



## Mrs. Lavinia "Lee" (DelMonte) Russo

February 2, 1925 - March 10, 2013

Mrs. Lavinia "Lee" (DelMonte) Russo, age 88, passed away peacefully on Sunday, March 10, 2013 with the love and support of her family by her side. Born in Utica on February 2, 1925, Lavinia was the daughter of the late John and Margaret (Russo) DelMonte. Raised and educated locally, she graduated from T.R. Proctor High School. It was often that Lee reflected upon her childhood and felt fortunate to have been a part of such a loving and close family. On June 9, 1945 she married Captain Nicholas D. Russo, Retired Utica Police Department, who passed away on March 18, 2000; in their 54 year union, they always made time for family, enjoyed travelling with family and friends, and truly embraced life.

Lee worked at the New York Telephone Company for 25 years as an Account Representative. Her pleasant personality and helpful nature made her a natural at the position. A caretaker from a young age, she ministered to her parents and as her husband's illness prevailed, she assisted him with great devotion. Lee was a selfless woman, generous of spirit as well as gifts of remembrance. She was also a peacemaker and was content with her life. She was so proud of her children and grandchildren, and a subtle sense of peace became more evident as the years passed and everyone and everything fell into place. Lee was a woman of style and grace, and her lady-like demeanor shined through in all her endeavors. She was most fond of cooking from scratch and providing an appealing presentation. But the basis for her appetizing preparations was great ingredients. She had a sense of seasoning

and created an outstanding meal that left a memory. She was always hospitable and welcoming with a full-scale menu of love-infused cuisine. She especially enjoyed reunions, and family gatherings were important and meaningful to her. She was blessed with the opportunity to travel far and wide to see places and landmarks she dreamed of. She read extensively, was a master at assembling puzzles, and solved crossword puzzles as a means of keeping her mind active. Lee was always close to her church, Blessed Sacrament. She often invited her beloved clergy to her table to partake of a meal, including Msgr. Taylor, Fr. Baker (who bestowed her with the gift of a dog), and numerous other parish priests. In more recent years she practiced her faith at St. John the Evangelist in New Hartford.

Lavinia is survived by her daughters and sons-in-law, Patti and Art Columbe of PA, Joanne and Nicholas A. Napoli of New Hartford, and the memory of her daughter remained close to her heart, Elizabeth A. "Becky" Hudack, who preceded her in death on May 11, 2003; her grandchildren, Gina and Jeff Hooks, Nicholas Columbe; Lisa and Brandon Smith, Daniel and Lindsay Riddell, Stephen Riddell, and Marlina Riddell; and her great-grandchildren, Marissa, and Matthew Hooks; Isabella, and Sofia Columbe, Hannah Marie Smith, and Lukas Riddell. Also left to remember her are her sisters, Marie Borruso, and Marguerite Kidder; her brothers, Elvio DelMonte, and Eugene DelMonte; many nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, cousins, sisters-in-law Madeline Ciriaco, and Lena Palumbo; and her special longtime friends, Anne Pecheone and Anne's late husband, Raymond. She was predeceased by her sisters-in-law, Pat DelMonte, and Rosemary DelMonte; brother-in-law, Joseph Borruso; and her Russo family in-laws.

The family extends thanks to home health aide Pauline Depellio, a good soul who tended to Lee with such companionship; Becky and Steve Franchell who watched over her home, always aware of her well-being; the Presbyterian Home for CNY, Inc. whose staff provided outstanding care, and the entire staff of Elm Wing, especially Anna and Cindy who looked after Lee with personal touches and excellent care; Wanda Gregory from St. John the Evangelist who

shared the Eucharist and the parishes prayers.

Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend Lee's funeral service and Celebration of Life which will commence on Saturday morning at 10:30 at St. John the Evangelist Church where her Mass of Christian Burial will be offered by Rev. Joseph Zareski. The family will receive visitors at the conclusion of the service. In lieu of flowers, expressions of sympathy in the form of donations may be directed to the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation; envelopes will be available at the service. Entombment will take place in Calvary Cemetery Mausoleum.

Arrangements have been entrusted to the Eannace Funeral Home, Inc., 932 South St., corner of Hammond Ave.

