



Elizabeth A. "Betty" (Caniato) Giruzzi

June 5, 1943 - August 17, 2014

Mrs. Elizabeth A. "Betty" (Caniato) Giruzzi, age 71, joined her loved ones who have gone before her when she passed away on Sunday, August 17, 2014 at the St. Elizabeth Medical Center with her devoted family by her side.

Born in Utica on June 5, 1943, Elizabeth was the daughter of Elmer G. and the late Anna (Trapasso) Caniato. Raised and educated locally, she was a graduate of T.R. Proctor High School/Class of 1959. On October 7, 1961 she married Francis "Frank" "Beef" Giruzzi, Jr. with whom she shared 52 years filled with memorable times. Betty loved Fran unconditionally and he thought of their wedded years as beautiful.

During her youth, Betty worked as a secretary for her dad who operated Elmer's Express trucking business. Subsequently, her expertise in the area of culinary arts yielded her a position with the Utica City School District as a Supervisor at the Central Kitchen. Lastly, she was employed by the former Faxon Hospital as Manager of the Coffee Shop where she was responsible for the production and presentation of the menu. In the early 1990's Betty was afflicted with Multiple Sclerosis. She accepted the illness with grace and found the fortitude to help others in amazing ways. At ease at the computer keyboard, Betty was able to communicate with and advocate for many MS patients both locally and nationwide. The Resource Center for Independent Living (RCIL) sought her out and invited her to operate the phone lines used to offer advice and encouragement to others who were challenged by the same condition. She also recruited members for a support group that met at

St. Elizabeth Medical Center with the goal of educating others in the innovative methods of managing their medical condition and living life to the fullest. The MS Group in Syracuse was so supportive of Betty's needs and remained involved in her life to the very end. Betty was a genuinely selfless woman and peacemaker, a person teeming with useful and highly regarded wisdom. She intuitively knew which battles to challenge and which to accept. She appreciated being remembered and was always thoughtful of others. She was the hub for family concerns and the heart of reason and sensitivity. A passionate cook, Betty prepared plentiful portions of her favorite dishes to share with family and friends. Kindness and goodness were the woven threads of her life that made "Miss Betty" one to honor and gently remember. As a mother, she was her children's best friend, and with their best interests at heart, she nurtured and encouraged them to be confident in knowing that they could accomplish anything they envisioned. She was the most masterful of moms and her children honored her to her last breath. The blessing of her children and grandchildren was her greatest gift, and her ability to live her life undeterred by her affliction was her greatest triumph. In embracing a Christian way of life, Betty prayed to the Blessed Mother and welcomed clergy into her heart and home.

Betty is survived by her beloved Fran; her father, Elmer; her beloved daughter and best friend, Carla Giruzzi Keena and Luis Montero; her sons and daughter-in-law, Frank R. Giruzzi III, and Patrick and Wendy Giruzzi. Always close to her heart was the memory of her son-in-law, James Earl Keena, who passed away on May 3, 2000. She will also be missed by her grandchildren, Elizabeth Zakrison; Patrick James Jr., and Parker Vincent Giruzzi; her aunts and uncles, Jen and Fred Arcuri, and Dick and Gloria Dote; many nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, cousins, in-laws Joseph and Mary Giruzzi, James and Denise Giruzzi, Mark and Judy Giruzzi, Cynthia and James Cahill, Maryrose and Darryl Green, and Adele Reilly; and her godson, Jimmy Giruzzi. She was also favored with many friendships throughout her life, especially the love and respect of her 'second daughter', Miss "Carmie"

Eannace. She was predeceased by her in-laws, Frank and Mary (Dote) Giruzzi.

The family appreciated the expertise and empathy of the many physicians who tended to Betty during her illness, with special mention of Doctors Leo Sullivan, Paul Davidson, and Mario Carrillo; and the compassionate nurses and aids of the St. Luke's Home/Clark West Unit who extended their loving and attentive nature unceasingly to Betty during her stay. The heartfelt concern shared by the Special Care Unit staff at the St. Elizabeth Medical Center was graciously felt by Betty and her family during her final days under their care.

