



Mrs. Jo Ann (Mucitelli) Russo

October 16, 1953 - August 2, 2017

NORTH UTICA - Mrs. Jo Ann (Mucitelli) Russo, age 63, imparted her last glances to her husband and son and went home to the Lord on Wednesday, August 2, 2017. Her passing occurred in the comfort of her home with her devoted family at her side.

Born in Utica on October 16, 1953, Jo Ann was the daughter of the late Frank A. and Jennie T. (Marchione) Mucitelli. She was a graduate of Utica Free Academy/Class of 1971 and continued her education at MVCC where she received an Associate degree in Physical Education. She continued her studies at SUNY Cortland earning a Bachelor of Arts degree, a Master of Arts degree in Reading, and her Certificate of Advanced Study in Educational Administration. On October 8, 1977 she married John R. Russo with whom she shared a relationship founded on trust and common points of view. They formed the strongest bond, sometimes a lost commodity in today's world. When they exchanged their vows before God, it was for real, to the very end. During their 39 years, Jo Ann was always first in John's mind and heart. Jo Ann had a notable career in education and administration with the Utica City School District. She began at Wetmore School and continued at Columbus School, Conkling School, John F. Kennedy Middle School, and subsequently at Mohawk High School as Assistant Principal and Athletic Director. In 2002 she returned to the Utica School District where she was assigned Principal of John F. Hughes Elementary School, retiring in 2014. She was a member of the NY State United Teacher's Union. In every capacity of

her career, Jo Ann was a mentor, friend, and teacher. She connected with her students, was innovative, creative, and stimulating in the classroom. She worked tirelessly throughout the summer to prepare for the upcoming school year and was an advocate for the teachers. She was credited and commended by teachers, students, and parents for her vigilance and progressive problem solving. She was beloved by many.

Jo Ann's family was the most important facet of her life. Her son adored her and she was a tender, loving mom who felt blessed because he was the sunshine of her life. Her nieces and nephews held a special place in her heart and she was proud of all their accomplishments. When her granddaughter Skylic was born, Jo Ann was present to hear her first cry, and she fell in love. She would do anything for her, and Jo Ann hoped that she would live on in her life forever.

Jo Ann was talented in so many ways. She was detail-oriented in her crocheting. She gifted many baby sets with incredible embellishments. In her sewing room, she designed and created two wedding gowns. She was also a busy baker who generously gave of her treats. She took an interest in her physical wellbeing and took to running — 12 Boilermaker Road Races and numerous hours in local races, a sport she shared with her husband. She enjoyed kayaking with her son, nieces, and nephews at White Lake which was a place of peace and a part of her soul. She kept a cozy home at the lake, a calm and comfortable piece of heaven that she had known since her childhood and which was the source of lifelong friendships. She was also a member of the White Lake Shore Association.

She had a particular interest in reading and purchased plenty of children's books, an investment that would introduce little ones to language skills and enrich their minds. Her favorite adage was "When you learn to read, you read to learn". During her illness, John continued her passion for promoting reading by volunteering his time to the "Reading with Children" program at J.F. Hughes Elementary School. She called St. Anthony and St. Agnes Church her religious home. She and her late mom Jennie were active in the St. Theresa

Society and volunteered their time to make pizza frita for the congregation. Jo Ann is survived by her husband, John R. Sr.; her son, John R. Russo, Jr.; her granddaughter, sweet Skylië O'Connor-Russo; and her siblings and their spouses, John M. and Kathleen Mucitelli, Cynthia F. Mucitelli and her husband Ivan Guarnizo, Lori M. and David Carrier, and Frank S. and Nina Mucitelli. She will be remembered by her sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Annette and Carl Fiore; aunts, nieces and nephews, Justin and Andrea Mucitelli, Janelle Mucitelli, Melanie and James Benedict, JaNay Mucitelli, JoVon Mucitelli, JaCob Mucitelli; Patrick and Tracy Fiore, Larry and Noelle Fiore, Deanna Zegarelli-Pecheone and her husband Carl; and her great-nieces, great-nephews, and cousins. Jo Ann knew how to be a best friend to many, and each of them held a special place in her life. She will be missed by her canine Golden Doodle "Abbey". She was predeceased by her father-in-law and mother-in-law, Lawrence and Laura Russo.

