



## Kathleen A. "Kathy" (Gigliotti) Niemenski

June 22, 1955 - May 17, 2020

UTICA - Kathleen A. "Kathy" (Gigliotti) Niemenski, age 64, passed away unexpectedly on Sunday, May 17, 2020 with those she loved most in her heart.

Born in Utica on June 22, 1955, Kathleen was the daughter of the late Rocco "Rock" and Alice (Lewis) Gigliotti. She attended St. Mary of Mt. Carmel Grammar School, Conkling School, and was a graduate of T.R. Proctor High School/Class of 1973.

She began her working career at St. Elizabeth Hospital as a Certified Nursing Assistant where her diligent work ethic afforded her the opportunity to earn a SUNY Morrisville Associate Degree in Nursing and her credentials as a Licensed Practical Nurse/Medical Support Assistant, an educational pursuit that yielded her a position at St. Luke's Hospital in the Allen Calder Wing.

Kathy also spent over 15 years as a nurse at Heritage Healthcare Center.

When St. Luke's established their nursing home, she transferred there. Kathy focused on the care and well-being of patients under her watch throughout her entire 30 year career. She will always be remembered for the passion and pride she had in her heart for her nursing profession. Because she was caring, by nature, she embarked on a second vocation at the Rescue Mission where she utilized her skills accrued throughout her many years of caregiving to assist people in need.

Kathy took seriously any health issues that affected her life and she passed on her keen work ethic to her son and also influenced her daughter-in-law to

pursue a health care profession. As a single parent, Kathy provided for her son and watched with pride as he grew to be a fine young man. She was grateful that she was able to give him a step in the right direction in choosing his own career path in caring for people. Being a grandma was a blessing that uplifted her spirit. When calling Lily on the phone Kathy would say, "it's grandma K with the glasses!", and immediately the special connection between the two could be felt over the phone lines.

During her leisure time, Kathy was fond of feeding the ducks at Fly Creek. She loved Janis Joplin's music of the 1960's, and AC/DC's Rock 'n Roll tunes. She was also the laundry "Queen" and kept her home meticulously clean. Kathy practiced her Catholic faith at her home church, St. Mary of Mt. Carmel/Blessed Sacrament Parish, and her trust in the Lord was a guiding light in her life.

Kathleen is survived by her son and daughter-in-law, Daniel "Dan" and Christina Gigliotti; her granddaughter, Lily Alice who revitalized her life when she was born and with whom she shared a great love; her sister and brother-in-law, Susan and Bruce Harrison; and her brother, Frank R. Gigliotti and his partner, David A. Schaitberger. She also leaves her nieces and nephews, Caitlin Smith and partner Lance Thomas and their daughter, Alivia; and Allison Smith and partner David Castellion; many cousins; and longtime friends, Roxanne, Rita, and Nancy.

Dan wishes to thank his fellow co-workers at Kunkel Ambulance who went above and beyond in their quick response and efforts to save his mom; the staff at MVHS at St. Elizabeth's Emergency Department for their empathetic care and concern; and Dr. Shwe Win for his medical expertise.

Due to current health concerns and in keeping with federal and state regulations, the family will honor Kathleen's life privately.

Please take a moment to connect with Kathy's family through the "Memories" section of her obituary on our website.

Our prayers continue to go out to all as a sign of our community support.



# Tribute Wall

FG

“ I wanted to add a few lines to supplement Kathy's obituary, and hopefully provide a better sense of who she was as a person.



*My sister's first love was drawing, a talent she inherited from our father. From an early age, Kathy challenged her teachers, and that spirit would flash bright whenever she encountered an injustice. After graduation from high school, Kathy worked as a Nursing Assistant and saved her money in order to attend Nursing school.*

*Kathy's distinguished career spanned over three decades. She was a strong advocate for her elderly patients, and always fought for their best outcomes, even when that fight sometimes clashed with the "powers that be." Kathy loved her patients and they loved her. A tough supervisor, she earned the respect of her Nursing Assistants by setting a positive example of hard work and dedication to professionalism. After she retired from nursing, Kathy became a care-giver to her own mother, Alice, who sadly passed in 2016.*

*Kathy loved her pets, including George the cat, Lady, her beloved dog, and especially Scooby, her last pet, who was her loyal companion and friend. Kathy leaves behind her greatest achievement, her son Dan, who made her proud. When she met Dan's and Christina's child, Lily, it was love at first sight. They shared a special bond, and Kathy always looked forward to the next time they would be together. The last time, unfortunately, was May 10th, Mother's Day.*

*The lyric of a popular song keeps coming to mind.*

*If you could see what I see (in you), you'd be blinded by the colors.*

*I wish life could have given you back at least half what you gave out. Maybe things balance out in the afterlife.*

*All my love, and thank you for being my sister.*

**Frank Gigliotti** - May 24, 2020 at 03:21 PM

DR

“*Christina and Dan . Please know how sorry I am for your loss. I remember the first time I met your mom , I picked her up to go to Syracuse so she can see you and her granddaughter that was born. She was so grateful. “She said thank you so much. You don’t know me from Adam, and I appreciate it.” We had such a great lunch together with Kayla when we arrived in Syracuse. She wanted to pay because I took her, but I insisted on paying. Eventually we agreed to split the bill( if I recall correctly) and than she said” well ok”. She was so happy to have a granddaughter. I seen her in the grocery store a few months after and she recognized me first. Although I only seen her a handful of times , she was a wonderful woman and I’m sure she is at Beautiful peace with God. Rip*

**Deb Robertelli** - May 23, 2020 at 09:43 AM

TF

“*Please accept our sincere condolences on your mom and grandmother's passing. Take comfort knowing she is reunited with her beloved parents in Heaven and one day you'll be together for eternity. We'll keep her and family in our daily prayers.*



**Tim & Colleen Moylan Family** - May 23, 2020 at 08:22 AM

KM

“ Dear Dan And Christina, we are so sorry for the loss of your Mom. May the Lord wrap his arms around you and comfort you and provide all your need at this time. Love and blessing to you!

Love

Kalil and Theresa Moses

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**Kalil and Thereaa Moses** - May 22, 2020 at 06:36 PM

SH

“ Kathy, I still cannot believe you are gone. I never got a chance to say goodbye. Growing up on Broad Street for the first 8 years of your life, 6 of mine, were full of fun and adventure. Remember roller skating at the Borden's Factory, dangling off of trees, playing with the neighbor children, Paulie Bianco comes to mind. You actually saved my life when we were playing cowboys with horses and little Paulie B. Jumped on the rope that was around my neck, strangling me. You jumped into action and quickly loosened that noose so I could breathe. Thank you for that, I will never forget it. I am alive today because of you❤️. I will miss our chats on the phone and was looking forward to spending more time with you once I retired. You left a whole in my heart. Now you will be with mom and dad. Give them my love.

Your sister, Susan

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**Susan Harrison** - May 21, 2020 at 05:37 PM

SH

Kathy, As I wrote earlier, the “hole” you left in my heart causes my “whole” heart to ache.

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**Susan Harrison** - May 21, 2020 at 07:25 PM