



Mrs. Mirella (Paoletti) Longeretta

May 25, 1941 - December 31, 2020

NEW HARTFORD - Mrs. Mirella (Paoletti) Longeretta, age 79, passed away peacefully on Thursday, December 31, 2020 at MVHS at St. Luke's Healthcare, after a brief illness.

Born in Trieste, Italy on May 25, 1941, Mirella was the daughter of the late Giuseppe and Antonia (Ribarich) Paoletti. As a teenager, she and her family immigrated to the United States and settled in Utica where she received her education. She was a graduate of Utica Catholic Academy and furthered her studies at the Utica School of Commerce. On October 12, 1963 she married John A. Longeretta, Esq. with whom she shared 56 blessed years in a devoted and loving union.

A woman of natural beauty, grace, and style, Mirella worked as a model for the Celia Jones Agency modeling at the Boston Store, Hotel Utica, and various clothiers. In 1960, she had the honor of being chosen as one of the "Kennedy Girls", a group of a dozen local models who escorted JFK, then presidential nominee, into the rear of the auditorium during a stop on his campaign. Mirella's next venture in the workforce made her equally as proud when she successfully completed training and accepted a position as a stewardess for Mohawk Airlines, a vocation for which she was well-suited. Among her many attributes was her skill as a seamstress. She made everything from her own wedding gown and articles of clothing, to Halloween costumes for the kids. Mirella was an absolutely wonderful cook, and her culinary talent in the kitchen was known by all friends, family, visitors, and

loved ones. She prepared some of the best Italian food imaginable. Her cooking was so well known by several contractors that whenever work needed to be done around the house, the tradesmen were so pleased to know that Mirella would cook lunches for the entire crew. There were times Mirella's late husband, John, would be upset because the contractors would come to the house just for more of Mirella's cooking, even after the jobs were completed! Many friendships were developed because of her wanting to cook for the workers at their home.

Mirella was also very charitable, a stewardess of God. She grew up with very little in terms of the bare essentials and was not unfamiliar with the feeling of being hungry, especially after her father died. She often spoke of needing to go to the local Soup Kitchen for meals because her mother and siblings did not have food. When Mirella came to this country, and married John, who was a wonderful provider, she never went without. She also never forgot her days in Trieste when she lived in a single room apartment with her young widowed mother and her sisters and brother, yet always donated to charities and individuals on a very regular basis, though it was always anonymous without ever wanting recognition. She tried to help any and all that were in need, and she taught her children to have the same compassion and empathy, because helping others from going hungry is the right thing to do. When she was unable to drive, her son John would bring her to local charities and churches so she could make her donations anonymously. He would ask, "Mom, don't you want some kind of a receipt for tax purposes for all you donate?" Humble and unpretentious, she would reply "That's not important. What's important is that someone will not go hungry today." Mirella was a communicant of St. Mary of Mt. Carmel/Blessed Sacrament Parish and lived her Catholic creed through example.

Mirella is survived by her children and their spouses, John J. and Lisa R. Longieretta, Paul M., Esq. and Laura Longieretta, David A., Esq. and Renee Longieretta, and Dr. Andria M. and Dr. Dimitrios Theoharidis; her grandchildren, Maria L., and John A. Longieretta; Samuel S. Longieretta;

Briana Vellone; and Damian, Ekaterina, and Arianna Theoharidis. She also leaves her nieces and nephews, especially acknowledging Alida and Robert Lubeck, Roberto Sorini, and Andrea Sorini; great-nieces and great-nephews, with mention of Marisa Lubeck and Brian Donaldson; cousins, and her two caring and loving friends, Gianna Bevivino, and Maria Centolella. She was predeceased by her siblings and their spouses, Nives and Luciano Petrinci; Silvano and Teresa Pauletich, and Marta and Lucio Sorini

The family will honor and commemorate Mirella's life at a private time.

Expressions of sympathy in the form of donations may be made to the Stevens-Swan Human Society online at <https://stevens-swan.org> or by mail to 5664 Horatio St., Utica, NY 13502, or help the less fortunate by donating to the Historic Old St. John's Food Pantry in her name, online at <https://historicaldstjohnschurch.weshareonline.org> or by mail to 240 Bleecker St., Utica, NY 13501.

During this time of social distancing that we are all experiencing, please take a moment to connect with Mirella's family through the "Memories" section of her obituary. Our prayers go out to all as a sign of our continued support.

