*

*And when the earth shall claim your limbs, then shall you truly dance.*

*It is my hope that she can now truly dance. Chaz Zelows - Grace Church*

---

**Chaz** - February 22, 2021 at 08:21 AM

FN

*Tony:  
I am truly sorry for the loss of your beloved daughter Debbie.  
You were a great father and an inspiration to all.  
God bless you Tony  
Your friend  
Frank Noti*

---

**frank noti** - February 22, 2021 at 10:25 AM

SC

*Tony,  
I am so sorry to hear of the loss of your precious Debbie.  
You will be in my thoughts and prayers during this sad and dark time.  
Sharon Carrow*

---

**Sharon Carrow** - February 22, 2021 at 11:07 AM

TM

*Tony, So sorry to hear of Debbie's passing. I have such fond memories of her from year's past. -Todd Murray*

---

**Todd Murray** - February 22, 2021 at 11:22 AM

JS

*Dearest Friend Tony,  
  
Your service to your country, community, and your love and service to your daughter, Debbie, is perhaps unparalleled.  
  
Well done, our dear friend We're proud to know you.  
  
Joan and John Simpson Feb. 25 2021*

---

**John M Simpson** - February 25, 2021 at 09:21 AM