



Mrs. Jennie A. (DeRusso) DiPerna

March 15, 1914 - July 20, 2015

Mrs. Jennie A. (DeRusso) DiPerna, age 101, passed away unexpectedly on Monday, July 20, 2015 in the comfort and dignity of her home.

Born in Utica on March 15, 1914, Jennie was the daughter of the late Alessandro and Mary (Branca) DeRusso. Raised and educated locally, she was a graduate of Utica Free Academy/Class of 1932. After graduation, Jennie accepted a job as Secretary to the Commissioner of the Department of Social Services for Oneida County. She held this position for 45 years serving under five Commissioners, retiring in her mid-sixties. She had a progressive personality that made her accepting and amenable to the political and policy changes that came as the decades passed. On November 13, 1948 she married Joseph L. DiPerna, Sr.; they were truly in love with each other and shared a commitment to their family. They enjoyed traveling to Florida in winter for a number of years. He passed away on June 14, 2007.

Jennie was a dignified, amazing woman. She was independent, determined, and strong in the face of adversity. Her wit and wisdom were complemented by her kindness and compassion. She lived her life with grace and gentility, attributes that afforded her many friendships, several of them lifelong. She was extremely accepting with never a harsh word for anyone, and her ethics and decency were in perfect balance with her personality. Friends and family turned to her for her loving, sound advice. She was ladylike in her manners but was willing to stand up for her rights and moral beliefs. Family values were important in Jennie's generation and she passed that torch to her loved ones.

A woman of many talents, she was also a dessert aficionado. Jennie loved holiday time, travel time, and any time that she was with family. But the best and most blessed times were those she shared with her grandson, Joey. She relied upon him and adored him. They shared a special relationship and the memories they made will remain with Joey forever.

Jennie was an avid reader of mysteries, especially the novels of Agatha Christie and Mary Higgins Clark. Any knowledge she acquired was important not only for her own edification, but to humbly pass it on to everyone in her life. She was a member of St. Anthony & St. Agnes Church and had in her heart a great devotion to St. Anthony and the Blessed Mother.

Jennie is survived by her daughter, Janet M. Adamczyk of Utica; her son, Joseph L. DiPerna, Jr. of Sarasota, Florida; and her adored grandson, Joseph M. Adamczyk of Utica. She also leaves her nieces and nephews, especially acknowledging Marilyn DiPerna, her goddaughter for whom Jennie was like a second mother; her great-nieces, great-nephews, cousins, especially Joanne Rossini, and her son David of San Francisco, and Palma DeSarro, both of whom she truly appreciated; in-laws, Enrico "Rick" and Mary DiPerna; her best friend, confidant, and travel buddy, Kathryn Shaffer, with whom she spoke daily; and her caregiver and friend, Marlene Bach; because of her attention Jennie was able to stay at home. She was predeceased by her twin siblings, brother, Angelo and his wife Margaret DeRusso; and sister, Theresa and her husband Frank J. DiPerna. She was also preceded by her nephew Anthony DeRusso; in-laws Rose Calo, Rocco and Lucy DiPerna, Frances DiPerna, Elizabeth DiPerna, Anthony and Helen DiPerna, and Susan and Vincent Ciaccia; and her cousin Ann Heinrich.

The family extends sincere appreciation to the Utica Police Department, including Officer Stanley Rejrat and Sergeant Michael D'Ambro for their support and compassion during a difficult moment.

Visitation will be held Thursday from 4:00-6:00 at the Eannace Funeral Home, Inc., 932 South St., corner of Hammond Ave. Expressions of sympathy in the form of donations may be made to the St. Jude Children's Hospital, 501 St.

Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105; envelopes will be available at the funeral home. Jennie's funeral service and Celebration of Life will commence on Friday at 12:00 noon from the funeral home and at 1:00 at St. Anthony & St. Agnes Church where her Mass of Christian Burial will be offered by Rev. Mark Kaminski. Interment will take place graveside at Calvary Cemetery.

