



Mrs. Jean Dolores (Capraro) Flemma

May 3, 1935 - April 18, 2022

UTICA – Mrs. Jean Dolores (Capraro) Flemma was welcomed into Heaven on April 18, 2022 by the loving arms of her husband John and the rest of the dearly departed Flemmas who passed before her. Her loving son was by her side as her breath gave out peacefully. Aunt Jean, as she was known to the family, was born in Utica on May 3, 1935, to the late John “Jake” and Mildred (DeMola) Capraro. She graduated from T.R. Proctor High School/Class of 1952 and was the salutatorian of her 1954 class at Alfred University, where she obtained her associate degree.

On March 3, 1965, Aunt Jean married the Honorable John E. Flemma, eloping to romantic Elkton, Maryland for a whirlwind ceremony that led to 53 loyal and joyful years of marriage prior to his passing on May 5, 2018. Jean immediately embraced her role as a Flemma, and joined the family as a valued member: a devoted and supportive wife, a caring mother, and a bright, energetic inspiration to the rest of the family. Never more than arms’ length away from her husband, she battled through three campaigns with him, worked the room at every civic function, and augmented her husband’s service to the law by becoming a real estate agent with Joyce Taurisano Realty Co., rightfully earning for herself the respect and admiration of the legal community.

Aunt Jean had two athletic endeavors in life: skiing and golf. Though she was courted by John at such places as Whiteface and Sugarbush, she merely tolerated skiing for the sake of her expert skier husband and son. Golf, however, was another story entirely: Aunt Jean both loved and lived golf to the nth degree. She was known to play as many as 27 or even 36 holes a day – one round with the Ladies Auxiliary and the other with family. Traveling with her family, she played such famous courses as Harbour Town, Kiawah Island Ocean Course, Caledonia, Oak Hill, and The Concord’s “Monster” Course. Aunt Jean also participated in one of the final tournaments of the great women’s champion, Babe Zaharius Didrickson. She followed the pro tour religiously, fervently rooting first for Jack Nicklaus, then for Phil Mickelson. She even opined in print about golf courses in her son’s magazine and news articles, and members of the Golf Writers Association of America still chuckle at her – in print no less – hilariously mispronouncing golf star-turned designer Forrest Fezler’s name, writing “Tell Furry Fozler I said the par-3s are too long.”

Of course, no highlight reel of Aunt Jean’s greatest hits is complete without retelling how

she stole the show at her and John's 50th wedding anniversary: "I can't believe how fast 50 years went by." Showing true valor in the face of adversity, she cared tirelessly for her husband during his long final illness, seeing to his every need, no matter how exhausted she might be.

A particularly religious woman, Aunt Jean was a member of St. Anthony and Agnes Church, as well as St. Mary of Mt. Carmel/Blessed Sacrament Parish. She was also known to enjoy a steaming cup of the freshest gossip, usually supplied with wild inaccuracies and much hyperbolic exaggeration by her sister Susan "Sally" Pilawa.

Jean is survived by her son, attorney and writer Jay Flemma, Esq.; her brother, John and his wife Arlene Capraro; and myriad nieces and nephews, including Barbara and Gregory Kadrlik and their daughter LaTricia Andersen and her husband Nicholas, Patricia and Renato Donato, Jr., George M. Flemma and his daughter Kate, Ed Wiatr, Jr., and the late Maryanne (Flemma) Wiatr who was also her goddaughter; her beloved great-niece, Anne Marie Wiatr Rockwell, her husband Paul, and their son Paul, Jr.; her nieces and nephews, Jeannie, Julie, and Ben Flemma; her great-nephew Ed Waitr III and his wife Hailey; her nieces and nephew, Ed and Terri Flemma, and Jill Flemma; and her cousins, Gene and Kelly Ciccolella, Paul Ciccolella, and Judy Ciccolella; Hon. Jason D. Flemma and Alana Herbowy Flemma and their children.

Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend Jean's Mass of Christian Burial on Monday, April 25, 2022, at 11:00 a.m. at Mary, Mother of Our Savior Parish, Lourdes Campus, 2222 Genesee St.; the family will receive visitors at the end of the Mass.

Donations in honor of Jean's memory may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, online at: <https://www.stjude.org/donate/donate-to-st-jude>; envelopes will also be available at the service. Interment will occur at Calvary Cemetery at the convenience of the family.

Cemetery Details

Calvary Cemetery

2407 Oneida Street
Utica, NY 13501
(315) 735-2727

Previous Events

Funeral Service

APR 25. 11:00 AM (ET)

Mary, Mother of Our Savior Parish, Lourdes Campus
2222 Genesee St.
Utica, NY 13502
<https://www.motherofoursavior.org/CatholicChurch.php>

Tribute Wall

JB

“ *A wonderful lady, and dedicated professional. May your memory be eternal, I you are with “the Judge” again. deepest sympathies to those that survive you. Rest In Peace.*

john brown - April 23, 2022 at 05:58 PM

MN

“ *I'm sure Jean is with her beloved John. My sincere condolences to her family.*

Margaret Fusco Nasto - April 23, 2022 at 04:42 PM

CD

“ *I will never forget lying in a hospital bed at St Elizabeth Hospital after a car accident, hurting and feeling sorry for myself. My cousin, (Jeanne as I knew her), visited me and cheered me up. It was a welcome visit for a teenager who recently lost his Mother. That is a memory I cherish and will never forget.*

*Chuck DeMola
Denver, NC*

Charles DeMola - April 22, 2022 at 11:22 AM

NN

“ *Jay, I've not known you for very long, and the brief time I knew your mother, I could see where your goodness came from. She was and still is a kind and beautiful soul who raised another kind and beautiful soul. I'm sorry for loss, but clearly God needed another angel. I'm here for you, as you know. From the brief time I spent with the two of you together, I could see how much you love each other.*

~Love, Niko

Nicole DeTota, Niko - April 22, 2022 at 10:47 AM

JR

“ *Jay sorry for your loss,
Your dad was a great lawyer,
He helped me with my problems.
Johnny Raspante*

Johnny C Raspante - April 22, 2022 at 09:56 AM

“ Jay and Barbara: I'm so sorry about your mom/ cousins passing. I knew her mainly through knowing the Honorable John flemma through my years of employment for the county , but wherever I turned in public and saw judge flemma, I saw Jean next to him. Through Jay's posts I saw how lovingly Jean cared for her husband during his illness. Jean was an exceptional lady: sharp, witty, energetic n very attractive . I was blessed to make her acquaintance at a social function and though we were not close friends , I deeply admired her. Together , the Honorable John n his wife Jean made a perfect couple and no doubt are enjoying the fruits if their labor with God. I hope God blesses you, Jay for being a devoted son and Barbara, my sincerest sympathies on your loss.
Sincerely, Mary Ules

Mary Ules - April 22, 2022 at 04:39 AM