



## Desirae C. "Rae" Valenzano

July 24, 1971 - April 20, 2016

Desirae C. "Rae" Valenzano, age 44, of Whitesboro, passed away on Wednesday, April 20, 2016.

Born in New Hartford on July 24, 1971, Desirae was the daughter of Judith (Riley) Valenzano-Ritzel and the late Donald A. Valenzano. She attended and graduated from New Hartford schools. She furthered her education at the Utica School of Commerce where she graduated with honors.

Desirae was employed by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York in Oriskany for many years. Her superb hand-eye coordination, and amazing photographic memory enhanced her life and career. Desirae was charming, witty, and non-judgmental. She was a compassionate soul who would do anything for someone in need. She also had a passion and an open heart for all animals. She rescued cats, often taking them to her own home, and at one time, she was a mom to 12 fortunate felines; she truly was a "cat whisperer". Desirae respected all of God's creatures, and when necessary, escorted them to a safe sanctuary.

A trusting and fun-loving aunt, Desirae had a close relationship with her nieces and nephews and she loved spending time with them. Being together with her family was always a grand time for her. She was proud of both her Italian and Irish heritages. She also enjoyed trips to the casino with her sister. As a New York Yankee aficionado, she was keenly aware of their stats and watched their games religiously. Desirae enjoyed the drama and exhilaration of NASCAR, and Martin Truex, Jr. was her favorite driver. Desirae truly loved

and admired her dad, and through the years, from him, she developed a fascination for classic cars.

Desirae is survived by her mother, Judith and her husband Ronald Ritzel. She held close the memory of her cherished dad and best friend with whom she is now reunited. And although she leaves behind her beloved sisters, Jacqueline "Gi", Franci, and Donata, she takes with her the beautiful bond that blessed them. She will also be missed by her nieces and nephews, Nicole, and Matthew; Jordan, and Anthony; her great-nephew, Ryan; her aunts, Joan Irvin, Barbara Riley, and Vita Busa; and many cousins. She was also favored with many wonderful friends. She was predeceased by her maternal and paternal grandparents.

The family will honor and commemorate Desirae's life at a private time. Family and friends are respectfully invited to attend her funeral service and Celebration of Life which will commence on Monday afternoon at 2:00 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 Mass. Those wishing to express an act of kindness in lieu of flowers may consider a donation to the Wanderers Rest Humane Association, Inc. pet rescue and shelter online at <http://wanderersrest.org> or the American Heart Association at <https://donatenow.heart.org>; envelopes will be available at the service.

# Tribute Wall

EB

“ I'm very sorry to learn of Desirae's passing. I have great memories from our childhood years, she truly was a beautiful, caring person. May all of your wonderful memories help you all through this difficult time. Those we love don't go away, they walk beside us everyday. Unseen, unheard but always near. Still loved, still missed and very dear. May you all feel her presence with you daily. Rest easy Angel



Erin Moore Del Buono - May 05, 2016 at 07:20 AM

MW

“ Donata  
So sorry for your loss. We didn't know your sister but knew that she was important to you. We'll keep you and your family in our prayers.  
Maureen & Terry West

Maureen & Terry West - April 27, 2016 at 09:42 PM

CP

“ Jackie, Judy and family, I am so very sorry to hear of desirae's passing. You are all in my prayers, again I'm so very sorry.  
Love,,  
Chris (Houck) Phelps

Christine phelps - April 26, 2016 at 07:33 AM

JP

“ Judy and family,  
So sorry to hear of your loss. My thoughts and prayers are with you all during this difficult time.



Janet Putrelo - April 25, 2016 at 07:23 PM

LS

“ Judy and all of the family....Jimmy and I are sooo deeply sorry for the passing of your daughter. You and all of the family are in our thoughts and prayers. May God rest her soul in peace. All our Love, Lori and Jimmy Sheheen.

Lori and Jim Sheheen - April 25, 2016 at 04:23 PM

CM

“ jackie and family:: i am so sorry for your loss of your sister . thoughts and prayers are with all of you and please remember she is now an angel watching over all of you...rest in peace Desirae!!



cathy manfredo-smolinsky - April 25, 2016 at 10:33 AM

 Karen Wheatley

“ Rest in peace my friend. My condolences to her family.  
Karen Wheatley



Karen Wheatley - April 24, 2016 at 09:45 PM

AN

“ Dear Judy & family-  
I am so saddened to hear of your loss. Words cannot express the sorrow I have for you and your family. Please accept my sincere sympathy. I wish I were home to do something for you. God Bless you and your family as you go through the pain and sorrow of your beautiful loved one's passing.  
Love you,  
Antoinette



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**Antoinette** - April 24, 2016 at 01:59 PM

LB

“ Words can never capture the heart ache of loosing a sister a daughter a friend. Desirae will always be close in heart. I have so many treasured memories with your family from my childhood and beyond. Life doesn't make sense right now for any of us that knew her and your family. Please know I have every one of you in my prayers for strength, the miracle of God's healing and the continued support of all your family and friends throughout this tragic time.  
Hugs and God Bless xxo

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**Lisa Mattison Bates** - April 24, 2016 at 10:13 AM



“ So very sorry for your loss Jackie and Franci my heart breaks for you and your entire family. Such a tragic loss may she fly high with the angels and look over all of you and comfort you through this terrible time

*Patti pollock*

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**Patti Pollock** - April 23, 2016 at 02:15 PM

CK

*Jackie so sorry to hear about the loss of your sister. May you find comfort in the wonderful memories you have. Sending prayers and thoughts to you and your family during this difficult time.*

*Cyndi Kozak*

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**Cyndi Kozak** - April 24, 2016 at 08:01 AM

EC

“ *SO SORRY FOR YOUR LOSS. I DID NOT KNOW HER WELL, BUT WHAT I DID KNOW, SHE WAS TRULY A SWEETHEART. SHE WILL BE MISSED. GOD BLESS THE FAMILY.*

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**eleanor campbell** - April 23, 2016 at 08:21 AM