



## Martha (De Carlo) Cooper

October 22, 1953 - September 8, 2025

FRANKFORT – Martha (De Carlo) Cooper, age 71, passed away peacefully in the comfort and dignity of her home on Monday, September 8, 2025.

Born in Alberobello, Italy, on October 22, 1953, Martha was the daughter of the late Giovanni and Cosimina (Tramacera) De Carlo. At the age of 14, she immigrated to the United States with her family, eventually settling in Utica. She was a proud graduate of T.R. Proctor High School and continued her education by taking business courses at Herkimer County BOCES, where she proudly earned a certificate.

Martha married Leon C. “Jake” Cooper on May 19, 1973. The couple shared 51 loving years together prior to Leon’s passing on August 14, 2024.

Martha was primarily a devoted homemaker, but she also cherished her role at West Frankfort Elementary School, where she worked in cafeteria operations. At one time, she was also employed at A.C.S., where she processed loans.

Her family was the light of her life and the center of her world. Martha was a devoted and loving mother, a woman of deep warmth and magnetic charisma. She had a heart that welcomed everyone — and a spirit that wasn’t afraid to speak the truth. Fiercely honest and refreshingly direct, she had a feisty

disposition that made her both admired and unforgettable. With her unique way of expressing herself, she never sugarcoated her words — but those who knew her understood that every bit of honesty came from a place of love. Beneath her spirited nature was a nurturing soul, especially when it came to her grandchildren, for whom she had a boundless affection. They were the sparkle in her eye and the joy in her heart.

In her earlier years, Martha enjoyed being a Girl Scout leader and made many lasting memories during that time. She was a talented cook—her lasagna, pasta soup, and mouthwatering beef stew were family favorites, always made with care. Martha took great pride in keeping a meticulous home, always scrubbing the floors on her hands and knees. She was especially fond of using bleach and ammonia, which she considered essential to a proper clean. Martha found great joy watching “The Golden Girls” and was very much a Sophia Petrillo herself—sharp-witted, outspoken, and full of charm.

One of her biggest, proudest accomplishments was building her home with her husband. She often relived those memories, and they were able to create treasured moments there through shared sacrifices. They were a proud couple, never accepting handouts and sooner going without themselves to build a beautiful home and life for their family.

Martha is survived by her daughter and son-in-law, Divina M. and Bill Spellman. She treasured the memories of her children who preceded her, Jacob C. “Coop” Cooper (2013), and Jessica A. Cooper (2019). Martha is also survived by her beloved grandchildren, Dominique Spellman and Jordan Kane; Antonio Cooper, Jacob Cooper, Aianna Cooper, and Aviella Cooper, and their mother, Kourtney Cooper; and her siblings and their spouses, Pia and Vincent Brancaccio, and Vito and Juanita De Carlo. She fondly remembered her brothers who preceded her, Mario DeCarlo, Dominico “Dominick” De Carlo, and Cosmo and Evelyn De Carlo. She additionally

cherished her sisters-in-law, Carmella De Carlo, and Michelle De Carlo; many nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, cousins; goddaughter, Marlene Raleigh; in-laws, Jewell Kent (of the late Roger Kent), Ila Cooper, and Peter and Sharon Cooper; and dear friends, Denise Gleba, a lifelong friend who lovingly assisted with her care, from bathing her to helping her with household needs; Wanda Wooden, her closest friend since high school who continuously offered loving support; Joann Bronga, a lifelong friend who uplifted her with phone calls; Michelle Lopiccolo, a lifelong friend with whom she shared many treasured memories; and her late son Jacob's best friend, Eric Cleveland, whom Martha considered a second son and who was always at their home. Martha was additionally predeceased by her father-in-law and mother-in-law, Leon F. and Evelyn (Withers) Cooper; in-laws, Joanne and Jack Wheeler, Joan and Robert Ward, and Lucy Cooper; nephews, Michael V. Brancaccio, and Michael DeCarlo; her friend, Barbara Anderson; and her beloved canine companion, Cooper.

Gratitude is extended to Jenna and Bridgette from the ICU at Wynn Hospital for their care and compassion.

The family will honor and commemorate Martha's life privately. Interment will take place in Calvary Cemetery at the convenience of the family.

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

# Cemetery Details

## **Calvary Cemetery**

2407 Oneida Street  
Utica, NY

# Tribute Wall

ML

“ My deepest condolences to Divina and family. We all had some wonderful times together and I am thankful for these memories. I shall cherish and relive them for life. Rest in Peace my friend. Love you.💕

Michelle Iopiccolo - September 14, 2025 at 12:12 PM

KZ

“ Divina,

So sorry for the loss of your Mom. Take comfort in knowing that she is no longer in pain and reunited with Jacob and Jess. She appreciated all that you did for her and your Father. I will definitely miss all your funny stories from your daily visits with your Mom.

Love you.

Korin

Korin Zalocka - September 13, 2025 at 04:39 PM



“ I'm so sorry to hear of Martha's passing. I remember Martha, Pia, Mario and the DeCarlo family when they moved to America from Italy. What a great family! They lived on Five Points next to Elefante's. I remember all the fun times playing outdoor games with them and our friends. Martha was a kind and wonderful person, with a beautiful smile and a heart of gold.

Joe Arcuri

Tina N Joe Arcuri - September 13, 2025 at 10:53 AM

PM

“ Martha was a special person everything that was written abt her is exactly right i met her the first year she was here. At 14. best friend Barbara met Martha at conkling gramer school. They changed the district so Barbara had to go from Roosevelt to conkling. Martha made friends with Barbara right away. With her outgoing personality I've been at party's and at her house couple of times. Over the years. Martha always made you feel comfortable she had a unique way of talking sometimes always made you laugh. I'm sure she will missed emencely to this day! tell Martha stories as call them live laugh and love. That was Martha

Patty m - September 13, 2025 at 10:19 AM

BD

“ Your mother was a wonderful and vibrant person, and your sister a good friend while I was attending school with her. My thoughts and prayers are with you.

Bobbi Sharp DeLucia - September 12, 2025 at 11:48 PM

MB

“ Divina,  
We are so sorry for the loss of your mom, know that her love will always be with you. Rest easy Martha, your memory will live on.

Maryann and Ronnie Bushey

Maryann Bushey - September 12, 2025 at 03:49 PM

CO

“ My deepest sympathy to the family of Martha. May she rest in peace.  
Sincerely Colette

colette - September 11, 2025 at 05:56 PM

JB

“ Martha I will miss our talks. You could always make me laugh. We have a lot of goods memories thru the years. Fly high my friend. Love you.

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**Jo-Ann Bronga** - September 11, 2025 at 05:42 PM

WW

“ devina, Bill and Dominique I am so sorry for your loss we are keeping you in our prayers.

*Whitney Williams and Family*

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**Whitney Williams** - September 11, 2025 at 05:10 PM

JP

“ Condolences to Martha's family on her passing. Carmella, keep those precious memories of her close to your heart.

*Sincerely,  
Jeanette Penge*

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**Jeanette M Penge** - September 11, 2025 at 02:36 PM