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL **23**. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

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

Tribute Wall



“ rip aunt jenny you lived a long and happy life you will truly be miss you were the light in our family I can't belive your gone . God has a angel now I will miss your wit , spunk, and your sprit . I am soo glad I saw you one last time yesterday and you got to meet my fiancé have a peaceful rest the heavens has gained such a special person we all love you and will be miss a lot

Gina - July 28, 2015 at 02:44 PM



“ 99 files added to the album LifeTributes



Eannace Funeral Home, Inc. - July 22, 2015 at 09:35 PM

BG

“ Janet, Joe, & Joey, My fondest memory of aunt Jen was when I was barely a teen cousin Rosemary & I would play and watch over you both while your mom was at work; I also remember learning to iron pillow cases. I'll never forget our phone conversations about my kids, and talking about how she & uncle Joe would take you on vacations when you were kids. Aunt Jen & my Mom were never forgetful but hard of hearing and when they made mistakes on what they said we would laugh together. We will all get through this difficult times together because as you know all our relatives love aunt Jen(as kids we called her auntie Jen). RIP aunt Jen. <3 <3. My girls Gina, & Terri and also Steve loved visiting with her whenever possible they send their prayers of condolences also.

All Our Love,
cousin Barbara, Steve, Gina, & Terri.

Barbara Gondek - July 22, 2015 at 08:20 PM

LB

“ Janet, Joe & Joey,

We know this is a most difficult time for all of you and we share in your grief. I have wonderful memories of my Aunt Jennie who took me on many family outings. She & I shared a love of books; in fact she was the first person to take me to the library as a young child. Whenever Bob, Marilyn & I visited her she was always warm & very welcoming. Before we left, she would ask "when are you coming back?" I can still see her standing in the doorway waving good-bye to us. It was such a comfort to visit her for we missed my mother so. Those at Ashley's graduation party will have wonderful memories of her sitting under the tent with her sombrero and dark glasses, ala "Rose Kennedy." Her appetite was healthy and you could tell she really was enjoying herself. Thank you Janet for sharing your mother's last hours with us, it was a privilege.

*Love,
Bob, Lucy, Matthew, and Marilyn*

Lucy Brodowski - July 22, 2015 at 07:41 PM

JR

“ Joe and Brenda Rossini purchased the Healing Tears - All White for the family of Mrs. Jennie A. (DeRusso) DiPerna.



Joe and Brenda Rossini - July 22, 2015 at 06:00 PM

JW

“ Jim, Becky and Kayla Wheeler purchased the *Healing Tears - Lavender and White* for the family of Mrs. Jennie A. (DeRusso) DiPerna.



Jim, Becky and Kayla Wheeler - July 22, 2015 at 04:59 PM

PD

“ Some of my (Patti) earliest childhood memories include Cousin Jennie and Blandina Street. All of our family has the fondest memories of this very sweet and caring woman. Hopefully she and mom are now having a wonderful visit together. Our love and prayers to Janet, Joe and Joey. May God give you strength during this difficult time.

Love, Pat and Jim

Jen, Andrew, Aiden and Kristen

Mike, Debbie and Callie

Pat and Jim Donovan - July 22, 2015 at 02:16 PM

JO

“ One of the sweetest, kindest ladies I ever knew.....I know it's difficult...condolences to you Janet, Joey and Joe....Love, Joyce Asselta

Joyce - July 22, 2015 at 11:21 AM



“ *Mrs. DiPerna was one of the best neighbors on Steele Place!! I grew up on that street from the age of 11, she was one of the most sweetest and giving person I knew. My prayers and thoughts go out to the family!*



*Love
Ann Zuchowski Dobbins & Family*

Ann Zuchowski Dobbins - July 22, 2015 at 08:13 AM

DR

“ *David J. Rossini purchased the Cherished Memories - Multicolor Pastel for the family of Mrs. Jennie A. (DeRusso) DiPerna.*



David J. Rossini - July 21, 2015 at 09:43 PM