



Mrs. Philomena T. "Fay" (Sisti) Policelli

June 11, 1922 - March 3, 2022

UTICA – Mrs. Philomena T. “Fay” (Sisti) Policelli, age 99, went home to Heaven on Thursday, March 3, 2022, in the comfort and dignity of her home, with her loving family by her side. She passed into the Lord’s arms three months shy of reaching her 100th year of life.

Born in Utica on June 11, 1922, to the late Alessandro and Catherine (Salerno) Sisti, Fay was fortunate to have been educated and graduate from T.R. Proctor High School/Class of 1941.

On September 27, 1947, Fay married Andrew Policelli. Fay and Andy were a good match, they tended to each other’s needs as well as having good parenting skills that created a very loving family. Together they shared nearly 36 years, prior to his passing on February 6, 1983.

Fay enjoyed a variety of experiences in her professional life. Her career began with a position at Oneita Knitting Mills, Inc., and then shifted when Fay accepted employment with the General Electric Company at their Bleecker Street location, Radio Receiver Plant. Lastly, she most appreciated her position as a cook at the Clubhouse Tavern located at The CharlesTown Mall; it was here that she blended her natural cooking skills and surrounded herself with old as well as new friends.

Fay was the “center piece” of her family structure. As a mom, she encouraged those she loved by teaching them optimism. Indeed, she is remembered for reverently supporting them, often saying “This too shall pass.” A wise woman, Fay would share her views, which were welcome to the many who sought her

advice. However, Fay was excellent at stepping back and giving others room to make their own decisions. She was a woman adored by her family and was unforgettable to countless others.

A remarkable cook and baker, Fay's skillset in the kitchen benefited so many. Her niece Sandy Grounds shared Fay's love of baking and culinary traditions and she was proud to follow, and will carry on in her aunt's talented footsteps. One of Fay's favorite traditions took place on Saturday mornings, which were dedicated to making "Pizza Fritta" for the grandchildren. Fay also prioritized her Italian and religious traditions, honoring the many festivities by hosting them in her home.

Fay was proud of her children; when they went on to have their own, Fay came to know the next generations with the same level of motherly affection and attunement as the first. Each person Fay helped raise will remember her always, holding her and her loving guidance close to their hearts.

A talented singer, Fay came from a family who were particularly blessed with the gifting of music. She was known to her musical circle as "Fannie," and her operatic voice filled others' hearts. Fay especially appreciated Italian Opera, which brought her so much joy. Additionally, she found pleasure in the memories of gathering with her fellow alum from T.R. Proctor High School/Class of 1941 meeting for lunch, along with her 'Cousins Club', and jaunts to the casino.

A spiritual woman, Fay was a devout Catholic who prayed the rosary daily and called upon the saints for blessings. She was a member of St. Anthony & St. Agnes Church.

Fay is survived by her children, Cheryl Zammiello and Ron Czepiel, Frank and his wife Angie Policelli, and Diane Policelli of Mill Valley, CA. She leaves behind many beloved grandchildren, Bridget Ames, Laura and George Wolfenden of MA, Richard and Te Walker, and the triplets: Nikolas "Niko" Policelli, Amber Lafay Policelli, and Franklin "Frankie" Policelli. Fay will be fondly remembered by her great-grandchildren, the twins: Andrew Ames, and Marcus Ames; as well as Briasia Ames; and Mia Walker. She was blessed to

know her great-great-grandchildren, Aubriella, Juliana, and Andrew Davis. Fay will live on in the heart of her brother, Robert A. Sisti, and his late wife Ginny Sisti. She was predeceased by her additional siblings and their spouses: Rose and Pasquale Brindisi; Palmina and Nick DiNigro; Fred and Yolanda Sisti; Mary and Anthony "Tony" Perta; Gloria and Frank Zammiello; and Alessandro "Alex" and Patricia Sisti. Fay also leaves behind many cherished and beloved nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, and cousins. Her life was filled with many wonderful friends who filled her days with love and laughter. Fay was predeceased by her in-laws, Frances and John Chiarelli, and Nicolas and Jane Policelli; as well as by her special cousin, Mary Manca.

In addition to the care to her children and grandchildren who kept a watchful eye upon Fay, they wish to thank her niece, Sandy Grounds, and her nephews, Pat Brindisi, Anthony Perta, and great-niece, Rosemarie Costello. There were, moreover, many who watched over Fay with such great care, and the family is so grateful for their love. Rene Pezzullo was one who attended to many of her needs with great compassion.

Visitation will be held on Saturday, March 12, 2022, from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at St. Anthony & St. Agnes Church, 422 Tilden Ave. Philomena's Mass of Christian Burial will follow at 1:00 p.m. Interment will take place at St. Agnes Cemetery at the convenience of the family.

Cemetery Details

St. Agnes Cemetery

601 Arthur Street
Utica, NY 13501
(315) 732-8588

Tribute Wall

VK

“ *Three yrs later and I still miss you. You will always be in my heart. I still listen to our opera songs you used to sing to me..*

Valerie Kratzenberg - April 13, 2025 at 10:18 AM

CP

“ *Frank and Angie, please accept my sincere condolences for this tremendous loss. What a beautiful person and wonderful life she must have had. Your mother and I share a birthday, hers being exactly fifty years prior to mine. May she Rest In Peace, and may your family find strength during this difficult time.*

Christopher Jude Pelli - March 17, 2022 at 05:16 PM

LW

“ *My Gram- my everything- I love you. Laura*

Laura Wolfenden - March 11, 2022 at 01:50 PM

DP

Miss you Mom--Thank you for the memories and everything you gave to me, and us.

Diane Policelli - March 11, 2022 at 06:52 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mrs. Philomena T. "Fay" (Sisti) Policelli.*



March 10, 2022 at 02:25 PM

JS

“ My condolences to you and your family. I always used to enjoy talking to Fay when she used to come into the Dr's office that I used to work at. RIP Fay

Julie Spanfelner - March 09, 2022 at 08:37 PM

HG

“ I will always remember her smile and good nature. I will never forget our card games and her teasing Uncle Andy. She always had food ready and coffee for everyone. To stop at Aunt Fay's house was relaxing and always loving. God bless you Aunt Fay and say hi to Uncle Andy . You will always be missed and never forgotten.

Hugh Grounds - March 08, 2022 at 10:01 AM

VK

“ Where do I begin these last past three years have been very blessed meeting Faye aka mom is what I called her. I love spending time with her as a caregiver but also as a friend. We always made each others days. I will never forget what mom said to me she said valerie you where sent to me to be my soul mate. I actually needed mom more then she needed me. She helped me with the passing of my mom. She was actually my soul mate 💜💜. I loved hearing her sing her opera we would watch all her favorites on youtube while she sang to me then we would sing together. I've had so many good times with her. I love and miss you Faye aka mom rest in paradise my angel. I will never forget the three best years I had with you.until we meet again my beautiful.god bless.



Valerie kratzenberg - March 07, 2022 at 03:53 PM