Tribute Wall

FO

“ *My deepest sympathies. I only met her a couple of times way back but she was so kind to me. Much love her and her family. - Foster*

Foster - January 08, 2021 at 12:30 PM

AM

“ *Andrea, John, Paul and David,
Mirella was a wonderful woman and a terrific neighbor. Even my grown children remember enjoying your pool and always feeling welcome. Mirella was wonderful to my mom Gloria in her later years, calling her everyday to check on her. Mirella worried and prayed for both my brother Gary and sister Terri. She was always checking on both Terri and me. I will miss her - lots of wonderful memories growing up next door to your family.*

*She is in my prayers
Amber Cappelli Monteith*

amber - January 07, 2021 at 09:19 AM

Jl

“ *This woman was rare. My spirit would rise just by talking to her. So much positive energy, so much joy, so much love radiated from this special woman. I wish I had more time with her. Jim G.*

jim - January 07, 2021 at 07:25 AM

DL

“ Dear Lisa & John, it's been such a long time since seeing either of you. I want you to know how very sorry I am about your dear mother's passing. The obituary was beautiful...she was a remarkable woman! Please know that you are in my thoughts and prayers. May you find comfort and peace, in the love and many happy memories shared.

*With sympathy,
Denise Raulli Longo*

Denise Raulli Longo - January 06, 2021 at 10:35 PM

PS

“ To there Longeretta family, Gunnar and I are so sorry to hear about your mom. You are in our thoughts and prayers.

Patrice Stenske - January 06, 2021 at 06:30 PM

MC

“ To the Longeretta Family,

I am so sorry to hear about Mirella's passing. What a lovely woman! I wish I could tell you all in person that I will always remember her style and grace, and, especially, her kindness and selfless generosity.

*With Heartfelt Sympathy,
Marie Czarnecki*

Marie Czarnecki - January 06, 2021 at 11:12 AM

BB

“ Sorry for your loss Lisa.

*God bless,
Bill Britt [CHBS]*

Bill Britt - January 06, 2021 at 08:18 AM

MA

“ To the Longeretta family,

What a beautiful tribute to your mom. She certainly lived a very caring and fulfilling life that reached many hearts. May she continue to be your guiding light.

Our sincere sympathy,

Neighbors Ron and Martha Mancuso

Mancuso's - January 06, 2021 at 08:11 AM

PS

“ *As a mom of a top gymnast, and I as a stranger to the sport, Mirella was always making sure I felt welcomed when traveling with the team(if I wanted to see my spouse)... inviting me to sit with her, sharing Italian stories, and always making sure I felt comfortable. This meant more to me than she ever imagined ❤️ Truly a wonderful lady 🙏.. Gale and I send prayers and our condolences to her family.*

patty and Gale Stovall - January 05, 2021 at 10:43 PM



“ *Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Mrs. Mirella (Paoletti) Longeretta.*



January 05, 2021 at 09:40 PM

LW

“ John and David and families...What a beautiful obituary and testament to your mother. You should print and save these for children, grandchildren and great grandchildren so they know what a fantastic giving wonderful woman she was. Having immigrated to America, she never forgot those less fortunate and I was impressed with the lessons she taught her children. More people today need to learn about empathy and compassion, giving anonymously...wow. I would have loved to have known this woman. Know that love never dies and you will often receive "signs" from her, believe in them, I know that they are real.

Louise (Wrate) White

Louise White - January 05, 2021 at 05:03 PM

PM

Thank you Ms.White. I remember you. Please call me at 315 520-6137 when you can. I would enjoy speaking with you again. Paul.

Paul M.Longeretta - January 05, 2021 at 08:34 PM

LW

I'm so glad you phoned me, I just saw this. Definitely see Surviving Death documentary on Netflix, the episode labeled "Signs"...now years later, I find it reassuring, comforting and affirming what I know to be true.

Louise White - January 08, 2021 at 06:32 AM

WS

“ With Love, Andrea & Jenny Sorini purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Mrs. Mirella (Paoletti) Longeretta.



