



Mary Christine Cirillo

November 7, 1950 - August 4, 2020

UTICA - Mary Christine Cirillo left this world on August 4, 2020 in Upstate Medical Center where she was being treated for complications resulting from Leukemia. She was 69 years of age.

Born in Utica on November 7, 1950, she was the daughter and fourth child of Alexander C. and Florence (Martin) Cirillo, of Eleanor Place, Utica. She graduated from St. Anthony of Padua School in 1964, and St. Francis de Sales High School in 1968. Mary spent most of her professional life in sales, working for a short time in the South, and for some years in Syracuse. A natural artist, she also studied art for a term in Florence, Italy.

Mary left her job to provide full time care for her father in 2002. She owned an online bookstore and service specializing in military history and biography called "Dogs of War." Mary helped many people in her life, including several senior citizen neighbors. In 1999, she created and held a Central New York World War II Exhibition to raise funds for the National World War II Memorial that included a number of video testimonials from celebrities. She was determined to honor the "Greatest Generation" who fought the war, among whom were numbered her father, uncle, and other family members.

After the passing of her parents, Mary was both the glue and the spark plug of her family. Mary provided a healthy, safe "place to go" for neighborhood children, and was renowned for "art projects and cookies" that featured an annual art sale by the children to raise money to contribute to saving stray animals. She also taught several children both to read and write, and

frequently gave them “learner books” to help them succeed in school. A natural humanist of strong faith, she befriended many, and was known for her kindness, openness, and willingness to help those who needed help.

She is survived by her four brothers: Alexander of Saint Paul, Minnesota, Joseph of Las Vegas, Nevada, Roger of Alexandria, Virginia, and Christopher of New Hartford, and their families; and by her constant canine companion, Dallas.

The family wishes to thank the medical staff of the oncology ward at MVHS at St. Luke’s Healthcare, and the Medical ICU doctors and staff of Upstate Medical Center for taking such good care of Mary. She was grateful for your kindness and care.

The family honored and commemorated Mary’s life at a private time.

Immediate family and invited friends will attend Mary’s funeral service and Celebration of Life at St. Anthony & St. Agnes Catholic Church where her Mass of Christian Burial will be offered. In lieu of flowers, please send contributions in Mary’s name to the Stevens-Swan Humane Society online at <https://stevens-swan.org> or by mail to 5664 Horatio St., Utica, NY 13502; the Wounded Warrior Project online at <https://www.woundedwarriorproject.org> or by mail to 370 7th Ave., Suite 1802, New York, NY 10001; the Leukemia Research Foundation online at <https://allbloodcancers.org> or by mail to 191 Waukegan Road, Suite 105, Northfield, IL 60093-2744, or to the charity of your choice. Interment will take place in Calvary Cemetery.

Please take a moment to connect with Mary’s family through the “Memories” section of her obituary.

Our prayers continue to go out to all as a sign of our continued support.

Cemetery Details

Calvary Cemetery

2407 Oneida Street
Utica, NY

Tribute Wall

SM

“ I’m so very sorry to read of Mary’s passing. We worked together at Charlestown Mall & she did my flowers fir my wedding in 1976. We became very close & I moved to KY & lost touch after several years. I tried to find her several times & couldn’t. She was a beautiful soul & I loved her dearly! R.I.P. my beautiful lady❤️

Suzan Moore - January 28, 2022 at 05:11 PM

MS

“ Thank you Mary for holding such a precious place in my mother’s heart... Our sincerest of condolences to the Cirillo family.

Michael Santagata - August 10, 2020 at 06:32 AM

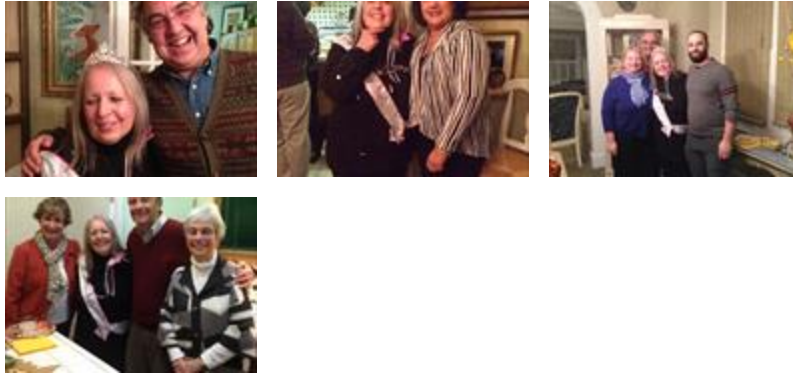
EW

“ We have been friends since DeSales. Mary always made me laugh and we can still hear her saying "I'm here to tell you"! Mary, Anne, and I were great friends and she was a blessing to us. She always made Bob & I knew how blessed we were. And she was a friend above and beyond for most, but especially for Anne in her last days. May she rest in the peace and love of God she so richly deserves.
Bob & Liz Wendler

