



Mrs. Melissa Marie "Mimi" (Bova) Rogers

September 21, 1968 - April 21, 2025

UTICA/SPRING HILL, FL – Mrs. Melissa Marie “Mimi” (Bova) Rogers, age 56, began her spiritual journey to the Lord on Monday, April 21, 2025.

Born in Utica on September 21, 1968, Melissa was the daughter of Lawrence N. “Larry” and Marie A. (Guarno) Bova. She was a graduate of John F. Kennedy High School/Class of 1987. Full of ambition, she went on to attend Endicott College and later completed her studies at the University of Phoenix, earning her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Business.

Melissa dedicated her life to careers centered around assisting those in need. She once served as Chief Operating Officer of Feed Our Vets in Utica and was the proud founder and owner of Ascenseur Consulting Company. Her passion for service also led her to hold meaningful roles with the American Cancer Society and the Good News Center, where she continued to make a lasting impact in the lives of others.

In addition to her professional roles, Melissa was deeply committed to community service. Each year, she devoted herself wholeheartedly to preparing for the annual Ride for Missing Children—an event that held deep personal significance for her. During her time with the American Cancer Society, Melissa went above and beyond her work responsibilities, selflessly volunteering her personal time to support walks, fundraisers, and other

events. Melissa was a compassionate soul who supported people from all walks of life.

Melissa's happiness was truly contagious—she was rarely seen without a radiant smile. A true fashionista, she always took pride in her appearance, greeting each day and every task with confidence, style, and grace. Strong-willed and fiercely determined, Melissa possessed a quiet strength that often surprised those around her. She faced life's challenges head-on, with courage, resilience, and an unwavering commitment to doing things the right way. She kept her personal endeavors private so that she could focus on guiding those around her. With a goal in her heart and a prayer on her lips, she was a force to be reckoned with.

In her early years, Melissa especially cherished family trips to Brantingham Lake. She later spent time living in Germany—some of her most treasured memories were made there. Later in life, she found joy and peace living in sunny Florida, where she loved spending time on the beach, soaking in the beauty of the ocean and the warmth of the sun.

Proud of her Catholic upbringing, Melissa was a devoted follower who consistently put God and her family at the center of her life. Her kindness, generosity, and unwavering faith touched everyone she met. Melissa felt very blessed to know the spiritual guidance of Pastor Bill Vallet.

Melissa is survived by her only son, Sean Kehler - who came from a blessed union she once shared with Mitch Kehler - and his love Lindsey Parker; beloved parents, Larry and Marie; sister and brother-in-law, Jennifer and Bill Crompt and their family, Ivy "Poodles" Crompt and Alec Usyk, John Crompt, and Jim Crompt; loving husband, Jeffrey; honorary daughters, Andrea Galloway - with whom Melissa held a special bond - and her son Savage who will forever hold his "Miss Melissa" in his heart, Chrisandra Rogers, and Lily Rogers; and

her feline companion and best friend, Princess Vanellope von Schweetz. She is additionally survived by her many cousins; in-laws, Gene and Ginger Kehler, and Rick and Elaine Wolfgang; and many treasured friendships, with special mention of her life-long friends, Denise Guzski and Dawn Edmiston. She was predeceased by her maternal grandmother, Helen (Galka) Guarno; and paternal grandfather, Floyd Bova.

A Memorial Gathering in Melissa's honor will take place on Monday, April 28, 2025, from 5:00-7:00 p.m. at the Eannace Funeral Home, Inc., 932 South St., corner of Hammond Ave. Those unable to attend may be present virtually at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84402784134>. In lieu of floral offerings, memorial contributions in Melissa's honor may be made to the Good News Center online at <https://thegoodnewscenter.org/support-our-mission>; envelopes will also be available at the funeral home. Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend Melissa's Memorial Mass of Christian Burial and Celebration of Life, which will commence on Tuesday, April 29, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. at St. Mary of Mt. Carmel/Blessed Sacrament Parish, 684 Jay St., Utica. Those unable to attend may be present virtually at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85071741731>.

Previous Events

Memorial Gathering

APR **28**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Eannace Funeral Home, Inc.
932 South Street
corner of Hammond Ave.
Utica, NY 13501
(315) 724-6714
eannacefh@roadrunner.com

Memorial Mass

APR **29**. 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Mary of Mt. Carmel/Blessed Sacrament Parish
648 Jay Street
Utica, NY 13501
(315) 735-1482
<https://www.mountcarmelblessedsacrament.com/>

Tribute Wall

LK

“ *Lisa Kover lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Melissa Marie "Mimi" (Bova) Rogers*