Visitation will be held Friday from 5:00–7:00 at the Eannace Funeral Home, Inc., 932 South St., corner of Hammond Ave. Betty's funeral service and Celebration of Life will commence on Saturday morning at 9:00 from the funeral home and at 10:00 at St. Mary of Mt. Carmel/Blessed Sacrament Parish where her Mass of Christian burial will be offered by Rev. James Cesta. Interment will take place in St. Agnes Cemetery at the convenience of the family

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG **22**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

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

Funeral Service

AUG **23**. 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Mary of Mt. Carmel/Blessed Sacrament Parish
648 Jay Street
Utica, NY 13501
(315) 735-1482
<https://www.mountcarmelblessedsacrament.com/>

Tribute Wall

SN

“ Carla
I am so sorry for your loss. Sorry it took so long for me to find out about you mom. I know she will be missed by everyone.
Sarah and Anthony

sarah noti - September 18, 2014 at 09:11 PM

LU

“ Betty.....always remembering your smile as you too command of the snack bar @ Faxton. Also so thankful for being so nice to my Mom when she came to volunteer there, it made her so happy.....thanks..... A Faxton friend "Cre" Zongrone. RIP

lucretia - September 02, 2014 at 08:56 PM

TO

“ This page is a beautiful tribute to a beautiful lady. My memories of Betty Ann are of laughter, and I hope that with time those memories will take over for you. Please accept our sincere condolences from the O'Connells out in Oklahoma.

Tim O'Connell - August 25, 2014 at 08:01 PM

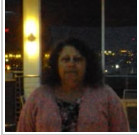
CG

“ Carla,

Sorry I am unable to be with you and your family at this time. Please know that my love and prayers are with all of you.

Carmen Guarnieri

Carmen Guarnieri - August 23, 2014 at 04:34 PM



“ *Tricia Tomaino lit a candle in memory of Elizabeth A. "Betty" (Caniato) Giruzzi*



Tricia Tomaino - August 22, 2014 at 09:03 PM

F3

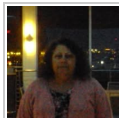
Thank you very much Trish. We love you very much , Franny

Frank R Giruzzi 3 - August 23, 2014 at 12:39 PM

F3

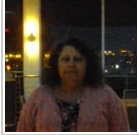
Trish, You are the most loving and compassionate person I know. Your love is so deep and genuine. You the first person that came to my mind when my mother passed. Me and my mother have always had a great love and appreciation for you and your beautiful loving heart. THANK YOU SO MUCH TRISH FOR ALWAYS BEING THERE FOR HER. ALL of my love and admiration to you Trish, Love Franny

Frank R Giruzzi 3 - August 23, 2014 at 02:01 PM



I Love you too Franny,very much and I am always here for you just a phone call away!!! I wanted to give you some time to adjust,that is why I did not call you. I was very concerned as to how you were doing, Your Mom loved and cared about you very much! You have always been a very important family member.to me! Also, I wanted to remember your Mom the last time i was with her,that is why I did not come to the wake. Let's never lose contact. Love,Tricia

Tricia Tomaino - August 24, 2014 at 09:38 PM



“ I will never forget all the times,that Betty was there for me,after my mother died. She said," consider Fran and I your family now". She looked out for me and was concerned about me,from that moment forward! She made me a Christmas basket the 1st Christmas without my Mom and filled it like a stocking. She was so thoughtful and caring and had a big heart,to the extent that she let me stay at her home during another difficult time in my life. We became close friends and I was happy to help her during her times of need.She was a very special lady and I will never be able to see a butterfly or angel,without thinking of Betty,I always gave her them for Christmas and her birthdays! I loved Betty like my own immediate family and I will miss her very much!

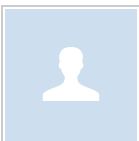
Tricia Tomaino - August 22, 2014 at 09:00 PM



“ Don Marino lit a candle in memory of Elizabeth A. "Betty" (Caniato) Giruzzi



Don Marino - August 22, 2014 at 09:26 AM



“ Blue & White Sympathy Floor Basket was purchased for the family of Elizabeth A. "Betty" (Caniato) Giruzzi.



August 22, 2014 at 08:29 AM



“ *White Sympathy Baskets was purchased for the family of Elizabeth A. "Betty" (Caniato) Giruzzi.*



August 21, 2014 at 07:51 PM



“ *Kelly O'Connell Dingley lit a candle in memory of Elizabeth A. "Betty" (Caniato) Giruzzi*



Kelly O'Connell Dingley - August 21, 2014 at 01:22 PM



Thank you so much Kelly. My mother's passing makes my remaining family more precious than ever. I love and appreciate you and your family so very much, Franny

Frank R Giruzzi 3 - August 23, 2014 at 01:13 PM



“ *Pink & White Sympathy Basket was purchased for the family of Elizabeth A. "Betty" (Caniato) Giruzzi.*



August 21, 2014 at 01:18 PM

RM

“ *Very sorry to hear of Betty's passing. Fond memories of her through our mutual Aunt Josie.*

Rosemary Brescia Manley

Rosemary Manley - August 21, 2014 at 11:29 AM

AB

“ *Dear Carla and Family,*

Jim and I were so sorry to hear of your Mom's passing. We looked forward to visiting with her when we stopped at the home. She always updated us about the family and she was so proud of all of you. She always had a smile for us. It is very difficult to lose the people we love, but hopefully we can reconcile the pain of losing them with the joy that we know they are no longer suffering. You now have a very special angel watching over you. Our thoughts and prayers are with you. The beautiful memories you have will always keep her close to you.