With Love, Andrea & Jenny Sorini - January 05, 2021 at 04:00 PM

JJ

“ Andria, David, Joh & Paul,
So sorry to hear your mom passed away. A loving and kind person,
she will be missed.
I remember her many times at different events your family had , she
was warm , funny and always looked amazing. My heart goes out to
you all, may she be at peace with your dad. He was also a
wonderful man..
In heaven. 🙏

Joanne Angelhow Joanne - January 05, 2021 at 02:43 PM

JA

Joanne Angelhow

Joanne Angelhow - January 05, 2021 at 02:44 PM

KC

My deepest sympathies to the family. Mirella was my neighbor and
such a very sweet woman. May she Rest In Peace. George Buccolo
and family.

Kimberly Connors - January 05, 2021 at 07:52 PM

DF

“ Dan Martin and Family purchased the Pink Potpo
urri Bouquet for the family of Mrs. Mirella
(Paoletti) Longeretta.



Dan Martin and Family - January 05, 2021 at 01:58 PM

JA

“ We are so very sorry for your loss. -Jerry & Janine Zenzillo

Janine - January 05, 2021 at 12:18 PM

JG

“ So sorry to hear of your mom’s passing, she was a special person and friend, I’ll always remember the times Floyd and I worked at her house and of course the great food and friendship

Jody Gaff - January 05, 2021 at 10:36 AM

DF

“ Sorry to all family members Mirella a beautiful lady inside and out. Meet Mirella thru Valley gymnastics community



Donna Franzen - January 05, 2021 at 10:01 AM

FW

“ To all of Mirella's children and their families; I remember your Mom from many years ago, as she entered into Mt. Carmel School, after her immigration from Italy. She was such a beautiful girl at that time, and when you all were born, you carried her light skin and blonde hair. Not only was Mirella a classmate of mine, but after she married your dad, John, the six of you sat behind me in Mt. Carmel Church, and your parents were so proud to have their step-laddered children with them. Your Mom was a wonderful woman, very devout in her faith and always saying her rosary. I know that your fathers business, kept him very busy, but at Mass time both of them felt very comfortable at Mt. Carmel Church. Although in a different section, again they sat behind me; always asking about my children, and wanting to help if needed. Time went on, and we all know that your Dad "wasn't" feeling well, and this upset your Mom. But with the good graces of God, your dear and beautiful Mom was able to keep going. Everyone at the 4:30 Mass was always kind and went out of their way to assist her, even if it meant walking to the car, when dusk and evening hours set in. AS with many of us, COVID set in and everyone stayed home to avoid any complications with that illness. I for one, am ashamed to say that I did not keep in contact with your Mom, although she was well educated, there seemed to be that language barrier that made it difficult while on the phone. I, will miss her as a friend, miss seeing her eyes light up, and the warmth she extended to others. She loved all of you, and missed your presence. May God give all of you strength, to carry out her will of FAMILY.



Fiorinda Grandinetta Wilson (Flo)

FIORINDA B. WILSON - January 05, 2021 at 09:46 AM

CB

“ *Andria and family,
I am so sorry to hear about the loss of your mother. I can remember
the smell of sauce cooking even late at night when I'd visit! And that
laugh, I can still hear it! Hold those memories close, as they will
bring peace during this difficult time. Thinking of you all with love!*
Cina

Cina Babikian - January 05, 2021 at 07:00 AM

VC

“ *Sweet woman! I'm so sorry to hear of her passing. Heaven gained
an angel!*

Vikki Commisso - January 04, 2021 at 07:47 PM

CD

“ *Dave and Renee
We are so very sad to learn of your mother's passing away. Our
thoughts and prayers are with you.
Bob and Cassie*

Cassie And Bob DeCarlo - January 04, 2021 at 07:21 PM

NA

*David Renee and the Longretta family. We are so very sorry for the
loss of your dear mom. She will live on in all your hearts.
Noreen LoConti Anguilli and family*

Noreen LoConti Anguilli - January 05, 2021 at 09:44 AM

TB

“ *Always full of class, beauty and just a little bit of sass. A wonderful
mother grandmother and wife. Will always be remembered fondly by
all the Broccoli Family.*

Tracy Broccoli - January 04, 2021 at 06:43 PM

TM

She was such a kind and Classy women. My thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time. Toni Marie Murphy.

Toni Marie Murphy - January 04, 2021 at 11:09 PM

MI

“ *Mirella was an amazing lady for the few years we have known her as neighbors she treated us like family she will be truly missed love
The Yacobuccis*

Mike - January 04, 2021 at 05:46 PM