



Mrs. Mary Ann (Fontaine) Leo

July 26, 1925 - September 12, 2016

Mrs. Mary Ann (Fontaine) Leo, age 91, passed away peacefully with her loving family by her side in Watertown, MA on Monday, September 12, 2016. Mary was born in Utica on July 26, 1925, the daughter of the late Salvatore and Providence (Coletti) Fontaine. Raised and educated locally, she was a graduate of T.R. Proctor High School/Class of 1943. On July 19, 1952 Mary wed prominent local businessman Liberty Leo, co-owner of Progressive Formals, with whom she shared over 55 years of marriage prior to his passing on May 4, 2007.

A loving wife and mother, Mary was deeply revered by her husband and children and was an inspiration to family and friends. A kind and gentle spirit, she performed simple acts of kindness for those she encountered. She was soft-spoken but strong, consistently giving, but not self-seeking. Mary was known for her delicious Italian cooking, particularly her meatballs, eggplant parmigiana, homemade rolls, pizza, and her cookies that always seemed to appear when a guest arrived to celebrate a special occasion or holiday! Mary was also a talented seamstress who created everything from tablecloths to prom gowns to incredible Halloween costumes. She could also knit and crochet wonderful afghans, slippers, and hats. She was always trying out her creative talents with new handicrafts. All who were lucky enough to have known her have a memorable article she created for them with love. This past year she knitted and donated dozens of hats and receiving blankets to the NICU (Neonatal Intensive Care Unit) at a Boston hospital. Over the years, she

also enjoyed dancing, tobogganing down the Parkway slopes, playing tennis, ice skating, reading biographies, and attending Broadway shows.

Mary was a longtime member of the Daughters of Columbus, the former East Side Senior Center, the Italian Heritage Club of the Mohawk Valley, the Saints Cosmo and Damiano Society Chapel, and the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program. She devotedly attended Saint Mary of Mt. Carmel/Blessed Sacrament Parish.

Mary is survived by her daughters, Linda Grant and her husband Alan, and Lorraine Leo and her husband Tony Palermino; as well as her sons, Cosmo Leo and his wife Marilyn; Stephen Leo and his wife Maureen, all of the Boston area; and son, Gerald Leo of NYC; and her nine grandchildren, Maura Leo (Houston, TX), Thomas Leo (Quincy, MA), Jennifer Grant (Durham, NC), Andrew Grant (Watertown, MA), Christopher Leo Palermino (NYC), and Brendan, Ryan, Connor, and Claire Leo of Acton, MA. She also leaves her many beloved nieces, nephews, grandnieces, grandnephews, cousins, her two sisters-in-law, Delores Fontaine, and Marion Fontaine who were close to her heart, and her godchildren Gloria Jean Fabbio, Annette Martellotto, Brian Fontaine, and Christine Pavia. As well as their cousins, The Messas, The Martellottos, The Abbanats, The Swiggums/Colettis, The Isgros, The Camesanos, Rose Gamello and Mary Gianotti. She also leaves her many cherished friends including Lucielle Dzwonczyk and Alice White.

She was predeceased by her infant sister, Santina Fontaine; her brothers and sisters-in-law, Charles and Lucy Fontaine, Mario and Monica Fontaine, Albert and Shirley Fontaine, Salvatore "Steve" Fontaine, and Gerald Fontaine. She was also close to her husband's four siblings and spouses, Jenny and Victor Falco, Grace Miccoli, Samuel and Lucy Leo, and Angie and Robert Nicholson, as well as his cousins from the Martellotto and Messa families.

The family would like to thank all those who enabled Mary to maintain her independence in her home in New Hartford prior to her move to Boston in 2014, including Ronald and Josette Fontaine, David, and Brian Fontaine, Colette Connolly, Carla Fontaine Kloster, Debbie Fontaine, Susan Martellotto-

Januszewski, and Behr's Homecare. Thanks also to the staff at The Residence at Watertown Square, Compassionate Care Hospice, and the caregivers at HouseWorks, especially Aisha, Betty, Cecilia, Dianne, and Gifty for all of their wonderful care over these past months.

