



Elizabeth (Martinelli) Hlavaty

December 6, 1942 - July 3, 2024

Elizabeth (Martinelli) Hlavaty of Clinton passed away on Wednesday, July 3 after a brief illness.

Liz or Lizzie, as her friends and family knew her, was born December 6, 1942 in Utica. She was the daughter of the late Danny and Mary (Thomas) Martinelli of Utica. She adored her parents and was especially close to her father, relishing his larger-than-life persona as a well-known business man, loyal friend, and doting father. Lizzie went to UCA where she enjoyed dancing, parties and hanging out with friends, before graduating in 1960. She married in Ronald T. Hlavaty in 1964. The marriage produced two cherished daughters, Danielle (Hlavaty) Colombaris of Randolph, NJ and Melissa (Hlavaty) Clay, of Charlotte, NC. Liz was also blessed with two adoring sons-in-law, Jim Colombaris of NJ and John Clay of NC, previously of New Hartford, NY.

Liz's pride and joy was being a grandmother to her four remarkable grandsons, CJ Colombaris, Ethan Clay, Thomas Colombaris and Adam Clay. Her pride was evident as she delighted in gushing about their accomplishments any chance she got. Liz is also survived by her beloved brother Dominic Martinelli, with whom she had a very close relationship. She also held a tender place in her heart for her niece and nephew, and a special sister-in-law.

Throughout her life, Liz's focus and passion was always her family. Her love and concern was unwavering. She was an extremely hardworking woman and did whatever it took to care for her children; often working multiple jobs to make ends meet. She was also an avid reader and an excellent and prolific cook and baker. Her most cherished memories were of celebrating parties and holidays, especially the big Italian Christmas, with her large family which included many aunts, uncles, and cousins. She never stopped missing those days but the treasured memories were always of great comfort to her.

Liz was a life-long resident of Utica, NY. She worked at notable local restaurants and in various departments with Price Chopper, in Rome and Utica. After retiring from Price Chopper, Liz worked at GPO Credit Union, and Mohawk Valley Community College. She continued to make friends and positively impact people along the way. Liz collected friends like some people collect stamps or coins and was gratified by the enduring relationships she forged, many spanning 40 years or more. She especially cherished a close relationship with her cousin, John Morelli, who passed away in 2007.

Lizzie will be forever missed by her family and all who knew her. The loss of the loving, tender-hearted mom, grandma and friend is incalculable.

Should you choose to honor her memory in some way, Liz always donated what little she could to St. Jude's Children's Hospital. She believed in their mission from its inception in 1962. Or, just have a cup of coffee with a friend and talk about old times...

This tribute to Elizabeth's life has been lovingly written by her family.

Tribute Wall

JJ

“ Danielle, Melissa and family,
I'm very sorry to learn about the passing of your beloved mother. You two girls were the most important part of her life, her pride and joy. I know how difficult losing her must be for you. I remember how she was with you and how thoughtful she was preparing you for this world. I have the fondest of memories of our time at Mt. Carmel from the age of 5, our rides packed together in her car on our way to school, spin the bottle that she initiated when we crashed Danielle's 13th birthday party, working with her at the restaurant, our visits on Arthur St. when I'd come home from my travels! She always said that I would never forget her for getting me my first real job at Pescatore's. She was wrong. I'll never forget her for so much more. She was very important to me and I loved her dearly. Although at this stage of our lives, we are accustomed to loss, my heart is very heavy with the loss of your mom. She made a difference in my life and a host of others. I am truly sorry for your loss. Johnny Piazza

John Piazza Jr - July 09, 2024 at 02:35 PM

CB

“ I'm so very sad to hear of Liz's passing. I knew her when I was an intern in the CCED office. She was an incredibly resilient woman with a larger-than-life personality, a genuine heart for people, a brilliant sense of humor, and (last but not least!) recipes for the world's best zucchini stew, eggplant parm, and more. Although I never met her family, I hope they know how much she loved them... and bragged about them to everyone who passed by her desk. Liz was just a joy. The world was blessed to have her.

Christina Born - July 07, 2024 at 10:50 AM

BL

“ Liz, was my cousin and friend. I was the youngest of three girl cousins; Genevieve was the oldest, then Lizzy, and me. They really didn't want me around in their teen years, but as we grew into adults we were close. Gen died in New Jersey a number of years ago. Liz and I stayed close. I so admired her. She fed strangers or those who had less than we did. Life was never easy for my cousin but her joy was her girls. We loved going to New Jersey and spending time with Genevieve. Gen would always fix us up on horrible dates. We would always laugh about it.

You're in heaven together, I missed you so much. No more pain, no more stress or struggling. Be happy in heaven!

Barbara Parisi Lambricht - July 06, 2024 at 04:56 PM

Jl

“ We lovingly shared our Italian heritage over coffee, many times noting the similarities in our families. We also shared our strong work ethic, often noting that it often amounted to nothing. I always got her sarcasm, not always appreciated, but always understood. She was a special woman that I will always remember and cherish our times together. She deserves to rest in peace.

Jo Iannotti - July 06, 2024 at 02:11 PM

JC

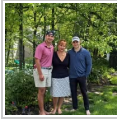
I'm so sorry for your loss Danielle and Melissa. If you have a mass or anything please let me know. RIP Liz

joe creaco - July 06, 2024 at 03:48 PM

FA

“ My deepest condolences to her family. I worked with Liz at MVCC and she was always the life of the office. She always spoke the truth and that's so refreshing in life. She loved her family so much. She will be very missed. I am so grateful for the good memories I will hold close.

Franca Armstrong - July 06, 2024 at 12:52 PM



Thank you Franca, she loved working with you-

Danielle Colombaris - July 06, 2024 at 01:55 PM