



Mrs. Josephine "Jo" (Famolaro) Grogan

January 21, 1947 - May 30, 2011

Mrs. Josephine "Jo" (Famolaro) Grogan, age 64, of Utica, went Home to the Lord and her son Richard when she passed away in the privacy of her home on Memorial Day, Monday, May 30, 2011, after a courageous battle with ovarian cancer. At the time of her passing, she was comforted with the love and support of her beloved husband Russ by her side.

Josephine was born in Utica on January 21, 1947, the daughter of Salvatore, Jr. and Lucy (Napoli) Famolaro. She was raised and educated in the Whitesboro School System and furthered her studies at Mohawk Valley Community College. On February 13, 1982 she married Russell "Russ" Grogan with whom she shared 29 years; they were best of friends, a unique support system to each other and truly in love to the very end.

Jo was a trained professional, dedicating over 40 years in the field of health care services. But she would most likely wish to be remembered for her self-taught expertise and artistic flair for photography. She created many works of art that provided numerous families, friends, and businesses with original, creative photographs, CD's, and cards so they would have memories of special events to cherish. She was a communicant of the Church of Our Lady of Lourdes.

Jo is survived by her beloved husband Russ. Always close to her heart was the memory of her son, Richard Wentworth Mitchell II who passed away on February 4, 1995. She also leaves her parents, Sam and Lucy Famolaro of New Hartford; her sisters and brother-in-law, Dorothy Buley of Holland Patent,

and Binnie and Michael Fenton of Deerfield; and her brother and sister-in-law, Sam and Marcia Famolaro of Holley, NY. Her extended family includes her niece Tammie and her husband Gary Defilippo of Brockport; her nephews Michael and his wife Caitlin Fenton of Utica, Jason and his wife Lisa Buley of Holland Patent, and Daniel and his wife Jaime Buley of New Hartford; her great-niece Samantha Buley, and her great-nephews, Nicholas Buley, and Mitchell Buley, three children who brought her many special memories and cherished moments. She also leaves behind her father-in-law and mother-in-law, Jack and Marvel Grogan of Holland Patent; her sister-in-law Gail and her husband Clarence Filckenger of Remsen Port; her brothers and sisters-in-law, David and Linda Grogan of Prospect, and Bruce and Elaine Grogan of Plattsburg; and several other nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, cousins, aunts, uncles, and godchildren. Jo will also be remembered by several very special individuals to whom she referred to as her adopted children: Derek Benz, Alison Ingmire, Tom Zegger, Michael Ferris, Krista and Larry DiCesare, Matt and Cristen Betzenhauser, Matt and Brad Dunlay; and her very best friend in life, Val Badger Sears. She also had many longtime and trusting friendships.

The family wishes to acknowledge and thank Dr. Samir Desai and his office staff, Outpatient Infusion personnel at the Regional Cancer Center, and Hospice & Palliative Care staff for the professional support they provided to Jo, Russ, and her family. A special thank you is extended to Father Joe Salerno for his spiritual support.

Visitation will be held on Wednesday from 4-8 and Thursday from 3-6 at the Eannace Funeral Home, Inc., 932 South St., corner of Hammond Ave. Those wishing to express an act of kindness in memory of Jo may make a donation to her son's fund, the Richard W. Mitchell II Scholarship at the Community Foundation of Herkimer and Oneida Counties; envelopes will be available at the funeral home. Jo's funeral service and Celebration of Life will commence on Friday morning at 11:00 from the funeral home and at 12:00 noon at the Church of Our Lady of Lourdes where her Mass of Christian Burial will be

offered by Rev. Joseph Salerno. Interment will take place in Calvary Cemetery.

Cemetery Details

Calvary Cemetery

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

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 1. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Eannace Funeral Home, Inc.
932 South Street
corner of Hammond Ave.
Utica, NY 13501
(315) 724-6714
eannacefh@roadrunner.com
<https://www.eannacefuneralhome.com>

Visitation

JUN 2. 3:00 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
<https://www.eannacefuneralhome.com>

Tribute Wall



“ Eannace Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Mrs. Josephine "Jo" (Famolaro) Grogan



Eannace Funeral Home, Inc. - May 30, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Joie - that's what I called you when we were children growing up in a very large extended Napoli family. So many wonderful childhood memories flooded back when I heard of your passing. I also remember how much you loved my mother and how much I appreciated all that you and your entire family did to keep her involved with the family she loved. My heartfelt sympathy to Russ, Aunt Lucy, Uncle Sam and all my cousins. May God embrace you and your son with his eternal love.
Adie (Vecchio) Price

Adie Price - June 03, 2011 at 09:10 PM



“ I loved Jo for her courage, her truthfulness, her moxie, her ability to recognize that life could be wonderful and sometimes just "suck". Jo held nothing back. She was a great advocate and loved Russ so much. Her family and her friends filled her with love. I believe Jo is now holding Richard in her arms and telling him about the book she always promised to write....."Stupid Things People Say to Someone who is Grieving". I had so many comments for my chapter in that book, and Jo always told me that she was going to include names! Rest in Peace and Joy and know that you gave us all so much during your life on earth. With love, Sue Cooper