The family is grateful to Dr. Francis Chabot and the personnel of the St. Elizabeth Medical Center Waterville site; Dr. Manzurul Sikder and his amazing staff at the Slocum-Dickson Medical Group; and the personnel of the Radiation Department at the Faxton-St. Luke's Healthcare Center. All these professionals were most kind and compassionate to Jo Ann. The family extends their thanks to the staff of Hospice & Palliative Care, Inc. who cared for Jo Ann with dignity and concern, allowing her to be in her home during her final days; and to Fr. Mark Kaminski and Deacon Bill Dischiavo for their blessings and visits.

In keeping with Jo Ann's wishes, there will be no public visitation. Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend Jo Ann's funeral service and Celebration of Life which will commence on Monday afternoon at 1:00 at St. Anthony & St. Agnes Church where her Mass of Christian Burial will be offered by Fr Mark Kaminski. The family will graciously receive visitors at the conclusion of Mass. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions in Jo Ann's memory may be made to the Jo Ann Russo Scholarship Fund, Dollars For

Scholars; envelopes will be available at the service. Entombment will follow in Christ Our Savior Mausoleum at Calvary Cemetery.

Cemetery Details

Calvary Mausoleum

2407 Oneida Street
Utica, Ny

Tribute Wall

SF

“ I am so sorry to see this. We had lost touch over the years, but I never forgot you. Seeing what you had accomplished in your life makes me smile. I wish my son had been able to have more contact with his godmother.
Susan Griffiths Fucci

Susan Fucci - April 01, 2021 at 08:20 AM

KB

“ You was such an amazing person. Had the joy of sharing my kids with you at John F.Hugh school. You made parents and students felt comfortable ,relax ,with no worries while our kids was in your hand. There never be a beautiful, kind-hearted, all for children principal like you.. Rest in peace God's Angel.

Keisha Bradley - August 08, 2017 at 01:51 AM

BP

“ Jo Ann will miss your smiling face my friend ! Was a pleasure working at Hughes School with u ! Will treasure the Shawl u knitted for me . Heaven gained an angel . My thoughts and prayers are with your family .



Barbara Poccia - August 07, 2017 at 10:33 PM

RW

“ I was saddened to hear of your passing, you were the principal for all 4 of my children throughout there elementary years. We loved and respected you, we would run into around town at Wal-Mart, Old Forge, and when you retired nothing was the same but we knew you had no other choice. We will never forget you. May you Rest in peace. You have truly been an inspiration in my children's lives.
Love Always, The Willis Family

Rebecca Willis - August 07, 2017 at 08:44 PM

JF

“ John and family, We were sorry to hear of JoAnn's passing. She was a great person, and I have many wonderful memories from our high school yrs. at UFA. Our prayers and thoughts are with you and your family. Judy and Louie Franz

Judy Franz - August 07, 2017 at 08:00 PM

JW

“ I had the pleasure of doing my student teaching at John F. Hughes in 2004. I found Mrs. Russo to be Avery dynamic leader and one who championed her teachers. I remember having come up with creative signs to help with bus dismissal and when the idea was presented to her, the enthusiasm with which she embraced it was inspiring. I hope that all family and friends find comfort in the many memories she shared with you. I pray that those warm memories of her help you through this dark time and that your faith sustains you.

Joseph Wernette-Harnden - August 06, 2017 at 04:11 PM

NE

“ My dear friend JoAnn. You were the "best" principal, mentor, confidant, special friend and family member. You always had a hug for your staff and students at Hughes no matter what might have been going on around you. I will always remember your pure kindness and warmth towards me during the winter months, when you would come down to my room and say " don't you need to leave for your doctors appointment now", which meant please leave now to get home to Syracuse safely.

God gained a very special angel who will watch over all those who she loved and will keep them safe. You will always have a special place in my heart. Rest In Peace my dear friend.

To John, John Jr, Skylic, and her extended family pleas accept mine and Jimmy's deepest condolences, love, and prayers during this very difficult time.

Nancy Herrmann Eichler - August 06, 2017 at 02:43 PM

MP

“ Jo Ann, you were the BEST!!! The best principal, friend, confidant, and mentor. I fondly remember my first years teaching at Hughes and remember your encouragement, passion, and guidance. You always held and always will hold a special place in my heart, your kindness will never be forgotton. Fly high with the Hughes Hawks. Watch over us Jo until we meet again. XOXO

Maria Post

Maria Post - August 04, 2017 at 10:19 PM

PG

“ Penny Grieco lit a candle in memory of Mrs.
Jo Ann (Mucitelli) Russo



penny grieco - August 04, 2017 at 09:26 PM

PG

“ To the family, you are in my thoughts and prayers always!