Lisa Kover - May 19, 2025 at 08:37 PM

LK

“ *Rest in peace cousin.... forever free now!*

Lisa Kover - May 19, 2025 at 08:36 PM

KG

“ *I had the greatest honor to have gotten to know Miss Melissa over the past 5 years...through the most unimaginable pain and grief of loss...our family found light and hope with Miss Melissa who guided our grief support group...she brought so much joy into our lives with her outlook and wisdom...and her strong faith..I have never been so inspired and touched by one single person...ever!! I will forever hold dear our conversation and her courageous spirit and her beautiful smile and how she was authentically grateful for every...single...day!! Your light will shine bright from heaven forever sweet lady xo*

Kelhi Giarrusso - April 25, 2025 at 03:54 PM

SH

“ I met her early week of December 2023 and other 2 ladies while in the meeting. She bright up my life and she was so sweetest lady I ever met. She helped me a lot what I have been thru struggling the situation and I'm really grateful to get know her and always have been in touch with her via text. I'm going miss her a lot and shall not forget her in my heart.



Shellie Hill - April 25, 2025 at 01:18 PM

JC

“ I never met Melissa in person, but she was a tremendous help and a loving friend to my Dear Cousin. Thru my Cousin, she jumped in and helped a battered woman in knew who needed shelter for herself and her 3 young children in Florida. She was a huge help to them for many months to come, giving so much of herself and her time, while she was battling her health challenges. No matter how tired or worn out, she put herself last and others first. Even strangers!! I'm forever grateful for the compassion she showed this young woman and her children and even more so for the love and friendship she gave my Dear Cousin. She is a true inspiration of what we as humans should all inspire to be to others . My sincere condolences to her family and friends. May she rest in peace.

Jennifer Conte - April 25, 2025 at 12:25 PM

MH

“ Melissa was a great strength for myself and myself and my daughter. She was always so happy a positive. Through Melissa I met great friends. I will miss this wonderful lady.

Melanie Hanson - April 25, 2025 at 08:56 AM

AB

“ *Melissa had a heart of gold. Her smile was truly contagious and she was a rare soul that you could tell was genuine, soft, determined, and true to her core values. May she watch over her family from above, confidently knowing that she made a difference* □ *Sending love to all who knew and loved her xo*

Angie Bonfardino - April 25, 2025 at 08:53 AM

SW

“ *Shelley Wolfgang lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Melissa Marie "Mimi" (Bova) Rogers*



Shelley Wolfgang - April 25, 2025 at 07:19 AM

CR

“ *One of the kindness people I have ever known. A beautiful, beautiful person, both inside and out. I am blessed to have known her. Fly high on eagle's wings, Melissa.*

Christine Redmond - April 25, 2025 at 04:19 AM

DA

“ *Danette lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Melissa Marie "Mimi" (Bova) Rogers*



danette - April 24, 2025 at 09:54 PM

SH

“ I always looked up to you as a role model and wanted to be just like you in a lot of ways. I looked back and realized all our exchanged messages were about our children. We adored them and you would have loved snuggling the babies. It's so hard when they are young and watching them grow up before our eyes is somehow a big surprise we never expect.

I wasn't ready for you to leave us. You fought unfair battles and won them over and over with grace, pride, and a smile that never left your face. You loved God in way I couldn't understand, you were good, you were better than most. You were thankful for the hands you were dealt and I was mad you given a shitty deck of cards.

Your battles won over and over were wearing and you stayed strong. Did you put on a strong face, were you tough as nails, did you actually have 9 lives, are you really superwoman, you were unstoppable!

I want one more call. I love you. Your last message was about how we gel our boys hair and you were going but I didn't know. My heart hurts. I understand but I don't have to like it.

Watch over my babies from up there! Hug grandma for me. That women had back to back twins plus two more and survived with a smile I'm breaking down with three kiddos some days with more conveniences than she had access too.

Cheers Mimi



Santina Hughes - April 24, 2025 at 09:14 PM

KW

“ *Melissa was a beautiful soul. Always kind and positive with a smile for everyone. I truly enjoyed getting to know her. She was a great instructor. I missed her when she moved away. She is a great loss and will be missed by so many. Rest in peace Melissa. Kathy*

Kathy White - April 24, 2025 at 08:10 PM

MW

A beautiful spirit and soul she loved everyone she met a caring sister in law wish we had more time but I know you're watching over us will see you again one day love you Marcy

Marcy williams - April 25, 2025 at 06:28 AM

LK

My husband and myself, had the privilege of knowing Melissa through The Good News Center and championing her on through her fight with cancer while she lived in NY. She was always energetic and caring. You couldn't help but to love her. We miss you, beautiful angel. Mathew and Linda Kiefer

Linda Kiefer - April 25, 2025 at 07:05 PM

PM

Oh Melissa, you touched my heart and so many others with your strength and inspiration. Especially teaching your riding skills in our preparation years ago for The Ride for Missing Children."A blessing and person that made a difference on this planet just by being here. Sail high my friend soaring with the Angels. You will be missed! Rest in Peace. Phyllis Moore

phyllis Moore - April 28, 2025 at 07:04 PM