Elizabeth Wendler - August 09, 2020 at 06:20 PM

FG

“ 4 files added to the album *Surprise Birthday*



Florence Gohringer - August 09, 2020 at 10:09 AM

JE

“ *Sympathy and prayers to Mary’s entire family. May She be blessed with eternal happiness for all her goodness here in earth. Rest in peace 🙏*

JeanneCastronovo - August 08, 2020 at 08:10 PM

HF

“ *Just wanna send my prayers to the family of a great friend that I will never forget. During the toughest time in my life she helped me and treated me like family. Me and Bella will always love you and Dallas.*

Hank Furgol - August 07, 2020 at 05:41 PM

KK

“ My prayers go out to Mary’s family!! Mary treated my kids like they were her own grandkids..Gabby was her little sidekick growing up...She did everything with Mary from doing artwork ,helping her with Dallas going to the dog park with her..Mary was all about the kids in neighborhood they did lemonade sales and painted artwork to sell to donate the money to spring farm along with lots of other things...Mary will deeply be missed and we will always share the memories we had with her...RIP Mary ...We Love You ❤️😇



Kelly Kennedy - August 07, 2020 at 01:54 PM

DB

I'm going miss you Mary you're friend brownie

Donnie brown - August 07, 2020 at 02:02 PM

JS

No one will ever replace Mary in my heart. Loved just hanging out with her and loved our card games. My deepest sympathy to the family.

Jeanne Stevens - August 08, 2020 at 07:57 PM

JC

Joe Cotrupe , Mary was a great girl that understood her brothers many friends .

Joe Cotrupe - August 08, 2020 at 08:51 PM

MA

We have all lost our Best Friend! I met Mary when I was 17. I can't imagine life without her. Mary was the most Amazing Loving & Caring Person I ever had the pleasure of knowing! Her great wit and conversation always brought both laughter and comfort to our visits! Mary left us all with a warm heart to carry on as she did...just love one another. God Bless You Mary.

marcella ASSELTA - August 09, 2020 at 08:12 AM

RA

We are so sorry for the Family! This is a great loss! Mary was a Great Kind Lady! We will remember her forever! Rest in Peace Mary!

Rocco ASSELTA - August 09, 2020 at 08:27 AM

FG

*Mary was my very first friend in life. With only a small street separating our front porches, I remember sitting on the steps, playing with our dolls for hours. Those memories will remain in my heart forever. Loyal till the end Mary...you will never be forgotten. Rest easy my dear friend. Until we meet again ❤️🌹
My sincere heartfelt sympathy to the Cirillo family with love and friendship !
Florence Gohringer*

Florence Gohringer - August 09, 2020 at 10:05 AM

JB

Condolences to the family and friends of Mary. Knew her as a teacher assistant at Kemble School in Utica. Mary played a pivotal role in my meeting my present wife. She sought to be helpful at a time when I was at my lowest. Grateful for that kindness for over 44 years. Joe Bottini


Joseph P Bottini - August 09, 2020 at 12:26 PM

MB

Mary and I where friends for as long as I could remember. We shared laughs and sorrow together. Being part of the Eleanor Place girls there are numerous stories to tell. I hold many sweet memories that I will cherish for ever. Rest in peace my dear friend.

Mary Ann Bottini - August 10, 2020 at 06:03 PM

RH

My  goes out to all of you at this sad time. I have known Mary since high school and our friendship blossomed years later. Mary was a remarkable, Renaissance woman...extremely bright, witty, and caring. I will cherish the many great times we had and she will NEVER be forgotten. Another angel has entered Heaven!

Rosemary Harp-Williams

Rosemary Harp-Williams - August 10, 2020 at 06:17 PM