



Ms. Joan M. "Joni" DeFuria

July 31, 1957 - November 17, 2020

UTICA - Ms. Joan M. "Joni" (Scalise) DeFuria, age 63, passed away on Tuesday, November 17, 2020 at MVHS at St. Luke's Healthcare with those she loved most in her heart.

Born in Utica on July 31, 1957, Joni was the daughter of the late Benjamin F. Sr. and Mary (Cirasunda) Scalise. She was a graduate of Whitesboro Central High School. At one time, she was married to Anthony S. DeFuria and to that relationship came the blessing of two children.

For many years, Joni worked as a Pricing Manager for the Food Lion Grocery Store in Jacksonville and Ft. Myers when she resided in Florida. She was also employed as a Manager at the Piercing Pagoda Jewelry Store in Syracuse at the Carousel Mall. She worked tirelessly to earn her degree in theology from The Way Biblical Research College, Indiana Campus where her unwavering faith, trust, and dedicated belief in God and His risen Son, Christ Jesus guided her life and love for her family and all of those she touched.

Family time was so important to Joni, and when in her home, she often sang songs from her grand repertoire of diverse genres of music. She created Christmas ornaments from empty egg shells and adorned them with intricate details, and the children treasured these mementos. She was adept in the arts of crocheting, knitting, and crafts. Baking was her passion and the Pasticciotti Italian pastry (pustie) was her specialty. At one time she even had her own booth at the Syracuse Regional Market. When she cooked, it was enough for all, and no one left hungry. In the past, Joni conducted a Bible Fellowship at

her home where she loved to teach others about God.

Joni raised her children as a single mom, and she did an excellent job of it. She provided for them, made sure their needs were met and that the Lord was known to them. She gave them a great foundation and virtues to live by, based on her wisdom, tenacity, and love for them. When she became a grandmother, her grandchildren were everything to her. She was doting and affectionate and they called her "Sammie" and they were the icing on the cake! It is not often today for siblings to remain close for many reasons, but Joni had a bond with her brothers and sisters that was like no other; she loved each of them and held them close to her heart. Joni worked hard and got things accomplished in her life, ...Amen.

Joni is survived by her children, Sara N. (Justin) McBride, and Anthony DeFuria; and Jill (Dominic) Lemons who she loved as her own; her grandchildren, Jaida, Vincent, and Cora McBride; Jackson DeFuria; and Dominic, and Riyan Lemons; sisters, Mary Peters, Lucretia Scalise, and Susan Scalise (Douglas Leaf); and brothers, Salvatore "Sam" Scalise, Benjamin F. Scalise, Jr. (Karen), and the late David Scalise. She also leaves her nieces and nephews, David Peters (Megan), Justin (Emie) Peters; Michael (Alaina) Scalise, and Elena Scalise; Bethany (Ron) Rickard, and Annie (Adam) Kane; great-nieces, and great-nephews. She also leaves her cousins who always had a special place in her heart, Edith, Danette, Alina, Bonnie, and Patrick; in-laws, Cathy (Guy) Seminaro; and her best friend, Camille Recanati Loge who always remained in Joni's heart.

The family extends their appreciation to Joni's sister, Lucretia, who was always by Joni's side to comfort her, and went above and beyond to bring her peace and solace.

Visitation will be held Saturday afternoon from 4:00 - 5:30 at the Eannace Funeral Home, Inc., 932 South St., corner of Hammond Ave. Due to current restrictions, we will be operating at a reduced occupancy. We ask for your patience as we try to accommodate those coming to support the DeFuria family. Joni's funeral service and Celebration of Life will commence on

Saturday evening at 5:30 at the funeral home immediately upon conclusion of visitation. Face masks are required and social distancing and contact tracing will be implemented.

During this time of social distancing that we are all experiencing, please take a moment to connect with Joni's family through the "Memories" section of her obituary. Our prayers go out to all as a sign of our continued support.

She had many scriptures but favored Ephesians 6:10, King James Version: "Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might".

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YalgKfrOdsI>

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV **21**. 4:00 PM - 5:30 PM (ET)

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

Celebration of Life

NOV **21**. 5:30 PM (ET)

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

Tribute Wall

RC

“ God's blessings and protection on you all during this difficult time I loved Joni and was looking forward to seeing her at the Family Reunion in Ohio. We have a Saviour thank the Lord who will gather us together forever and ever shall we live with Him! Love you Joni!

