



Mrs. Donna L. (Giehl) Speciale

September 18, 1942 - June 8, 2020

UTICA - Mrs. Donna L. (Giehl) Speciale, age 77, went home to the Lord when she passed away on Monday, June 8, 2020 in the comfort and dignity of her home with her loving family by her side.

Born in Utica on September 18, 1942, Donna was the daughter of the late Charles E. and Henrietta I. (French) Giehl. She was a graduate of Utica Free Academy/Class of 1960. In 1965, she married Vincent P.

“Vinny” Speciale. She was a wonderful wife and adored her mother-in-law from whom she learned how to prepare meals for Vinny, which truly made him happy. Donna supported her husband’s work endeavors, whether it was lighting up the sky with fireworks displays or being vigilant to the needs of an electrical concern. Their union of 55 years was a great partnership on many levels.

Donna was employed by the City of Utica/Codes Department and also took on the responsibilities of Bookkeeper and Receptionist for her husband’s business, American Fire Works, as well as for the Speciale Electric Company on Elizabeth Street. A caring woman, Donna’s family always came first. She kept a tidy, meticulous home and loved to shop for personal touches and accent pieces that complemented her decor. She took great pride in hosting the holidays, and she enjoyed dining out with her husband, especially on sentimental occasions. They were an integral part of each other’s life and were virtually inseparable. She also socialized with her friends and shared leisure lunch dates. Donna was a communicant of St. Mary of Mt.

Carmel/Blessed Sacrament Parish. The Lord was present in her heart, and she faithfully attended 10:30 Sunday morning Mass with her husband to be followed by a breakfast gathering with friends, which was a precious part of her life. She also volunteered for the parish's annual summer festival and was available for any other volunteer opportunities within the church. No matter what challenges or changes occurred in her life, Donna was always a loving soul who strived to live her life guided by her faith and the grace of God.

Donna is survived by her beloved husband, Vinny; son, Kevin Giehl; daughter, Kimberly VanEtten; grandchildren, Kevin Giehl Jr., Matthew Giehl; and Tyler VanEtten; and her sister and brother-in-law, Mary and George Zegibe. She also leaves many nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, cousins, in-laws, Harry and Carol Speciale, and Marie and Bill Hughes; and the many wonderful friends who blessed her life, especially Theresa Ianno. She was predeceased by her siblings and their spouses, Charles and Jutta Giehl, John and Pernese Giehl, Alice Giehl, Bette and Jim Sklarz, Violet "Pat" and Fred Abel, twins Eugene "Gene" Giehl Sr. and Joan Montrose, and Jerry Giehl. The family is grateful to Pulmonologist/Dr. Mathew Ulhannan, Oncologist/Dr. Samir Desai, and the staff at the Faxton Regional Cancer Center for their kindness; and Rev. James Cesta for his visits and prayers.

Due to current health concerns and in keeping with federal and state regulations, the family will honor Donna's life privately and funeral services will be held with immediate family only. Memorial donations in Donna's memory may be directed to the Faxton Regional Cancer Center online at <https://www.mvhealthsystem.org/location/faxton-campus> or by mail to Mohawk Valley Health System Foundation, 1676 Sunset Avenue, Utica, NY 13502.

Please take a moment to connect with Donna's family through the "Memories" section of her obituary on our website.

Our prayers continue to go out to all as a sign of our community support.

Tribute Wall



“ Dearest Kim and Family, We are so sorry about the loss of your Mom..I know how very much you loved your Mom, Kim. She was a very brave, kind, giving, and loving Wife, Mother, Friend, Aunt, and Sister. I can see so much of you, Kim, in your beautiful Mom. She is safe and happy in Heaven with our Lord now. Remember that she will always watch over and guide all of you until we all meet again. You are in my heart and thoughts every single day, Kim. .If there is anything, Moon and I can do, please don't hesitate..We are always here for you. Sending you much Love, Russ (Moon) and Cindy (Your friends forever) xoxo

Cindy Dannettel - June 22, 2020 at 05:46 AM

PS

“ Vinny and Family,
So sorry to hear of Donna's passing! She was a sweet woman. I so enjoyed her company when she would visit me at the bar at Pescatores. We had so many great laughs! My prayers to you all!

Pauline Smith - June 21, 2020 at 03:35 PM

LM

“ Kevin, Kevin and Matthew, I am so sorry to be reading of the loss of your Mother and Grandmother. Please accept my deepest condolences

Lorrie Moyer - June 16, 2020 at 11:34 PM

TM

“ Kevin and Kim, I'm so sorry to hear that Donna has passed and want to offer my sincere condolences to you both and Vinny. Be strong and stick together in honor of your beautiful mother.



Tarita Mills - June 15, 2020 at 11:25 AM

Jl

“ Vinny, on behalf of the Honor America Days Committee, Bill and Larry, we are thinking of you and your family. We so enjoyed the many HAD Celebrations gathering after the fireworks to share pizza, antipasto and a good beer with you and Donna. She was a lovely woman whose love for you was evident. Both of you had some great stories, but most importantly we considered you our friends. We are very sorry for your loss and send our prayers to you and your family.

