



Leona E. (Brown) Ballard

December 7, 2008

Mrs. Leona E. (Brown) Ballard, age 68, of Utica, passed away on Sunday, December 7, 2008 in the comfort of her home with her loving family by her side.

Born in Ft. Covington, NY on August 29, 1940, Leona was the daughter of the late Richard and Catherine (Perry) Brown. Raised and educated in the northern part of New York State, she also studied in Potsdam, NY. She came to the Utica area in 1964, and on July 10, 1965 she married Keith J. Ballard with whom she shared 43 years in a relationship that exemplified their philosophy of a committed marriage built on a solid foundation, a partnership in life, and a mutual trust.

Always humbly serving others, Leona had been employed by various area businesses, including Lincoln Laundry, St. Elizabeth Hospital, the Tiki Toi Restaurant, and Dan Dee Donuts. Lastly, she ventured on her own, establishing Leona & Friends on Mohawk St., then relocating to South St. as Leona's Café operating until 2005. She enjoyed preparing food and was plentiful with her portions and hospitality. Leona was nicknamed "Sparky" by her son, Mark, and so was one of her more popular breakfast offerings. A loving soul, Leona was often unassuming and selfless in her actions and endless generosity, never wanting center stage for her efforts or thoughtfulness. She will be remembered for her good works at the Hope House. During her leisure time, Leona enjoyed golfing, traveling with her husband, and trying her luck occasionally at games of chance. She especially

looked forward to spending summers together as a family at different camps, as she derived much peace from campfires and the outdoors. At home, her favorite pastime was perfecting her culinary creations. She loved the holidays and made all occasions special for her loved ones. She was a communicant of St. Mary of Mt. Carmel/Blessed Sacrament Parish.

Leona is survived by her husband, Keith, Sr.; her daughters and son-in-law, Catherine "Cathy" Ballard and her friend, Tom Elmer; and Shirley and Matthew Damico of Albany; her sons and daughters-in-law, Daryl Ballard of TN and Judith Ballard of Clark Mills; Keith, Jr. and Dawn Ballard of Deerfield, Richard "Dick" Ballard and his companion, Shari Lynn Paulson; and Mark Ballard, all of Utica. Always close to her heart was the memory of her daughter, Cheryl A. Hertel, who passed away on September 20, 2007. She is survived by her son-in-law, Irving A. Hertel. In addition, she leaves her 14 grandchildren, Chad, Scott, and Andrew Johnston, Gregory Torres; Chastity, Brittany, and Amber Ballard; Michael Ballard; Keith Richard Ballard, Christopher Stevens and Korey Ballard; Jessica Montanaro and Joseph Saunders; and Madison Lee Damico; her 6 great-grandchildren; her sisters, Harriet LaBrake, Sister Shirley Anne Brown, S.S.J., and Mary Gilette; her brothers and sisters-in-law, Edward and Pat Brown, and John and Laurie Brown. Survivors also include her nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, cousins, godchildren, and in-laws, June Brown, Gloria Brown, Jack and Mary Ballard, and Mary Daniels. Leona was also blessed with longtime friends Millie Fausto, Donna and Dorothy Peppinelli, and her hairdresser, Sharon. She was predeceased by her sisters, Barbara Garrand, and Rita Brown; her brothers, Richard Brown, Harold Brown; and her infant brother, Robert Brown.

The family expresses appreciation to Dr. Samir Desai, and the Visiting Nurses Association, with special mention of Darlene, Doreen, Maryann, and Debbie; Fr. John Rose and Fr. Anthony LaFache for their prayers and blessings; and the many friends who remembered Leona during her illness, especially those at Snyder Flooring, and the Lewis family who were so kind and generous. Visitation will be held Wednesday (today) from 4:00-7:00 at the Eannace

Funeral Home, Inc., 932 South St., corner of Hammond Ave. Leona's funeral service will commence on Thursday morning at 10:00 from the funeral home and at 11:00 at St. Mary of Mt. Carmel/Blessed Sacrament Parish where her Mass of Christian Burial and Committal Prayers will be celebrated by Fr. Robert Kelly.

Tribute Wall

AN

“ Grama it coming up on 2 yrs now that u been gone. It seems just like the otherday i was at the restraurant. well thanksgiving is here wish i had your good food to eat. i miss you so much. i love you

andrew - November 25, 2010 at 10:03 AM



“ Mom, it is approaching a year since you left us and it has been the hardest year of my life without you here. I know you are always watching over and I feel your presence around me alot. I hope you are proud and how well Madison is doing and all the moments I get to share with you all the time by you watching over us. I miss our phone chats, your great touches to the holidays and spending time together. I hope you know how much I love and miss you! Keep sending signs! Love, Shirley##imported-begin##Shirley##imported-end##

