



Mrs. Grace (LaParne) DeCarlo Pugliese

November 22, 1926 - May 25, 2022

UTICA – Mrs. Grace (LaParne) DeCarlo Pugliese, age 95, went home to the Lord on Wednesday, May 25, 2022, with the love of her family in her heart. Grace was born in Frankfort on November 22, 1926, to the late Benedetto and Josephine (Bono) LaParne. She was raised and educated in nearby Utica, attending local area schools.

Grace's courtship transitioned into marriage when she wed Patsy J. DeCarlo, and to that relationship came the blessing of three children. Grace was then blessed with a second union with Frank Pugliese; together, Grace and Frank passed the years, loving and embracing each other's children and grandchildren. The couple was happily married until Frank's passing on June 10, 2009.

Grace enjoyed several positions throughout her career, which began with her work at General Electric Co. on French Rd. From there, she transitioned into a role as an Inspector of UNIVAC for Sperry Rand. After that, accepted employment with Par Technology Corp, and it was from there that she retired. An independent woman, she was known for her strength of character as well as for embracing the needs of other people. In fact, she was quite selfless and remained that way through the last moments of her life. The matriarch of her family, Grace is remembered for watching over each person with love and great care. Her kindness and thoughtfulness towards others were never to be outdone. She also managed to accomplish a great deal, as she was quite organized and business-minded. The philosophy by which she lived her life

was, "She called it as she saw it."

Grace was additionally a witty woman whose jokes could bring an easy laugh to others. Her family and friends had a great affection for her and recall fondly her many positive attributes. Grace was an avid volunteer for whom serving others through giving of her time was a calling. She was an active member of the East Utica Neighborhood Watch and would bring the dangers of her community to politicians' awareness. Grace also enjoyed being an Avon representative and was affectionately referred to as "Avon Nani."

For fun, Grace liked to play games of chance at the casino, which she did until this most recent Mothers' Day. Grace and all looked forward to playing cards and dice whenever loved ones gathered; she was the scorekeeper and almost always won! She also appreciated a good romance novel.

Originally one of twelve children, Grace was in awe of those she leaves behind: her sister who has reached nearly 100 years of age, as well as her brother who is currently 93. The family had always celebrated many religious activities together, and Grace remained faithful throughout her life. She had a love of the Lord and a song of faith often on her lips. Grace daily prayed the rosary and was a communicant at St. Mary of Mt. Carmel/Blessed Sacrament Parish.

Grace is survived by her treasured children and their spouses, Gary DeCarlo and Andrea Vasgaard, Patrick and Theresa DeCarlo; and she always held close to her heart the memory of her beloved daughter, Marie Cittadino, who passed on January 24, 2013; Barbara and Robert Conklin, Frank and Terry Pugliese, and Carmen and Madalaine Pugliese. Grace will live on in the hearts of her cherished grandchildren, Renee DeCarlo Gray, Jeremy and Julie DeCarlo; Celeste and Raymond Ferguson; Tanya and Matthew Roberts; Neil DeCarlo, Bridget DeCarlo; Stacia and Michael Craft, Anne and Thomas DeVita, Erika and James Rowley, Billy Conklin (who preceded her on May 25, 2009) and his wife Jennifer Durr; Michele Convertino and Eileen Bowes, Frank J. Pugliese, Gina and Michael Welch, and Lynnmarie and Jesse Waddell. Grace leaves behind an abundance of precious great-grandchildren

(31) and 2 great-great-grandchildren. She will be fondly remembered by her sister, Rose Matranga (and her late husband Joseph); as well as her brother, Joseph LaParne and his companion, Diana. She was preceded by her siblings and their spouses: Dominick and Nancy LaParne, Samuel and Mary LaParne, Benedict and Congetta LaParne, Josephine and Joseph Juliano, Sophie and Anthony Gaetano, Mary and Carmen Scalzo, Florence and Peter Scalzo, Elizabeth "Betty" LaParne, and Santa and Richard Reid. Grace also leaves behind a multitude of nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, and cousins; especially acknowledging her nieces and honoring them for their kindness, Ellen Gaetano, Grace Lindsey, and the late Josephine Gacek (2021). There was a strong bond between Grace and her granddaughter Celeste, who has been of the greatest assistance to her for many years; and the family will never forget her sacrifice of time that was given to be attentive to Grace's needs—Celeste was truly a wonderful caretaker. Grace was blessed with many loyal and dear friends during her lifetime. She was predeceased by her in-laws, Anthony "Tony" Pugliese, Joseph Pugliese, Anna Faga, and Angeline Grimaldi; as well as by her longtime friend, Carmela Budlong.

The family wishes to express their gratitude to the Masonic Care Community of NY Inlet-Household, especially Jose Mateo, Carmen Garcia, Lisa Johnson, and Trista Fuller who were special caregivers who went above and beyond to meet Grace's needs with kindness, patience, and compassion.

