



Mrs. Grace C. (Perretta) Hartnett

July 16, 1937 - February 3, 2015

Mrs. Grace C. (Perretta) Hartnett, age 77, found peace on Tuesday night, February 3, 2015 at the Faxton-St. Luke's Healthcare Center. She fought a brave two year battle with cancer and went home to the Lord after visiting with many friends and family.

Born in Utica on July 16, 1937, Grace was the daughter of the late Joseph A. and Isabella (DeKime) Perretta. She was a graduate of T.R. Proctor High School. She continued her education at SUNY Potsdam earning her baccalaureate degree in 1959. She then pursued her post-graduate studies at SUNY Potsdam where she was awarded her Master of Arts degree in 1961 in the field of Music Education. On March 21, 1970 in St. Mary of Mt. Carmel Church, she married William S. Hartnett and shared with him a deep and enduring love for nearly 45 years.

Grace received certification to teach piano at age 14 and began to teach. After receiving her professional credentials and certification, Grace began her career as a music teacher with the Whitesboro Central School District where she held positions in the elementary and junior high schools, retiring in 1996. A humble and happy person, Grace was blessed with natural charisma, a characteristic that allowed her to connect to people, making them feel important and special. She would light up a room just by walking in. And for her, laughter was the spice of life. As a testament to how much her family loved her, many of her in-laws from Buffalo, NY to Salt Lake City, Utah, traveled to see her and say goodbye. Clearly, this was an expression of how

cherished she was. Grace participated in a plethora of cultural pursuits and pastimes. She enjoyed music, worldwide travel, live plays on Broadway, opera, and cooking. She was also a voracious reader. While she was a student at Potsdam, Grace was chosen to sing at the United Nations, a memorable moment in her life. As a professional educator and member of the New York State School Music Association (NYSSMA), she helped promote music education and served as a judge for the annual All-State competitions. In her youth, Grace and Angela created a club out of classmates which grew in High School into Sigma Chi Alpha Sorority whose members stayed in contact throughout the years, a continuous gathering of her childhood friends that burgeoned the blessing of those bonds for 70 years. But it was the time she spent with her family, and especially her grandchildren, that defined her. Her love for them transcended every measure of her life.

Grace is survived by her husband, William; her children, Michael and Kathryn Hartnett of New Hartford, and Stephanie Bloch of Rush, NY; and her grandchildren, Patrick, Samantha, and Zachary. She will also be missed by her nieces, especially Heidi Perretta, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, cousins, sister-in-law, Nance Perretta, and her lifelong friends, Angela Gentile, and Loretta Moccaldi. She was predeceased by her brother, Francis "Frank" Perretta; and many aunts and uncles.

The family was deeply touched by the compassion and special care offered to Grace by the nurses and staff of the 6th Floor Oncology Unit at the Faxton-St. Luke's Healthcare Center.

Visitation will be held Monday from 4:00-7:00 at the Eannace Funeral Home, Inc., 932 South St., corner of Hammond Ave. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions in Grace's honor may be made to the American Cancer Society; envelopes will be available at the funeral home. Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend Grace's funeral service and Celebration of Life which will commence on Tuesday morning at 11:00 at St. Mary of Mt. Carmel/Blessed Sacrament Parish where her Mass of Christian Burial will be offered by Rev. Abe Esper. Committal services and Interment will take place in

St. Agnes Cemetery at the convenience of the family.

Cemetery Details

St. Agnes Cemetery

Utica, NY

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB **9**. 4:00 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

FEB **10**. 11:00 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



“ *We Share Your Loss Sympathy Gift Basket was purchased for the family of Mrs. Grace C. (Perretta) Hartnett.*



February 09, 2015 at 04:56 PM



“ *Silver Season Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mrs. Grace C. (Perretta) Hartnett.*



February 09, 2015 at 04:41 PM



“ *3 files added to the tribute wall*



Kevin William Cwirko - February 09, 2015 at 10:12 AM

KC

“ *For My Aunt Grace, Her Family & Everyone Fortunate to Have Known Her*

It is with great sadness that I sit here in thought over the so many times she was present in my life. Before I could even remember Aunt Grace and Uncle Willy were there. Birthdays, Christmas, New Year's, offering kindness and caring adding to the grandest parts of my childhood memories. At every major event her smile could be seen and her unique laughter gave a feeling of warmth and happiness. I looked upon her with the magic of a young child's eye and instinctively knew in her presence I would always be safe and cared for. Although many years now have gone by I have held these feelings for her always. For you see she was my Aunt Grace, though not by blood, but by love. Kevin W. Cwirko