Sue Cooper - June 02, 2011 at 07:00 PM

PB

“ I met Joie and family when I was four our family moved in next door. Some of my fondest memories...she was so funny a real character. I describe Joie as strong, confident, giving and fearless. Her love for family, friends and compassion for those in need...that was Joie. I was sad to hear about Joie's cancer a little over a year ago and she has been in my prayers since. Now Joie you are with the love you created many years ago...Richard who grew up to be quite the young man and you have missed since he passed. I know you and Richard are wrapped in God's love for eternity. Know you will be missed by family and anyone who knew you. To Russ and all your family I extend my love, prayers and sincere sympathy.
Patty (Beaton) Billmaier

Patricia (Beaton) Billmaier - June 02, 2011 at 05:54 PM

PB

“ Patricia (Beaton) Billmaier lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Josephine "Jo" (Famolaro) Grogan



Patricia (Beaton) Billmaier - June 02, 2011 at 04:59 PM



“ Janet (Beaton) Hart lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Josephine "Jo" (Famolaro) Grogan



Janet (Beaton) Hart - June 02, 2011 at 12:34 AM



“ its hard to pick out just one of my memories of joie,we grew up next door to each other,and had some fun times in the neighborhood. Always something to do outside when the weather was good,and games to play inside when it rained or snowed. We used to go to the movies on saturdays or sundays for the mattinees with Jo sisters,Binnie and Dorothy,and my siste Patty. We would sometimes play in the water from the hose out back,and sometimes our two Moms would take us swimming in one of the parks up North.We were in Sorroity DELTA CHI GAMMA together,what a blast that was. We lost touch through the years,my sister and I moved to Colorado and didnt get home much.But I would see her on occassion,she was always in good spirits even if her heart was breaking,and we know that happened when Rich went to heaven at a young age. Now she can join him,and keep track of all of us here. Will miss you Jo. Janet (Beaton)Hart

Janet (Beaton) Hart - June 02, 2011 at 12:29 AM



“ She was great leadership. June Judy and I had shared many years with Jo She will be missed.

Amy Riemersma - June 01, 2011 at 06:43 PM

CN

“ On behalf of the Nemecek Family we would like to extend our heartfelt sympathy to you. Jo was an amazing women who had the gift of lighting up the room when she walked in. We as a family shared many NJROTC Ceremonies at Notre Dame High School and her place at the ceremony will always be memorialized. The world is a better place JO because you were in it...Rest in Peace.

Carla Nemecek - June 01, 2011 at 08:45 AM

SB

“ Jo,
May you rest in the loving arms of your son Richard. God Bless all your loved ones, they will miss you dearly.
With Love,
Your cousin Sharon

Sharon Braunlich - June 01, 2011 at 05:28 AM

LP

“ Jo Grogan was a determined, driven, proud, loyal and tremendously tru friend to all who came in her path. She will be dearly missed by all whose lives she touched and all whom she helped. May God bless and welcome her into His kingdom where she will once again be reunited with her amazing son, my dear friend rich. They had a bond that was remarkable and a love that was envied by all. Words cannot even begin to describe Jo's loss just as there are still no words to describe rich's. She is among the angels in heaven now, and we are blessed to have no greater advocate up there for us. I love you Jo.

Lou Parrotta

Lou Parrotta - May 31, 2011 at 10:44 PM

BH

“ We want to express our sincere sympathy to Jo's dear hubby, Russ, and her Father and Mother, as well as her immediate and extended family. We have many fond memories about Jo and Russ. May our Dear Lord look after Jo as well as those loved ones she left behind. God bless you all.



Barb and Dick Heuser

Barb and Dick Heuser - May 31, 2011 at 08:00 PM

PC

“ Jo had that special something that few possess. People gravitated toward her, and their lives were enriched.

Patty Cecilia - May 31, 2011 at 12:45 PM

DL

“ Jo was a beautiful, selfless, talented and gracious person, who I was honored to meet a few years ago at one of my book signing events. Jo took pictures at the signing, then used her extraordinary talents to create a remarkable DVD of the entire event. I'll always remember her wonderful smile, her humility, and the way she gave so much of herself to so many.
I offer my deepest condolences to Jo's family and friends. The world was a better place because of Jo. She'll be sorely missed.....
deborah leblanc



deborah leblanc - May 31, 2011 at 06:39 AM

AC

I first met Jo during the time we both were dealing with the loss of our sons. She was an amazing inspiration to many grieving mothers, especially myself. Many times we were all tempted to be swallowed up by our grief, but she reminded us that we had no choice but to go on and learn to laugh and enjoy life again even though her heart and ours were broken forever. But we still could be angry and we were. I will always remember her determination to "live again". This world has lost someone very special, a most kind, loving and consoling person who lived life with a full heart, even though it was broken. My sincere condolences to her loving husband, Russ. (richard has now mended her heart).

*Always in my heart and prayers,
Anita Cannistra*

Anita Cannistra - May 31, 2011 at 10:23 AM

JD

Wear dark glasses and drink red wine!

JHD

Jeanne Donalty - May 31, 2011 at 10:02 PM

JD

Wear dark glasses and drink red wine!

JHD

Jeanne Donalty - May 31, 2011 at 10:02 PM

BB

Russ, I'm so very sorry to hear about Jo I know the bond the two of you had and I can feel your pain. May God's grace give you strength and your friends and family give you love.

Bonnie

Bonnie Boehlke - June 02, 2011 at 07:32 AM