# Cemetery Details

## Calvary Mausoleum

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

# Previous Events

## Service

MAR 16. 10:30 AM (ET)

St. John the Evangelist Church  
60 Oxford Road  
New Hartford, NY 13413  
(315) 732-8521

# Tribute Wall



“ Eannace Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Mrs. Lavinia "Lee" (DelMonte) Russo



Eannace Funeral Home, Inc. - March 10, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ Aunt Patti, Uncle Art, Gina, Nicky, and all family, I am sorry for the loss of a special sweet lady. Many great memories to share in your hearts. Hugs.  
Love Leslie Grumboski-Marucci Family.

Leslie - March 20, 2013 at 11:03 AM



“ Aunt Patti, Uncle Art, Gina, Nick & family...I am so sorry for your loss. You are all in my thoughts & prayers. xoxo!



Lynnette Russo - March 16, 2013 at 12:45 AM

RF

“ Art, Patti, we remember your mom on James Street, when we all went to our beloved Blessed Sacrament School. The memories are priceless and the thoughts are genuine. It's sad to see someone pass on that was part of our growing up. Rod and Danyse Fusco

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**Rod Fusco and Danyse Fusco** - March 12, 2013 at 03:50 PM

TK

“ Patti & Joanne,  
With my deepest sympathy on your Mom's passing. She was a special lady. Mom and Dad (Betty & Don) enjoyed many good times with your parents...now they are all united. I will keep you both and your families in my prayers.

*Therese (Buttimer) Kamilow*

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**Therese Kamilow** - March 12, 2013 at 01:48 PM

LS

“ Patti, Art and family,  
Joe and I are praying for you and your family during this difficult time. Your mom was a special lady. God has another angel by his side now.

*Joe and Leslie Spehar*

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**Leslie Spehar** - March 12, 2013 at 12:32 PM

TR

“ Tina Rivera lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Lavinia "Lee" (DeMonte) Russo



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**Tina Rivera** - March 12, 2013 at 06:42 AM

RB

“ *Joanne, Nick and family,  
So very sorry to learn of your Mom's passing. You are in our  
thoughts and prayers.  
Paul and Rose Baccaro*

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**Rose Baccaro** - March 11, 2013 at 06:32 PM

EO

“ *Elaine & Norman OConnor lit a candle in  
memory of Mrs. Lavinia "Lee" (DeMonte)  
Russo*



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**Elaine & Norman OConnor** - March 11, 2013 at 01:34 PM

PB

“ *Paulette Borruso-DeSimone lit a candle in  
memory of Mrs. Lavinia "Lee" (DeMonte)  
Russo*



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**Paulette Borruso-DeSimone** - March 11, 2013 at 11:11 AM

PB

“ *Aunt Lee, How I remember the days that I would go to your house  
after school with Becky. Such memories that I will always cherish. I  
still laugh at the time you bought Becky and I eggs and shaving  
cream for halloween. We had to hide them from Uncle Nick. You are  
at a special place now with Becky and Uncle Nick. I'll miss you!!  
Love Paulette*

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**Paulette Borruso-DeSimone** - March 11, 2013 at 11:10 AM

EL

“ Aunt Lee...

*As we count our blessings we can't help but think of you*

*Dear to us in childhood days and all our whole lives through!  
Everything seems sweeter just in knowing that you're there  
Always feeling you're sincere in showing that you care.  
Remember all the happy times . . . remember all the laughter?*

*A fairy tale of never ending happily ever after.  
Until we meet again, we know we're always close at heart  
No one else could take your place, we knew that from the start  
Together we hope all the dreams you've dreamed will all come true*

*God blessed us with a special gift  
because He gave us  
you.*

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**Elaine** - March 11, 2013 at 10:54 AM

BF

“ Joanne, Nick and family,

*Steve and I wanted to let you know how much we cared for Lee.  
She was wonderful to help out because there was never a problem. I'll  
miss her terribly. I'm glad I went to see her. Prayers and  
condolences to you and your family.*

*Love,  
Becki and Steve Franchell*

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**Becki Franchell** - March 11, 2013 at 10:24 AM

JJ

“ *Joanne, Nick and family:*

*Janice and I send all or prayers and  
condolence for you and your love ones. Let  
Aunt Lee rest in peace with Captain Nicholas.  
Cousin Sam*



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**Janice and Samuel L. Russo, Jr.** - March 11, 2013 at 06:00 AM