



Mrs. MaryJo (Carach) Zizzi

May 9, 1922 - September 20, 2017

UTICA - Mrs. MaryJo (Carach) Zizzi, age 95, went home to the Lord when she passed away on Wednesday, September 20, 2017 at the Faxton-St. Luke's Healthcare Center with her family by her side.

Born in Schenectady, NY on May 9, 1922, MaryJo was the 4th of 5 children born to Frank and Rosalia Caracciolo. She was raised in Schenectady in a small neighborhood where people were like extended family to each other. As adults, they looked back at their close-knit lives within a 6-house area and amused themselves with interesting stories of their childhood that were common to all of them, just as their culture and traditions were. MaryJo graduated from high school and in 1944 she earned a Bachelor of Science Cum Laude in Education from The College of St. Rose. She met her beloved Stephen in September of 1944 when they were in their first year of teaching at the Forestport Central School District, and on August 12, 1945 they exchanged their nuptial vows. They were partners in a marriage based on trust and love for 64 years prior to Stephen's passing on November 17, 2009. MaryJo enjoyed her career in education as a business teacher and an elementary school teacher in Brookfield and the Utica City School District, primarily at Miller St. School. As an elementary school teacher she was well-prepared and her plans reflected her methods to make sure that every student grasped the subject matter. She retired in 1979.

MaryJo was a generous soul and a true friend always willing to assist those in need. She was selfless when it came to the needs of her husband and family

and she was happiest in the comfort of her home. She excelled in preparing Italian cuisine and was nicknamed "The Cookie Lady". Her Christmas cookies and sauce will go down in history as "the best" in her family's memories.

MaryJo was very active in the upbringing of her grandchildren who returned and rewarded her efforts with love and respect. At times, these activities were a bit overwhelming and her famous last words were "If I could write a book".

MaryJo defended what was right and just and was a very spiritual woman.

She practiced her Catholic faith at St. Anthony & St. Agnes Church. In most recent years you could find MaryJo praying the Rosary and saying novenas with great intentions for those who were important in her life. While she called Chestnut House her home, she became very skilled in assembling scenic puzzles that adorn the walls of the household.

MaryJo is survived by her daughters and sons-in-law, Rosemary and Eugene Galime of Clinton, and Ellen and Joseph Karwacki of Marcy; her grandchildren, John and Maureen Karwacki, Kristen and John Zarella, Curtis Karwacki, and Joey Karwacki; her great-grandchildren, John "Jack" Patrick Karwacki, John "Johnny" Francis Zarella; and her sister, Helen Hendrickson. She also leaves her nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, and cousins. She was predeceased by her sisters and brother-in-law, Vincenza and Louis Esposito, and Florence Carach; her brother and sister-in-law, Louis and Mary Carach; brother-in-law, Charles W. Hendrickson Jr., and her sister-in-law, Palma Stanford.

The family extends sincere appreciation to the staff of the Chestnut House at the Sitrin Health Care Center. MaryJo was treated with respect, dignity, and loving regard. She was well cared for and that made all the difference.

Visitation will be held Monday from 11:00-12:00 noon at the Eannace Funeral Home, Inc., 932 South St., corner of Hammond Ave. MaryJo's funeral service and Celebration of Life will commence on Monday afternoon at 12:00 from the funeral home and at 1:00 at St. Anthony & St. Agnes Church where her Mass of Christian Burial will be offered by Rev. Arthur Krawczenko. Interment will follow graveside in Calvary Cemetery.

Cemetery Details

Calvary Cemetery

2407 Oneida Street
Utica, NY 13501
(315) 735-2727

Previous Events

Funeral Service

SEP **25**. 1:00 PM (ET)

St. Anthony & St. Agnes Church
422 Tilden Ave.
Utica, NY 13501
(315) 732-1177
<https://www.stanthonystagnes.com/>

Tribute Wall



“ *She was my favorite teacher!! She actually "got" me-she was probably the first teacher that wrote a good note to my parents!!*

Joanna Ardo Molineux - September 25, 2017 at 04:38 PM



“ *Fields of Europe for Spring was purchased for the family of Mrs. MaryJo (Carach) Zizzi.*



September 25, 2017 at 08:47 AM



“ *Peace, Prayers & Blessings - Blue and White was purchased for the family of Mrs. MaryJo (Carach) Zizzi.*



September 24, 2017 at 07:05 PM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mrs. MaryJo (Carach) Zizzi.*



September 24, 2017 at 01:08 PM

SH

“ We are so sorry about Mary Jo. The chestnut house is not the same without her. We miss her terribly.

Shannon - September 24, 2017 at 10:05 AM



“ I am deeply saddened to hear of MaryJo's passing. Growing up in Utica I have fond memories of our families spending time together.
Anna (Sabino) Mickiewicz

Anna Mickiewicz - September 24, 2017 at 09:10 AM



“ Peace, Prayers & Blessings - Blue and White was purchased for the family of Mrs. MaryJo (Carach) Zizzi.



September 23, 2017 at 02:40 PM

JM

“ I remember her when I was a student at Miller School, I believe it was 1966. She made a huge impression on me. I will remember her soft spoken ways, she had a great smile. I'm blessed that I was her student. RIP Mrs Zizzi. Prayers to her entire family.

Joanna Ardo Molineux - September 23, 2017 at 08:30 AM

SY

“ I am so incredibly sorry to hear about Mary Jo's passing. I loved her as if she was a member of my own family. She was such an amazingly kind woman. The world will be a slightly darker place without her.

~Stephanie Yin

Stephanie Yin - September 22, 2017 at 04:22 PM

EK

Thank you Stephanie, we have the plaque that u made for her and it will be presented with her favorite pictures at the funeral home.

Ellen Karwacki - September 22, 2017 at 09:10 PM