



## Mrs. Pauline J. (DeCarlo) Stemmer

June 30, 1929 - March 30, 2026

E. UTICA – During one of the most sacred weeks of the church year, Mrs. Pauline J. (DeCarlo) Stemmer, age 96, passed away peacefully on Monday, March 30, 2026, with her son, daughter, and son-in-law by her side. Her passing occurred in the comfort and dignity of her son’s home, where she had been residing and was lovingly cared for over the past two years.

Born in Utica on June 30, 1929, Pauline was the daughter of the late John and Anna (Curri) DeCarlo. She attended Mary Street School and was a proud graduate of T.R. Proctor High School, Class of 1947. She was an initiator and coordinator of the T.R. Proctor Alumni Association, demonstrating her passion through its many years of gatherings and celebrations.

On May 17, 1952, Pauline was united in marriage with Robert E. “Bob” Stemmer. She carried with her a sense of love and traditions from another era. She was blessed with a husband who was protective of her health and always attentive to her needs. The couple shared 72 years together prior to Bob’s passing on August 20, 2024.

Pauline was employed as a medical secretary for St. Elizabeth’s Hospital and for the office of Dr. Samuel Gooldy, M.D. She was a fastidious, cordial, and thoughtful woman, working until the age of 70—how incredible to have had the stamina to do so.

Pauline was a compassionate and supportive mother. Nothing rattled her soul; in both good times and difficult times, she stood by her family's side.

Traditions and respect were her way of encouraging and promoting goodness in their lives. Her son and daughter were incredible caretakers for Pauline, offering just a glimpse into how deeply they loved her. It would be remiss if their devotion were not acknowledged. Nothing brought Pauline more happiness than her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. They were the light of her life, and she cherished each one deeply.

After Pauline's ostomy, she blossomed through the process, always wanting to assist others even when she herself was not well.

She took great pride in tending to her home, always looking forward to the excitement of celebrations and family gatherings. An accomplished baker and exceptional cook, her Christmas cookies were a cherished tradition. Sundays were especially meaningful, with attendance at Mass at St. Agnes Church followed by a pasta dinner. Each day of the week had its designated meal—a tradition her family will always remember.

Pauline, along with her husband Robert and her sister Grace, was a staunch member of the Sons of Italy, Lodge #2054, where they enjoyed socializing and spending time with family and fellow members. She and her husband were also dedicated supporters of the St. Cosmas and Damian Society of Kossuth Avenue. Each year in late September, they helped cook and prepare pizza fritta, and it was there that Pauline sold her well-known and delectable pepper cookies. Their heritage was proudly celebrated; saints' parades were honored, and traditions were carried on with love and pride. She also proudly served as the recording secretary for the annual event.

Pauline always kept busy and remained active throughout her life. She

enjoyed tending to her plants and flowers and loved crocheting each day, as well as watching "General Hospital" and additional other daytime soap operas, and classic films on the Turner Classic Movies channel. She also enjoyed going out to lunch with dear friends, taking bus trips to Atlantic City, and visiting in one another's homes, where coffee and Sambuca were often shared. She had a boisterous laugh that kept visits lively and memorable. Pauline loved to dance throughout her life, even into her later years. Her physical therapy was often more successful because of her love for music, especially dancing the Tarantella, which her son John would play for her on his guitar while she danced joyfully.

Pauline was grounded in her faith from childhood and honored her Lord until her final days. She was a devoted member of St. Anthony and St. Agnes Church.

She is survived by her son, John R. Stemmer (and the memory of her daughter-in-law, Deborah (Szewczyk) Stemmer, who passed away in 2010); daughter and son-in-law, Janice and Fred Greer; grandchildren with whom she shared a special bond as she cared for them their whole lives, John James Stemmer; and Justin and Vanessa Cichon; and great-grandchildren, Sophia Cichon, and David Cichon. Pauline never kept far from her mind the fond memories she held of her siblings and their spouses who preceded her, Mary and Anthony Tinelli, Antoinette and Sylvester Castano, and Grace and Roland Messere. She is additionally survived by a host of nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews, who remained close and continued to send their love and support; and sister-in-law, Selwa Stemmer (the late Richard J. Stemmer). Pauline was additionally predeceased by her father-in-law and mother-in-law, Joseph and Antoinette (Bouse) Stemmer; and brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Donald J. and Pauline Stemmer.

The family extends heartfelt thanks to the owners of “Live Long at Home,” Bobby and Katherine Burnett; Jay of Caruso Orthopedic & Neurologic Physical Therapy; and Joseph Lomonico, Sr. who assisted in many ways, showing his friendship and love for John and his parents. Gratitude is also extended to her son-in-law, Fred, who went above and beyond in so many ways and will be forever remembered as a truly good man.

Pauline’s family will honor and commemorate her life privately. Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend Pauline’s Mass of Christian Burial and Celebration of Life, which will commence on Friday, April 10, 2026, at 12:00 p.m. at St. Anthony and St. Agnes Church, 422 Tilden Ave. There will be an opportunity to greet the family at the conclusion of Mass. Entombment will take place in Calvary Mausoleum at the convenience of the family.

