



Mary (Arrigo) Gaeta

March 7, 1914 - June 19, 2008

Mrs. Mary (Arrigo) Gaeta, age 94, of Utica, passed away on Thursday, June 19, 2008 in the comfort of her home with her loving family by her side.

Born in Utica on March 7, 1914, Mary was the daughter of the late Anthony and Anna (Longo) Arrigo. Raised and educated locally, she was a 1932 graduate of Utica Free Academy. On February 17, 1943 she was joined in the sacrament of marriage to Joseph N. Gaeta who passed away on December 4, 1978. The couple was blessed with a loving devotion to one another and shared 35 years in a mutually respectful relationship that revolved around their family.

In addition to her responsibilities to her family and home, Mary worked at the UTK Distributing Co. for many years prior to her retirement. Blessed with a long life, she was a woman of great strength of character, accepting of life's adversities and admired for her ability to endure. She possessed a nurturing nature that was seen in her ability to care for the needs of her family, beginning with her siblings and her own children, and ultimately in the special love and appreciation she held for her grandchildren. She gave her family great hope and determination, and will be remembered as a perceptive listener who wanted to know how situations were addressed by following through with concern. She looked forward to the holidays as a time to celebrate her Italian heritage and cultural traditions, and birthdays were also important and fun-loving for her. She had a passion for growing African violets which prospered under her 'green thumb' and during her leisure time, she

found pleasure in playing cards with family and friends. Mary enjoyed the outdoors, especially the creatures of nature, and the beauty of God's creations. She was a communicant of St. Anthony of Padua Church and a loyal and faithful member of the Assumption Society at the parish where she served as treasurer for many years. Her religion sustained her existence to the very end of her life.

Mary is survived by her children and their families, Regina (Diliberto) and David T. Lewis; her family credits Regina's devotion to caring for her mom as the reason that enabled Mary to maintain an independent lifestyle and remain in her own home. Always close to her heart was the memory of her son, Frank Gaeta, who passed away in 1985. She also leaves her children, Joseph F. Gaeta,

Agnes and Vaughn Combs, and her son-in-law, Vito LoParco of Utica. She was grateful for the wonderful life which afforded her 21 grandchildren, numerous great-grandchildren, and several great-great-grandchildren. Survivors also include her nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, cousins, and in-laws, Theresa Arrigo, and Angela Arrigo, both of Utica; and her longtime friend, Mary DeFazio Sciortino who was so supportive and loving to Mary. She was predeceased by her daughters and son-in-law, Carmella and Louis Chirillo, and Rosalyn LoParco; and her siblings, James Arrigo, Mariano N. and Antoinette Arrigo, Frank C. Arrigo, and Evelyn F. Gaeta. The family extends their sincere thanks to Hospice & Palliative Care, Inc., especially Navaz, Irene, and Mary, as well as the volunteers, for their collective outstanding caregiving and compassion.

Visitation will be held Friday (today) from 4:00-7:00 at the Eannace Funeral Home, Inc., 932 South St., corner of Hammond Ave. For those wishing to do so, please consider memorial donations in Mary's honor to the Alzheimer's Association, Hospice & Palliative Care, Inc., or the Abraham House; envelopes will be available at the funeral home. Mary's funeral service will commence on Saturday at 12:00 noon from the funeral home and at 1:00 p.m. at St. Anthony of Padua Church where her Mass of Christian Burial will be

celebrated. Interment will take place in St. Agnes Cemetery at the convenience of the family.



“ *My thoughts and prayers are with your family at this difficult time....##imported-begin##Deanna LaPaglia##imported-end##*

June 22, 2008 at 02:07 AM



“ Grandma the end has come of your life here with us, but your new life as one of God's Angels has just begun. I selfishly have wondered why someone so sweet and kind would have to endure so much hardship and pain over the years, but I realize now that it was all for a greater purpose that only you realized. The lord was looking for someone to be by his side. Someone he could trust, someone that put everyone else in front of them , and never complained. He needed a sheperd to guide his sheep. Someone willing to put in long hours and never ask for a day off. He needed a teacher to mold his young people into fine young men, and women. To teach them life lessons that they would never forget. Above all else he needed a motherly figure to not only care for her own, but all the other children that needed someone in their time of need. Well Grandma he didn't have to look far, or offer much training. He found you, and knew from the start that he had a jewel that he must never be without. He affored you a long life that I will never forget. From our card games and tea, to our family gatherings that you enjoyed so much. Your smile I will never forget because It on many occasions lit up my world that was often dark. Grandma as I type this letter, and my tears run down my face I want you to know that I am so very sorry that I didnt often tell you that I loved you. Sometimes you tell yourself I will tomorrow, but in this case tomorrow was too late. There is nothing I can do about this now, but pledge to you that I will never forget you and all of your sacrifices. I will teach my children the way of life that you instilled in me. I know you are happy because you are with your loved ones, but always remember that until we meet again I want you to hold these words near you because these are the words that you would call me on the phone with when I was a little boy. " A bushell and a peck and a hug around the neck...." Oh what I would do If I was able to give you one last peck and a great big hug around neck. It would be worth all the money in the world. You are my rock. I will never forget you!###imported-begin###Dicky Diliberto (Grandson)###imported-end###

June 21, 2008 at 01:06 AM



“ I wish I could have told you sooner:
How much I admire your strength.

How the words grandmother, mother, caregiver...friend don't come close to describing what you were to me.

How your smile always took away my pain.

How I miss your horrible cooking.

How sorry I am that I never shared my feelings with you as freely as I'd have liked to.

Though the losses in my life were profound, you were always there to comfort me. You were always my rock. You gave me everything you had without hesitation. You made me feel loved. Despite the suffering you encountered in this life you endured and stood tall. You are an inspiration to me. Through you I've learned to persevere. I'll miss everything about you. I cherish every memory I have of you. I wish you the peace you deserve Grandma.

With undying love,

Nicky###imported-begin##Nicholas M. Diliberto###imported-end##

June 20, 2008 at 11:47 PM



“ Our family lost one of the best...Rest in peace Aunt
Mary.###imported-begin##Maria Arrigo###imported-end##

June 20, 2008 at 07:29 PM



“ Dear Gram (Aunt Mary),
I hope and pray that you know how much I want to be there to say goodbye to you and pay my respects, but that is not possible. You have always been there throughout my life and I can't imagine my life without you. Please know that you will always hold a very special place in my heart. I will always remember our times together and cherish these fond memories. I remember you caring for your plants and playing cards with me or just sitting and having a cup of tea. You were a woman who had great strength, faith, patience and devotion to her all her family. May God Bless you. Wishing you eternal peace.

With love always,

Gail

Ti Amo##imported-begin##Gail Diesfeld (
Granddaughter)##imported-end##

June 20, 2008 at 07:08 PM



“ I would like to extend deep sympathies to you Regina in the loss of your mother. When I came out to see you in-home I was so taken with your devotion to caregiving and your love for your mother. Many prayers to you and your family.##imported-begin##Jason Gerling##imported-end##

June 20, 2008 at 05:01 PM