December 06, 2009 at 12:29 PM



“ hey gram its andrew it has been a tough few years he took u from us knowing it was your time we all miss you i miss the phone chats bout my mom n the great dinners hope your smiling down on us with my mom take care of the ones who need it and cant wait to eat ur sausage roll again lol love you miss you##imported-begin##andrew##imported-end##

December 05, 2009 at 09:06 PM



“ mom i miss you so much even though i know you are around me and dad every minute of every day i wish you were here to do the thing's you were great at listening to all of us and keeping us going straight but now i know you will lead us by the hand and straighten us by spirit i miss you sparky and know that i will always love you no matter what i did think it was easy!!!! ha ha love you mom###imported-begin###MARK###imported-end##

February 19, 2009 at 04:16 PM



“ Mom,
It's Christmas Eve and the reality of you not being here is finally hitting me as I called the house tonight and everyone is gathered and I spoke to Dad instead of you.
I know you are watching over us all and enjoying your Christmas with our god, Cheryl and the rest of your family.
I just want you to know that I miss you so much and there is not a moment of the day I don't think about you and wish you were here. But I know you are with me in spirit and can feel me around me all the time.
Merry Christmas Mom, I love you to the moon and back.
Keep sending me signs.
Love,
Shirley###imported-begin###Shirley###imported-end##

December 24, 2008 at 11:25 PM



“ Dear Shirley - We are so sorry for your family's loss. You are such a generous, loving person. As we read your dear mother's beautiful obituary, it was clear that she had those same wonderful qualities. Please know that if we could absorb some of your pain that we would.##imported-begin##Brendan & Erin McCarthy##imported-end##

December 15, 2008 at 02:58 PM



“ Dear Shirley and Family: I know that this has been a very rough year for all of you with two losses to deal with. You are all in my prayers. The Lord bless you and keep you and may His grace shine upon you and give you peace.
~Love and Blessings Gloria##imported-begin##Gloria Kindon##imported-end##

December 12, 2008 at 05:49 PM



“ Shirley-I am so sorry for you and your family. As I read your moms obituary I could see how loved she was by everyone who knew her.##imported-begin##Nicole Macy##imported-end##

December 12, 2008 at 05:14 PM



“ Keith,
Just read this afternoon of Leona's being called home to God. I join you in prayer for her being fully at peace with her God and I join her in praying for peace and happiness for you & family, as you continue your own journey of life. Leona was always nice to talk with and you.....such a generous with your time person around Blessed Sacrament. I was honored to serve as your pastor. God Bless you. Bob Kloster##imported-begin##Bob Kloster##imported-end##

December 11, 2008 at 02:16 PM



“ Shirley,

My heart felt condolences for you and your family at the lose of your mom.
Memories last forever....##imported-begin##John Quell##imported-end##

December 11, 2008 at 08:37 AM



“ With deepest sympathies to the entire Ballard family at so great a loss. Shirley you and your family are in my thoughts.##imported-begin##Cheryl Watts##imported-end##

December 10, 2008 at 10:49 PM



“ Uncle Keith and family, Im sorry to hear of Aunt leona's passing. Our prayers and thoughts are with you and the family.##imported-begin##Ken and Sandra Roberts##imported-end##

December 10, 2008 at 06:33 PM



“ *In faith, know that you never lose the people you love, even to death. They continue to participate in every act, thought and decision you make. Their love leaves an indelible imprint in your memories. May you find comfort in knowing that your lives have been enriched by having shared their love. Our thoughts and prayers are with all of you.##imported-begin##The Kachmarik Family##imported-end##*

December 10, 2008 at 05:01 PM



“ *TO THE BALLARD FAMILY:
OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS ARE WITH YOU AT THIS TIME.
FROM THE PHYSICIANS AND OFFICE STAFF OF ADVANCED
PHYSICAL MEDICINE##imported-begin##ADVANCED PHYSICAL
MEDICINE##imported-end##*

December 09, 2008 at 08:10 PM



“ *the ballard family,my prayers are with you and your family during this sad time..~Jill Brown (neary)##imported-begin##jill brown(neary)##imported-end##*

December 09, 2008 at 06:31 AM



“ *We are so very sad to hear about Leona. There are so many wonderful memories of Leona that will be cherished. All her ventures. She was such a sweet, giving person. We pray for peace in your hearts. Thinking of all of you...##imported-begin##Maureen, Steven and Kids##imported-end##*

December 08, 2008 at 11:15 PM



“ Shirley and Family - I am so sorry to hear this sad news. May your memories give you strength and the love of those around you help you through the days ahead. ~ Janice##imported-begin##Janice Jenny##imported-end##

December 08, 2008 at 08:32 PM



“ Dear Mr. Ballard & family,
I would like to extend my condolences to you and your children in this sad time in your lives.
Our prayers were with you in the past, as well as the present.
God Bless you and your family!
Sincerely,
Judy, Veronica & Kenneth Williams##imported-begin##Judith Williams##imported-end##

December 07, 2008 at 08:59 PM