



Elaine Mary (Spaziani) Colenzo

February 14, 1946 - January 10, 2025

UTICA - Elaine Mary (Spaziani) Colenzo, age 78, passed away peacefully in the comfort of her home on January 10, 2025, with her loving family by her side.

Born in Utica on Valentine's Day in 1946, Elaine was the daughter of the late Paris S. and Helen A. (Campbell) Spaziani. Elaine grew up in Utica, where she attended local schools and graduated from Utica Free Academy (UFA)/Class of 1964. As a proud member of the UFA a cappella choir alumni, music was always a special part of her life. In 1965, she married the love of her life, Victor L. Colenzo, and together they built a home full of love, laughter, and enduring commitment.

Elaine worked for the Utica School District in the Central Kitchen Food Service Program, where her dedication and cheerful spirit were appreciated until her retirement. She also devoted her life to raising her family with extraordinary care and selflessness. For 24 years, she provided tireless care for her eldest son, Victor, who had cerebral palsy. Her role as a mother was her greatest calling, and her devotion to her children and grandchildren was immeasurable.

Elaine's warmth, generosity, and kindness left a lasting impact on everyone she met. Her forgiving nature and selfless heart earned her nicknames like "Miss Goody Two-Shoes," but more often, she was lovingly described as an angel and a saint. Known for her sense of humor and love of laughter, she brought joy to her family and friends until her final moments.

Elaine had many passions, from baking and singing to creating handmade greeting cards for all occasions. She was an avid Hallmark movie watcher, a devoted Weight Watchers enthusiast, and a parishioner at St. Anthony and St. Agnes Church in Utica. She loved entertaining and hosting gatherings—an example of her zest for life and love of friendship.

Elaine also cherished traveling to Ohio to visit her daughter, Lorelei, each year, a tradition she looked forward to with anticipation. Her sister and best friend, Dorothy Rich, was a

lifelong confidante and source of strength.

Elaine is survived by her beloved husband, Victor L. Colenzo; her children, Lorelei "Lori" Colenzo and Gary Wagner, and Stephen and Delia Colenzo. She cherished the memory of her son, Victor L. Colenzo, who preceded her on January 22, 1991. She leaves to cherish her memory her grandchildren, Isabella Litzer, Joseph Litzer; and Jackson Colenzo; sister, Dorothy Rich; and many beloved nieces and nephews, especially acknowledging Diane Bucciero, Annamarie and Carlo DelBuono, John Rich, Jr., Anne Rich, and Paris Rich; great-nieces, great-nephews, and cousins.

The family wishes to extend their gratitude to the Visiting Nurse Association and Hospice & Palliative Care, Inc. for their care and compassion.

A Memorial Gathering in Elaine's honor will be held on Saturday, January 18, 2025, from 2:00-3:00 p.m. at the Eannace Funeral Home, Inc., 932 South St., corner of Hammond Ave. Elaine's Memorial Service and Celebration of Life will commence at 3:00 p.m. at the funeral home. For those unable to attend, you may be present virtually at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82041613887>. In lieu of floral offerings, please consider donations in her memory to Hospice and Palliative Care, Inc., whose support brought comfort during her final days, online at www.hospicecareinc.org/donate; envelopes will also be available at the funeral home.

Elaine's life was a testament to love, selflessness, and faith. Her family takes comfort in knowing her legacy will continue to shine through the lives she touched.

This story of Elaine's life was lovingly written by her family.

Previous Events

Memorial Gathering

JAN 18. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

Eannace Funeral Home, Inc.
932 South Street
corner of Hammond Ave.
Utica, NY 13501
(315) 724-6714
eannacefh@roadrunner.com

Memorial Service

JAN 18. 3:00 PM (ET)

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932 South Street
corner of Hammond Ave.
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Tribute Wall

SK

“ *I'm glad I got to visit you Elaine, my last trip on the hill/Utica. Glad you were home, you'll be greatly missed.*

Your second daughter, Stacy



Stacy Klein - January 21, 2025 at 08:14 PM

DW

“ *So very sorry Lori my heart goes out to you and your family family*



deborah wallace - January 18, 2025 at 03:31 PM

MV

“ *Dear Dorothy,
Remembering Elaine and times growing up in west Utica and the house of your grandmother on Mulberry Street. Elaine was a beautiful presence always filled with kindness. She is finally at peace.*
Marie Tinelli Viti

Marie Viti - January 16, 2025 at 08:49 AM

QS

“ *We are so very sorry and saddened by this great loss. Elaine was an incredible angel on earth and touched the lives of everyone she met. She adored and loved her family fiercely.*
I feel blessed to have met her. She helped to create an incredible legacy in her amazing family. Sending love, prayers and strength in this difficult time.
The Stanley5

Quinn Stanley - January 16, 2025 at 07:07 AM

PH

“ *You've always been a dear to me. Recently my thoughts go back to Italian recipes you shared with me for my shower and throughout my life with Eddy. So thankful. Bless you, Dear beautiful soul. We will always miss you.*

Paula Sue Holstein - January 15, 2025 at 11:36 PM

JP

“ Elaine was a beautiful person, inside and out. She overcame many obstacles in her life, but always with a smile. Her obituary is a beautiful written life story of a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, and sister who will be missed by many. We pray that God will comfort you and fill you with peace.

Jeanette & Mariano Penge

Jeanette M Penge - January 15, 2025 at 05:47 PM

BW

“ We are so sorry for your loss. She certainly "fought the good fight". She was beautiful in and out. Keeping all in our prayers.

Bob & Elizabeth Wendler - January 15, 2025 at 10:16 AM

KJ

“ A true child of God. I always felt love in her presence. I am so honored to have been.

Kathy, Floyd and family

Kathy Jensen - January 15, 2025 at 09:18 AM

PR

“ What a beautiful person to be associated with. I think I may have caught a glimpse of what it takes to be a Saint. I think the only thing missing is to be canonization by the Pope. Rest in peace and thanks for your love and devotion as a true Spaziani.

Paris Rich - January 15, 2025 at 08:35 AM

PH

I always told her she wouldn't have to go thru the pearly gates but that she would fly right over! Sorry for your loss 🙏

Paula Sue Holstein - January 15, 2025 at 11:52 PM

EH

“ A beautiful soul that graced everyones life.....Always with a smile.....I will always remember the kindness from her heart.....i will miss her.....Eddy

Ed Holstein - January 15, 2025 at 08:07 AM

JR

“ when we pass through life, we sometime achieve successs take for granted the happy times we experience. I cannot forget all the times we got together, from family vacations to dinners at each others homes. I will always remember "little" Victor and how he taught us that disability does not mean we cannot achieve success doing many different things. I am happy that you are now at peace, and sad that you have left me. I will always love you. Your friend, Jean



Jean Rastani - January 14, 2025 at 04:32 PM