Visitation will be held Thursday from 5:00-7:00 at the Eannace Funeral Home, Inc., 932 South Street, corner of Hammond Avenue. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the MVCC Foundation. Please include in the comment line the following: c/o Liberty & Mary Leo Memorial Scholarship; envelopes will be available at the funeral home. Online donations may be made at www.youcaring.com/leomemorialscholarship. Mary's funeral service and Celebration of Life will commence on Friday morning at 9:00 from the funeral home and at 10:00 at St. Mary of Mt. Carmel/Blessed Sacrament Parish where her Mass of Christian Burial will be offered by Rev. Abe Esper. Committal services and entombment in Calvary Cemetery.

Cemetery Details

Calvary Mausoleum

2407 Oneida Street
Utica, Ny

Tribute Wall

CB

“ Cecilia Byakuleka lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Mary Ann (Fontaine) Leo



cecilia byakuleka - September 17, 2016 at 02:29 PM

GS

“ Mary and my mother, Gloria, were lifelong friends since childhood. They would phone each other and talk. Gloria always enjoyed Mary's delicious Christmas cookies. What a grand selection! When Gloria was ill, Mary would always send "get well" cards and words of encouragement and friendship. We are so sorry for your loss. Mary was a wonderful friend. Do I dare say - they are together again, talking and laughing. We will miss our Moms. God bless you all. Edward and Gale Swiecki

Gale Swiecki - September 15, 2016 at 09:09 PM



“ Peaceful Wishes was purchased for the family of Mrs. Mary Ann (Fontaine) Leo.



September 15, 2016 at 11:10 AM

TF

“ *The Swiggum/Colletti Family purchased the Healing Tears - All Pink for the family of Mrs. Mary Ann (Fontaine) Leo.*



The Swiggum/Colletti Family - September 15, 2016 at 08:59 AM

KO

“ *Kevin O'Donnell purchased the Love's Embrace Roses – White for the family of Mrs. Mary Ann (Fontaine) Leo.*



Kevin O'Donnell - September 14, 2016 at 09:04 PM



“ *Blue & White Sympathy Basket was purchased for the family of Mrs. Mary Ann (Fontaine) Leo.*



September 14, 2016 at 05:33 PM



“ *White Standing Spray was purchased for the family of Mrs. Mary Ann (Fontaine) Leo.*



September 14, 2016 at 05:32 PM

AB

“ Aunt Lani & Uncle Bob purchased the Healing Tears - Yellow and White for the family of Mrs. Mary Ann (Fontaine) Leo.



Aunt Lani & Uncle Bob - September 14, 2016 at 03:41 PM

SJ

“ Every Tuesday evening for over 3 years Mary, her sister-in-law Delores and I would go to the Rosary Group on Tilden Ave. Every Mt. Carmel/Blessed Sacrament Holiday party, Tea or event, the three of us would attend. It is with sadness that Mary has passed but we both know she has achieved her heavenly reward. Mary was a true Proverbs 31 woman. She was a blessing in my life and I am glad I have had the opportunity to share so many wonderful memories. A true blessing was seeing her in May in Watertown, MA where we both prayed the Rosary together one last time. I am confident God is saying "Well done good and faithful servant". With love to a beautiful soul, Mary Leo, who always was so soft spoken and the words still echo in my memory at the end of our conversation when Mary said "Bye" with a soft reflection in her voice like no other. Rest in Peace as you join your husband and all the "Cousins Club" relatives...
Susan Martellotto Januszewski

Susan Martellotto Januszewski - September 14, 2016 at 02:37 PM

LM

“ Lyn, Sara And Makenzie lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Mary Ann (Fontaine) Leo



Lyn, Sara and Makenzie - September 14, 2016 at 02:15 PM



“ *Blue & White Sympathy Floor Basket was purchased for the family of Mrs. Mary Ann (Fontaine) Leo.*



September 14, 2016 at 09:58 AM



“ *To the best godmother a girl could ask for....condolences to all of you left behind to cherish her memory as I will. RIP Aunt Mary. Love, your goddaughter, Annette*

Annette Martellotto Hawkins - September 14, 2016 at 05:16 AM