God Bless

Jackie

Jackie Izzo - June 15, 2020 at 10:00 AM

BG

“ Dear Vinny and family sorry for your loss. You are in our thoughts and prayers.
Bruce and Gloria

Bruce Gaska - June 15, 2020 at 09:44 AM

FW

“ Dear Vinny and family, Many years ago I was a nearby neighbor of your family, going back from the early 70's to mid 80's. I am so sorry for your loss. May your wife, rest with the Blessed Mother and her Eternal Son, Jesus. May you have peace and very pleasant memories.

Fiorinda Wilson

FIORINDA B. WILSON - June 13, 2020 at 07:13 PM

NP

“ Vinny and family,
Mary and I are so sorry for your loss of Donna she was an exceptional lady, always that beautiful smile, and a great conversationalist,, may she rest in peace.

*Nick & Mary Parrotta
Naples, Florida*

Nick parrotta - June 13, 2020 at 10:50 AM



Vinny and family, my deepest condolences , many good memories of you all being at my uncle Tommy's , she was a good woman

Lenamarie Parrotta - June 13, 2020 at 07:29 PM

AA

Dear Kim and family Billy and I would like to send our condolences, I remember alot if good times w your family especially your mom and aunt Joan's Apple pies. Anita and Bill Abraham and family

Anita Abraham - June 15, 2020 at 09:51 AM

RL

“ Rosemarie Labarbera lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Donna L. (Giehl) Speciale



Rosemarie Labarbera - June 12, 2020 at 08:51 PM

RL

“ So sorry for your loss we will always remember the good times we had dining together and enjoying her company when we met at the church festivals. God bless and Prayers to Vinny and the family. From Rosemarie and Ray Labarbera

Rosemarie Labarbera - June 12, 2020 at 08:50 PM

RL

“ So sorry for the loss of a very special person. I remember. Nice talks & laughs with her. She will always be remembered in a special way. Prayers to you vinny 🙏🙏🙏 & the family. God bless May she R I P A friend. Roz lee

roz lee - June 12, 2020 at 05:49 PM

EC

“ Dear Keven and Kim,
our hearts goes out to you both for the loss of your Dear Mother.
deepest Sympathy when a Mother has to go on ahead to meet our
Lord and Savior, she will be honored to be with the Blessed Mother,
and i bet she would not want to come back here when all she had
was a lot of pain and suffering. God be with you and your Family to
help ease the pain of loosing your Mom.
Much Love, and God Bless You All,
Lisa A (Comito) Bell and
Esther V Comito

Esther Comitoi - June 12, 2020 at 04:50 PM

AS

“ So sorry for your loss.



Anna luvera scalise - June 12, 2020 at 03:10 PM

KF

“ Kevin and Crew at American Fireworks
purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the
family of Mrs. Donna L. (Giehl) Speciale.



Kevin and Crew at American Fireworks - June 12, 2020 at
11:12 AM

FC

“ When I was a young man, Donna was a tenant of my parents in their home on Miller Street. Kevin and Kimberly were toddlers back then. I remember Donna always coming downstairs to have coffee and share conversation with my parents almost daily. Those were the good old days. Donna and I did continue to stay in touch through the years through Christmas greetings and the like. Back then, Donna was a fan of singer Ronnie Dove and I remember her playing his records constantly to the point where I also became of fan of his from having listened to those records so much! I was truly happy that Donna and I got to re-connect in person in March of this year when we had dinner together and talked about old times. So many good memories. My sincerest condolences to Vinny, Kevin, Kim and the entire family. We have lost a special fun-loving person.

Frank Calaprice - June 12, 2020 at 09:54 AM

JD

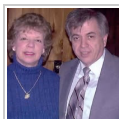
“ My deepest condolences to you, Vinny, and your family at this untimely loss. Jim Delitto

Jim Delitto - June 12, 2020 at 09:10 AM

DH

“ Kim
I'm so sorry for the loss of your mom. Thinking of you and your family. Love Donna Hoke

Donna Hoke - June 11, 2020 at 08:51 PM



Our condolences to you Vinny and your fsmily. Donna was a genuine and kind hearted person. Many memories when we worked together ..God Bless her soul May she Rest In Peace . 🙏

Diane Basile - June 12, 2020 at 08:57 PM

SV

*Vinny, Kim and Kevin,
My deepest condolences to all of you. Donna was a special lady with whom all of you have special memories to treasure. I will be keeping all of you in my thoughts and prayers.*

Sue VanEtten

Sue VanEtten - June 15, 2020 at 12:53 PM

BA

Vinny. My deepest sympathy in the loss of your beloved wife Donna I have many happy memories of our 2000 trip to Italy. Please know that my thoughts and prayers are with you, and also know that your family and faith will see you through.

Betty Arcuri

Betty Arcuri - June 19, 2020 at 10:09 AM