The family commemorated Grace's life at a private time. Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend her Memorial Mass of Christian Burial and Celebration of Life which will be held on Monday afternoon, June 20, 2022 at 12:30 at St. Mary of Mt. Carmel/ Blessed Sacrament Parish, 648 Jay Street. There will be an opportunity to greet Grace's loved ones at the conclusion of Mass. In lieu of flowers, those wishing to honor her memory may donate to the Central Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired (CABVI) online at <http://www.cabvi.org/#donate>; envelopes will also be available at the service.

Previous Events

Memorial Mass

JUN **20**. 12:30 PM (ET)

St. Mary of Mount Carmel / Blessed Sacrament Parish
648 Jay St
Utica, NY 13501
(315) 735-1482

Tribute Wall

AC

“ *Sorry for Your Loss, Our thoughts and Prayers are with the family,
Andy & Linda Convertino*

Andy & Linda Convertino - June 15, 2022 at 05:23 PM

AF

“ *Angelique Furgal lit a candle in memory of
Mrs. Grace (LaParne) DeCarlo Pugliese*



Angelique Furgal - June 15, 2022 at 09:59 AM

KH

“ *My heart goes out to Graces family. My thoughts and prayers are
with you all at this difficult time.
Love
Katie and David Hazeltine*

katie Hazeltine - June 08, 2022 at 08:39 AM

BG

*Remember Uncle Frank and Aunt Grace as all my husband's family.
Beautiful memorial to Aunt Grace
Barbara Hoffman Pugliese
Wilmington NC*

Barbara Graham - March 15, 2023 at 09:11 PM

SD

“ Auntie is in our thoughts and prayers . . .she was such a fun sweet auntie to be around. She always had a joke to tell and kept us laughing. . .Her and Aunt Mary. . .She'd print out jokes for the adults and mail them. I visited Mom one summer and was in stitches reading one, with tears rolling down my face. Equally as funny, was Aunt Mary's, called “Here it tis” one about a husband dying and a mini casket . . .if you remember, enuf said 😊. I thoroughly enjoyed our last visit. Thanks to Auntie’s 90th birthday, I saw family I had not seen in years. We had some fun times. . lots of great memories which is the BEST medicine... and I'll miss. You are all in our thoughts and prayers 🙏 sending ❤️ and 😊. Love Sandy & Dave Douglas and Family

Sandy Douglas - June 05, 2022 at 09:43 PM

EG

“ Many days in the nursing facility playing Yahtzee with her and her sister Florence Scalzo.
She through the dice and I counted. Great memory an she always seemed to win.
Going to miss making rice paddies and greens for you
Dance with Marie and the angels RIP. Aunt Grace
Love Pasquale & Ellen Gaetano.



Ellen Gaetano - June 02, 2022 at 11:39 AM

PF

“ As former Chaplain at MCC, I have many fond memories of Aunt Grace. Her niece would bring her to services, and I would visit her frequently.
Sincere sympathy and love of Christ for your loss during time.
Pastor Frederick Klippel

Pastor Fred - June 01, 2022 at 08:04 AM

GM

“ We are very sorry for the loss of your dear Grace. We met Grace and her family thru Marie. They took us under their wings and made us part of their family. Rich and I spent many Christmas Eves at their house and she always made us welcome. Grace was a beautiful lady inside and out and will be missed by all who knew her. RIP Grace 'til we meet again. Rich and Gail Maggiolino

Gail & Rich Maggiolino - May 29, 2022 at 11:10 AM

KS

“ Pizza Fritta after Sunday mass, Italian music playing and Aunt Gracie dancing around and singing. 💕

Karen Gaetano Stoczynski - May 28, 2022 at 06:19 AM

BD

“ Barbara Duff lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Grace (LaParne) DeCarlo Pugliese



Barbara Duff - May 27, 2022 at 11:04 PM

JG

“ Aunt Grace not only was full of love, but loved life itself. I will always fondly remember her visits to nj enjoying family time and a passion for the cassino that her and my mom shared! Always in our hearts.

Joanne Gibbons - May 27, 2022 at 08:32 PM

CF

“ Grandma sending Renee, Jeremy and I to confession on Saturdays. Most of the time we just sat on the church steps for 30 mins then walked back to her house. Sorry Grams!

Celeste Ferguson - May 27, 2022 at 05:56 PM

RG

Bahahahaha I so remember that. And shopping at the outlet factories. And farina, jello cake and Kaboom cereal. ❤️

Renee DeCarlo Gray - May 27, 2022 at 08:56 PM

BJ

“ Ben And Robin Juliano lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Grace (LaParne) DeCarlo Pugliese



Ben and Robin Juliano - May 27, 2022 at 05:29 AM