Rev Gail Collinson - November 26, 2020 at 10:51 AM

BB

“ We were greatly sadden to hear of Joni's passing. The times we shared with her and the memories we made together will not be forgotten. We missed her living in Syracuse and all her gracious hospitality she gave to everyone who walked through her door. She had a heart of giving that never seemed to end. She could be as stubborn as ever, yet she loved beyond measure. She will be missed by many, yet she left her mark of love on our lives. Although we will miss you, we will see you again when the Lord returns and what a party we will have! Our condolences to her entire family.
Barry & Susie Behlen

Barry & Susie Behlen - November 21, 2020 at 04:59 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Ms. Joan M. "Joni" DeFuria.



November 21, 2020 at 11:48 AM

PW

“ So sorry to hear of Joni's passing. My thoughts and prayers are with you all during this difficult time.

Pattie Webb - November 20, 2020 at 09:20 PM

RS

“ Joni was so kind to share updates of all of her family with me. I have enjoyed watching her grandchildren grow and am so proud of Sara and Anthony and their families. She was the life of the party and always made me laugh. We spent so many hours sharing the bible with each other. She was loved and you know how deeply she loved you. We love you and share this grief with you and call out to God for strength and help during this difficult time.

Randy Smith - November 20, 2020 at 12:08 PM



“ Fairest of All was purchased for the family of Ms. Joan M. "Joni" DeFuria.



November 20, 2020 at 11:58 AM

AT

“ Anthony Trombino purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Ms. Joan M. "Joni" DeFuria.



Anthony Trombino - November 20, 2020 at 05:14 AM



“ *Summer's Light Bouquet was purchased for the family of Ms. Joan M. "Joni" DeFuria.*



November 20, 2020 at 12:38 AM



“ *I am sorry to hear of Joni's passing.*

steve orsino - November 19, 2020 at 09:34 PM



“ *Anthony, Sara, "little" Anthony ,all of Joni's siblings, Guy and Cathy. We are so sorry for your loss. Joni had a wonderful heart. I am sure she will be missed.*

We are also so sorry that due to Covid, we will be unable to attend services.

Sending you much love.♥♥

Aunt Cre, Lisa and Al, Susan and Tom

lisa - November 19, 2020 at 08:22 PM



Thank you we understand,she loved you'd all

Lucretia - November 19, 2020 at 08:35 PM



“ *Joni. You were too young to go. Rest in peace. I know you are having one amazing reunion, Up There.*



Eddie Gendron - November 19, 2020 at 07:49 PM

CR

“ Dear Ben, Karen and Family,

*I am so sorry for your loss.
My deepest Sympathy.*

Carol Rositano



Carol Rositano - November 19, 2020 at 06:38 PM

CR

“ Carol Rositano lit a candle in memory of Ms.
Joan M. "Joni" DeFuria



Carol Rositano - November 19, 2020 at 06:37 PM

LU

“ To my Sister Joni o my heart is heavy ,you
are going to be missed for sure ,thank you for
all of the great memories we had the laughing
uncontrollably ,to get out and don't come back
and then the next day laughing again,you
leave a hole in our family,are hearts are broken, until we meet again
my sweet sister I love you



Lucretia - November 19, 2020 at 02:45 PM

BE

*LuLu, I am loss for words. Thinking of you and the rest of the family
today. Hugs*

Betty - November 21, 2020 at 06:49 AM

BC

“ Wishing to find the words to share with you the good memories of growing up with Joni. Wishing all my cousins heart felt love and peace,



Bonnie Collins - November 19, 2020 at 02:19 PM

LU

Thank you Bonnie

Lucretia - November 19, 2020 at 02:49 PM

VF

“ Vincent F. purchased the Pink Tribute Spray for the family of Ms. Joan M. "Joni" DeFuria.



Vincent F. - November 19, 2020 at 11:48 AM

DA

“ Danette lit a candle in memory of Ms. Joan M. "Joni" DeFuria



danette - November 19, 2020 at 10:31 AM

JM

Thank you Danette. So many memories!

Justin M. - November 19, 2020 at 10:54 AM

LU

Thank you Dan

Lucretia - November 19, 2020 at 02:48 PM

AD

“ *Joni was a lovely woman who meant a lot to me. She came into my life when I was a young girl. She taught so much and will be missed dearly. I love you Joni. Rest In Peace* ❤️

Ashley Darby - November 19, 2020 at 10:22 AM