Angela and Jim Brooks

Angela Brooks - August 20, 2014 at 10:02 PM

F3

Thank you very much Mrs. Brooks . You will always be very special to me. With Love , Frank R Giruzzi 3rd

Frank R Giruzzi 3 - August 23, 2014 at 12:53 PM

RG

“ I have so many memories of the time I spent with Betty that I will never forget. We became friends when Fran was in the Army. One thing we would do together was go to the ironing lady once a week to pick up my mother's ironing and then go for milkshakes. We became cousins when Betty and Fran got married, I was in their wedding party. We became business partners when we started our catering business. The highlight of our catering career was in the summer of 1980 when we ran the Cooperstown Country Club. We had never taken on a project of that magnitude but we jumped in with both feet and accomplished so much that summer. One day the oven door fell on Betty's leg and I told her she was going to stay there with me if I had to prop her up in a corner. We laughed a lot that summer even though we were stressed to the max!!! I loved Betty, and whenever I think of her it will be with fond memories!
Love, Rosemary

Rosemary Gerace - August 20, 2014 at 07:03 PM

F3

Dear Rosemary , The memories of the time spent with you Frank Dana and Maria are some of my favorite memories in life. They are like gold to me now with my mothers passing. I'll always remember the day me and Carla spent with you when my grandmother died , not to mention hundreds of other cherished memories. You were truly a second mother. Thank you Rosemary , Love Franny

Frank R Giruzzi 3 - August 23, 2014 at 02:35 PM

DM

“ I knew Betty when we were in high school. She was one of the girls I never forgot, because she was such a wonderful, special and caring teenagers.
My heartfelt condolences to her family. May the beautiful memories you have of her carry you through this difficult time.
Donna Pedone Merhib

Donna Pedone Merhib - August 20, 2014 at 10:39 AM

PG

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Pat Giruzzi - August 20, 2014 at 06:01 AM

KC

“ *I have had the privilege to meet a true testament to women everywhere...and to be friends with her daughter, Carla and work with her son, Pat ...they are a wonderful, giving family ... It is clear to see why... What an example she was for her children.. I only hope that someday , I will be passionately missed as she.*

kym chapman-smith - August 19, 2014 at 05:23 PM

DG

“ *We, as B ettys family have so many beautiful memories of this special lady...I know my beautiful sister-in-law is with the angels now...She was an angel in life...and surely with them now....we....love and loved our angels...she and I had a special connection which only the 2 of us knew....Betty, you will always be in my heart...always a part of me...Run My Betty....RUN..*

denise giruzzi - August 19, 2014 at 04:55 PM

CH

“ LOTS OF THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS TO YOU ALL...WHAT A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN INSIDE AND OUT AND IM VERY LUCKY TO HAVE HAD MET HER AND TO HAVE SHARED MANY HAPPY MEMORIES...THAT SMILE I MISS!!



CHRISTY HYSACK - August 19, 2014 at 10:34 AM

JB

“ Prayers to you and your family in this great loss. Losing a Mother is like losing a part of your heart. Joyce Burke

Joyce Burke - August 19, 2014 at 09:18 AM

AN

“ So very sorry to hear of Aunt Betty's passing! She was always so nice to Brianna and I. Uncle Fran, Carla, and Franny you are in my prayers. Angela(Giruzzi) Graziano



Angela - August 18, 2014 at 05:11 PM

AN

Patrick, you are in my prayers. Your name was omitted.

angela - August 19, 2014 at 05:49 AM

DR

Carla and Family, we are so sorry for the loss of your dear mother. You were the best daughter ever and you were always there for him. You are in our thoughts and prayers.

Love - Dina & Joe

Dina Russo - August 19, 2014 at 06:42 AM

MC

Dear Carla & family. We are so sorry for your loss. Such a beautiful person. Keep your memories of Betty close in your heart You are in our thoughts and prayers Love Leo & Maria

Maria T Callari - August 19, 2014 at 07:23 AM

DS

Carla may you find comfort in the wonderful memories you have . thoughts and prayers are with you at this difficult time in your life. Tim and Dee

deirdre spicer - August 19, 2014 at 08:10 AM

MA

to the Giruzzi Family, so sorry for you loss

MaryRose Abdoo - August 21, 2014 at 06:24 PM

F3

Thank you very much Angela. It was so nice to see Brianna With Love , Franny

Frank R Giruzzi 3 - August 23, 2014 at 01:00 PM