# Cemetery Details

## Calvary Mausoleum

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

# Previous Events

## Funeral Service

APR 10. 12:00 PM (ET)

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

# Tribute Wall

JM

“ John, Janice, and Fred ... Offering heartfelt condolences for your Mom ... The Montanaro & Massi families ...

Joseph A Montanaro - April 14 at 08:46 AM

AS

“ To John and family: I will always remember the kindness Mom and Dad showed towards me on many occasions throughout their well deserved long lives. Many a game, I recall seeing Dad often on the sidewalk behind our bench watching you playing baseball. May they rest in peace. Coach Sisti

Anthony Sisti - April 11 at 07:56 AM

LF

“ Len Rena and family purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of Mrs. Pauline J. (DeCarlo) Stemmer.



Len Rena and family - April 09 at 09:05 AM

LF

“ Len Rena and family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mrs. Pauline J. (DeCarlo) Stemmer.

Len Rena and family - April 09 at 09:05 AM

JS

“ Grandma was one of the most important figures in my life. This is J.J. (her oldest grandchild). I called the house on Gardner Street every day after work in Boston just so I can be reminded of home and family. I miss chatting with her and Grandpa. They were always a hoot and a half. I'm sad they are both gone.

I'll always remember them picking me up from school on Fridays. When I was younger we'd always go back to the homestead. She'd be cooking or doing her work and I'd be watching WCNY or TLC/Discovery cooking shows. (Pasquale's Kitchen Express and Great Chefs were go-tos). Also educational programs like Mr. Rodgers (which I always referred to Grandpa as) and Square One.

As I got older we always tried different restaurants. Symeon's was definitely a favorite. However there was nothing like her Italian home cooking. Her Orecchiette pasta and stuffed calamari were legendary. She had given me the recipes and I try to carry on that tradition (and I'll even make the baked haddock Grandpa liked). I'm so glad the last time I saw her I helped with the Christmas cooking.

My Cousin Justin and I have fond memories of sitting on the living room floor watching The Transformers movie. I'm surprised we didn't run out that whole tape!

She instilled in me my love of the culinary arts. A fierce sense of independence and the secret of longevity. (A shot of sambuca in a good ole hot cup of Joe can work wonders. :) I'll miss you Grandma. You're a big part of my 47 years on this earth and you will continue to influence me.

Much love from Boston:

JJ

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JJ Stemmer - April 09 at 07:54 AM

CS

“ *Janice, Fred and John*  
*I am so sorry to hear of your Mom's passing. No matter the age , losing a Mom is always so difficult. Memories are the legacy of love, so hold on to those wonderful memories you have and let them guide you thru this most difficult time. May God Bless her soul and comfort you all in this sad time of loss. Carol Scampone*

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**CAROL SCAMPONE** - April 06 at 12:56 PM

MB

“ *Dear Janice and family,*  
*So sorry to hear of your Mom's passing. I have many fun memories of your parents when they hung out with mine (Mimi and Joe Favata). Thinking of all you, Maureen (Moe Favata) and Bill Butler*

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**Maureen Butler** - April 02 at 09:31 PM

BB

“ *Dear Janice, Mom and Dad together again. You were so blessed. I love them both, but your mom was special to me. I have missed her, since moving South. She loved you kids so and bragged every chance she got about you and your brother! Pauline will be missed by all who were privileged to know her. God Bless you and your family, Barb Bullock*

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**Barbara Bullock** - April 02 at 08:49 PM

RD

*Pauline as well as all of her sisters were very dear to me. My mom and dad, (Mary T. 'Curri' Miullo and Nathaniel J. Miullo) visited often with all of us kids in tow. What a joy to have such delightful memories of extended family. Always food and more homemade goodies.*

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**Roseanne (Miullo) Dwyer** - April 07 at 04:10 PM

RB

“ Rosemary Brown lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Pauline J. (DeCarlo) Stemmer



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**Rosemary Brown** - April 02 at 05:56 PM

RB

“ Dear Janice and family  
I'm so very sorry to hear of your mom's passing. She certainly was a special lady and you were so blessed to have her with you. May she rest in peace. My thoughts are with you all. Rosemary Chambrone-Brown

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**Rosemary Brown** - April 02 at 05:55 PM

LR

“ John, Janice and Fred I was truly blessed in my life knowing my godmother Pauline and godfather Bob. Whenever I'm in the Utica area the memories of all of the great times I shared with her come beck to me. She always had the kindest words for me throughout my life because it came from a beautiful heart. I know my mom, and your parents are celebrating in heaven, she was truly an angel on earth, I will forever miss her !

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**Len Rena** - April 02 at 04:27 PM

AL

“ *John, Janice, and Fred*

*You were all blessed to have such a wonderful mother. I know that she appreciated all that you did for her over the years. I will always remember the Friday nights at Gram DeCarlo's home on Lansing Street, when the whole family would gather. Those were truly great days. I hope that you all take comfort in knowing that she and Uncle Bob are at home with Jesus.*

*God Bless You*

*Tony and Chris Lupino*

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**Anthony Lupino** - April 02 at 02:15 PM