Whenever i think of my cousin jo ann, i think of the times i used to visit her and she had cupboards piled high with all kinds of chocolate! there was never enough...i used to laugh because if her "stash" started to deplete, she said she had to buy more..rest in peace jo ann...keep the rest of the family in tow!

*love always,
Penny*

penny grieco - August 04, 2017 at 09:24 PM

TS

“ Russo/Mucitelli Family, Please accept my
deepest condolences for your family's loss.



Thomas J Saladino - August 04, 2017 at 05:50 PM

RW

“Jo Jo” was such a dear mentor and friend. Her sense of humor and sage advice were so comforting on many occasions, not only will her memory keep me warm on many dreary days, but so will all of her scarves, mittens, hats, and head bands that she made for me and my three children. I wont walk by a cool rock or pebble without thinking of her. We lost a friend but gained an angel. The Russo family, you are in my prayers.

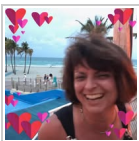
reene wilson - August 04, 2017 at 11:42 AM

RB

“ My sincere sympathy and prayers to John and John Jr. Joann was a truly kind and gracious lady who I was privileged to know and work with for many years. I cherish the memories with her and the many beautiful gifts she made for me and my grandchildren. I will miss her. Rest in peace my friend.

Rose Baccaro


Rose Baccaro - August 04, 2017 at 11:20 AM



“ Jo Ann was not only an outstanding principal, but a kind and true friend. I will miss her but will cherish the memories of her laughter, running the Boilermaker, making pizza frittata at the St. Anthony Feast, and being at camp, kayaking on White Lake. My thoughts, prayers, and deepest condolences to all of her family and friends.



Liz Graziano - August 04, 2017 at 08:44 AM



Brianne
Ashley

“ *JoAnn will always hold a special place in my heart. She was the first principal I had the pleasure of working for... She welcomed me to her school with open arms, and taught me things I will remember throughout my career, always. She continuously had trust and confidence in me, even when I did not. Her smile, witty comments, and gracious support will forever be missed. RIP Mrs. Russo*

Brianne Ashley - August 04, 2017 at 08:33 AM

DM

“ *JoAnn was more than our principal, she was a friend. She had a way about her that made you feel loved at all times. The compassion she showed for students were instilled in all that had the pleasure of working with her. We became a family at Hughes, which continued on throughout life. JoAnn loved a good party, and couldn't wait to get on thst dance floor. Dance with the angels my friend, until we all dance together again. We love you Joann, you're at peace.*

Danielle McEwen - August 04, 2017 at 06:39 AM



“ *Serene Green™ Bouquet For Sympathy was purchased for the family of Mrs. Jo Ann (Mucitelli) Russo.*



August 04, 2017 at 05:44 AM

DG

“ Joann was a beautiful woman inside and out..her smile lit up a room...she had such compassion for people...the life of the party...an amazing principal....a truly treasured friend...Joann...keep those dancing shoes on...and party...Soar with the,angels....beautiful Joann...
Denise Giruzzi

Denise Giruzzi - August 04, 2017 at 01:11 AM

JD

“ She will be greatly missed. JoAnn was the life of a party on that dance floor! We I'll miss her at all family parties. Her smile was contagious. Heavens got an awesome Angel the other day & I can only hope she watch's over me! I hope your dancing with the Angels high up in the skies! RIP CUGINA. 💖💖💖 . Until we meet again, love & hugs



Joanne Davidson - August 03, 2017 at 11:33 PM

AD

“ I remember attending many meetings with Jo Ann. She always had a great smile, and sense of humor. I enjoyed working and learning from her. Rest In Peace.

alicia dambrosio - August 03, 2017 at 10:33 PM

MB

“ You will be forever missed Aunt JoAnn. I will never forget all of our memories together. We Love You. The Benedicts

Melanie Benedict - August 03, 2017 at 08:52 PM

CP

“ *My deepest sympathy. JoAnn was a very kind and gracious woman. May she rest in peace.*

Carla Percia - August 03, 2017 at 07:26 PM

RB

“ *Rosemary Brown lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Jo Ann (Mucitelli) Russo*



Rosemary Brown - August 03, 2017 at 04:51 PM

LS

“ *I love you my friend! Soar with the angels. Dance your heart out up in heaven! 💕💕*



Leslie Spina - August 03, 2017 at 02:01 PM