



## Lillian M. Vatalaro

April 21, 1959 - October 16, 2020

NEW HARTFORD - Lillian M. Vatalaro, age 61, passed away unexpectedly on Friday, October 16, 2020 in the comfort and dignity of her home with those she loved most in her heart.

Born in Utica on April 21, 1959, Lillian was the daughter of Nicholas R. Vatalaro, Sr. and the late Catherine "Katie" (Moran) Vatalaro. She was a graduate of T.R. Proctor High School/Class of 1977, and continued her education at SUNY Oswego. She matriculated to Utica College of Syracuse University where she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Secondary Education.

Lil began her working career at the (UFCW) United Food & Commercial Workers Union Local #1 as Secretary to the Vice President, the position from which she retired after more than 20 years. Concurrently she pursued post-graduate courses and received a Master's degree. Lil was a mother figure, with her mother's assistance, to her two nieces who she loved as her own. She accepted a position at Oneida-Herkimer-Madison BOCES where she worked patiently and diligently in Special Education. She then worked at Kids Oneida on a part time basis to share her heart with those children who needed her. She also taught at one of the local prisons. She had a passion and love to be with people, and all of these efforts were to fulfil her desire to be a great mentor.

Although Lillian had a great sense of humor and was a bit of a teaser and joker, she was a woman of sincere generosity. If she had something and you

needed it, you got it! She had a “big hand” and a benevolent heart. Holidays were spent with family seated around the table with traditional meals. Everyone came home and valued their time together, ...thank God Lil did not cook. But she was a great tennis player, a sport she began in high school, and she also participated in softball and bowling, always remaining very active. She vacationed at travel spots in New York State, favoring Lake George and Brant Lake in the Adirondacks, and nothing can compare to the memories she made during those days with her family. Lil was a strong-willed, determined woman, and one of her greatest accomplishments was raising her brother Nicky’s girls. She loved them, guided them, and took on the role of mother; the girls looked up to her and adored all that she did for them. She was very spiritual and felt the presence of her mom about her. She valued the lessons of life that her mother passed on to her, and they kept her mom’s memory alive. Not everyone would have accomplished the things she did, but her reasons were genuine, sincere, and from her heart.

Lillian is survived by her dad, Nicholas R. Vatalaro, Sr.; siblings, Ray Vatalaro, Beth and Bob Davies, Kevin Vatalaro and Lily Oh, and the memory of her brother Nicholas R. “Nicky” Vatalaro, Jr. who preceded her on September 6, 2018; her 9 nieces and nephews, especially acknowledging Mary Kay Vatalaro-Tyksinski, Jacqueline Vatalaro, and twins Sandra Vatalaro and Nicholas R. Vatalaro III; great-nieces and great-nephews, especially Vincent Sgaglione, Michael Plumb, Addison Tyksinski; her aunt, and cousins.

Visitation will be held Friday from 4:00-6:00 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 Vatalaro family. Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend Lillian’s funeral service and Celebration of Life which will commence on Saturday morning at 11:30 at the Church of Our Lady of Lourdes where her Mass of Christian Burial will be offered. Face masks are required and social distancing and contact tracing will be implemented at both locations. In lieu of flowers, donations in Lil’s name

may be directed to the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital online at <https://www.stjude.org> or by mail to 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105; envelopes will be available at the funeral home.

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

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QDYfEBY9NM4>

"Let It Be" by The Beatles

# Cemetery Details

## Crown Hill Memorial Park

3620 State Route 12  
Clinton, NY

# Previous Events

## Visitation

OCT **23**. 4:00 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

# Tribute Wall

SH

“ I'm ashamed to say I am just seeing that Ms.Vatalaro passed away nearly 2 years ago. Words can express how sad I am this morning, last night I had a dream about her and I woke up today searching her name to find she passed. She was the sweetest and most caring teacher of mine. The only one who showed compassion, and tried to help and understand me. She remembered me even though a whole 10 years went by and I was no longer a kid. I took her order at McDonald's and she was so excited to see me, she expressed how we should sit down after work and have some coffee and chat but with life being so different and busy, we never got to do that and I so wish we did. She was the absolute best person with the biggest heart, if you needed anything at all.. she is would get it and if she didn't have it, she would find a way! I miss you Ms. Vatalaro 😞

Shayna - September 19, 2022 at 09:08 AM

AG

“ So very sorry to learn of Lil's passing. She and I had many good times together when working at UFCW. Kind, beautiful, smart, sincere and a generous heart. She will be missed.

Andrea Goldberger - December 25, 2020 at 10:38 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Lillian M. Vatalaro.



October 22, 2020 at 11:09 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Lillian M. Vatalaro.*



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October 22, 2020 at 08:49 PM



“ *Lil was a great person and I worked with her over 20 years. She will be greatly missse by friends and family.*

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**Rene Murphy-Johnson** - October 22, 2020 at 03:16 PM



“ *Lil was an amazing person. I have wonderful memories as we worked together for a very long time. I know she was loved very much and will be greatly missed.*



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**Denise Ambrose Kassler** - October 22, 2020 at 10:43 AM



“ *Michelle Cavo lit a candle in memory of Lillian M. Vatalaro*



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**michelle cavo** - October 22, 2020 at 10:32 AM

SP

“ Ray, Mr. Vatalaro, and all the Vatalaro family. I am so sorry to hear about Lillian passing. Growing up on Albany Street only two houses up from you was so much fun. Many memories of Mr. Softy ice Cream truck stopping in front of your house or the Piazza's. Playing in the back yard near the grapevine. Although we all went our separate ways, the memories lived on. God bless you all and may peace be with you.