Kevin William Cwirko - February 09, 2015 at 09:57 AM

AW

“ *As Grace's cousin, the thing I will remember most is her wonderful laugh. I will keep with me special memories...her house on George Place, playing piano for me. Also, I will never forget how kind she was to my mother, her Aunt Mamie, especially after my father died. Fondly, Ann Perretta Wolanski*

ann wolanski - February 08, 2015 at 06:59 PM



“ 73 files added to the album Life Tributes



Eannace Funeral Home, Inc. - February 08, 2015 at 06:56 PM



“ Grace was a kind, compassionate educator. Whitesboro was lucky to have her in their midst. May she fly with the angels and find comfort in her Heavenly home. RIP Grace Carole Gehrig

Carole Gehrig - February 07, 2015 at 01:01 PM

AG

“ My memories of Grace go back to the age of 3 when we first became friends. We shared so many happy, zany moments that it would take a book to recall them. At Proctor we were both in the band and orchestra. Grace with the flute and me on the bassoon. I always felt that I was not very good , but true to Grace's understanding of people's needs, she always encouraged me to feel differently. Growing up on George Place we were always together sharing our dreams for the future. We'd sit on the front porch and discuss what we wanted in our mates. Grace found her prince and married Bill. They were a perfect match with their senses of humor and deep faith. It was a blessing that I was able to spend extremely special moments with the two of them in these last months of her life. These memories are in my heart as a gift from God, never to be forgotten. Rest in Peace my dear friend. .

Angela Gentile - February 07, 2015 at 09:39 AM

AG

“ Dear Bill, Mike and Stephanie,
I was so saddened to learn the news about Grace. I have many fond memories of teaching together in Whitesboro and taking Grace and Jenny snow skiing. Grace was so full of life and would cheer up anyone when you met her. She will be greatly missed. My thoughts and prayers to all of you.
Fondly,
Anna Giacobbe



Anna Giacobbe - February 07, 2015 at 08:37 AM

PM

“ As a student in Whitesboro for only a year, I don't remember most of the teachers that I had, but I do remember Miss Peretta. She was not only a good music teacher, but she was very kind, and very beautiful. My condolences to her family and friends.

Patricia Hanson Manley

Patricia H Manley - February 07, 2015 at 06:48 AM

JS

“ I was friends with Grace in high school. We were in the orchestra together. I saw her in the intervening years at reunions and whenever we met, she recalled our school days and made you feel special. The last time I saw her, she invited me to join her and friends for lunch at the Grapevine in New Hartford. I always felt she exhibited an aura of goodness. Grace made me feel happy and fortunate to have been her friend.

Joan Nole Salerno

Joan Nole Salerno - February 06, 2015 at 02:24 PM

CR

“ Michael -- I am so sorry!! Your Mom was such a gift to us all. Your family is in my thoughts and prayers. -- Connie Race-Schroth

Constance Race-Schroth - February 06, 2015 at 11:03 AM



“ Blue & White Sympathy Floor Basket was purchased for the family of Mrs. Grace C. (Perretta) Hartnett.



February 06, 2015 at 09:55 AM

AT

“ Bill and family I was sad to hear about Grace passing. I was one of the lucky one's who knew her from childhood to adulthood that lasted 70 years or so. Moving out of state was never a issue always found time to get to see " the sisters" Will miss her laugh and friendship ; Prayers and thought to you and the family.

Annette TalericoGiambrone - February 06, 2015 at 07:59 AM

KE

“ Grace was a kind and wonderful woman. Our condolences to Bill and family.

Karen and Wade Evans

Karen Evans - February 06, 2015 at 07:53 AM



“ Multicolor Bright Sympathy Floor Basket was purchased for the family of Mrs. Grace C. (Perretta) Hartnett.



February 06, 2015 at 07:50 AM

LM

“ Bill, I am so sorry for your loss and now Grace is with the angels.

Loretta Marks, Charlotte NC

Loretta Marks - February 06, 2015 at 07:41 AM

BA

“ Grace was a wonderful person. She treated everyone with kindness. My sympathies to Bill and family.

Becky (Simbari) Almstead - February 06, 2015 at 07:17 AM

JO

“ Grace was a wonderful music teacher who shared her love of music with her students.

We looked forward to the school concerts during my son's years at Deerfield. Our thoughts and prayer go out to Bill and family.

Julie & Richard Orilio - February 06, 2015 at 06:41 AM