*Salvatore Piazza*

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**Salvatore Piazza** - October 21, 2020 at 09:56 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Lillian M. Vatalaro.



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October 21, 2020 at 06:29 PM

PM

“ Classy Lady, infectious smile and a heart that overflowed with love! She will be missed by all, Praying for peace for all.

*Pam Marrone*

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**pamela marrone** - October 21, 2020 at 04:54 PM

OR

“ I was so saddened to read you had passed. You were a special person who would do anything for anyone. If someone needed help, you were there. I think God needed you in heaven. Bless you dear Lily.

*Olga Ryan*

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**Olga Ryan** - October 21, 2020 at 12:32 PM

PS

“ Paulette Sbarra lit a candle in memory of Lillian M. Vatalaro



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**Paulette Sbarra** - October 21, 2020 at 12:06 PM

PS

So sad to hear of the passing of Lil. She was a beautiful person inside and out. Rest in peace my friend. My sincere condolences to Lil's family.

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**Paulette Sbarra** - October 21, 2020 at 12:14 PM

GD

“ I have great memories of Lillian from playing volleyball and other sports at Proctor as well as our living together at SUNY Oswego! She was a beautiful person with a great sense of humor who touched many people. Rest in peace dear Lillian. Gone too soon!!

*Gina Amodio DeMartis*

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**Gina DeMartis** - October 21, 2020 at 10:56 AM

JD

“ Lil and I went to Proctor together-I know her sister Beth and worked with her Brother Ray. Beautiful Family!! Lil had the Best Smile, she was quick witted and always made me laugh till I Cried. Beautiful person inside and out. RIP my friend, until we meet again.



Jacquelyn DeLuca - October 21, 2020 at 10:44 AM

TL

“ Therese Laffey lit a candle in memory of Lillian M. Vatalaro



Therese Laffey - October 21, 2020 at 09:53 AM

JP

“ Jeannie Pawelek lit a candle in memory of Lillian M. Vatalaro



jeannie Pawelek - October 21, 2020 at 12:15 AM

FF

“ Fran Fuller lit a candle in memory of Lillian M. Vatalaro



Fran Fuller - October 20, 2020 at 07:39 PM

GA

“ *Gigi Sykes Allen lit a candle in memory of Lillian M. Vatalaro*



**Gigi Sykes Allen** - October 20, 2020 at 07:16 PM

JB

“ *Jay L. Bloom lit a candle in memory of Lillian M. Vatalaro*



**Jay L. Bloom** - October 20, 2020 at 05:53 PM

MM

“ *Michelle Franco Mancuso lit a candle in memory of Lillian M. Vatalaro*



**michelle franco mancuso** - October 20, 2020 at 05:42 PM

MM

*So sad to hear of my dear friends passing. We shared a lot of years together while she help raise her nieces, then her great nephew and my kids. I have a lot of wonderful memories ; may you rest Peace my friend Li💔*

**michelle franco mancuso** - October 20, 2020 at 05:46 PM

EA

“ I am so very sorry to hear of Lil's passing. I went from grade school to Proctor with Lillian. I will always remember that beautiful smile. May she rest in peace. Elena Rocco-Artessa

Elena Rocco Artessa - October 20, 2020 at 03:33 PM

MD

“ I graduated from Proctor with Lil in 1977. She was a great athlete. She went on to SUNY Oswego where I graduated from in 1981. I remember great times and memories with Lil. May she rest in peace and love with God.

Mary Ann Ciotti DeBernardis

Mary Ann DeBernardis - October 20, 2020 at 02:39 PM

JG

“ Beth and family , so sorry to read this today . Our thoughts are with you at this difficult time .Lilly was a beautiful person inside and out, may she Rest In Peace .God Bless you and your family .

Janice Greer - October 20, 2020 at 11:55 AM

CG

“ I worked with Lil at the UFCW for many years, we were not only co-workers but we were real good friends. What a great and classy lady. My heart is broken when I learned of her passing. My thoughts and prayers go out to her family. Lil was a very special lady, and she was very strong! Rest in Peace my sweet friend.



CHERYL GRAZIANO - October 20, 2020 at 11:01 AM

PO

“ *Patti Overacker lit a candle in memory of Lillian M. Vatalaro*



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**Patti Overacker** - October 20, 2020 at 08:56 AM

CW

“ *My deepest sympathy goes out to Lil's family. She loved you all deeply and often spoke of you. I met Lil 15 years ago while we were working at BOCES. We became good friends and continued to stay close when she left BOCES. Last year she bought a place by me on the St. Lawrence River in Cape Vincent. We were together almost every weekend and had many fun special times with each other and with the new friends she made at camp. Everyone on the river loved Lil. She lit up a room. She was a true friend and I will miss her deeply. I love you Lil. God bless you all.*

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**cathy wright** - October 20, 2020 at 08:10 AM

LF

“ *Lynette Franco lit a candle in memory of Lillian M. Vatalaro*



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**Lynette Franco** - October 19, 2020 at 10:42 PM