



Rita J. (Sbarra) Cunningham

March 19, 1930 - April 24, 2007

Mrs. Rita J. (Sbarra) Cunningham, age 77, of Utica, passed away on Tuesday, April 24, 2007, at the Heritage Health Care Center with her loving family by her side.

Born in Utica on March 19, 1930, Rita was the daughter of the late Vincenzo and Michelina (Carcone) Sbarra. She was raised and educated locally, attending T. R. Proctor High School and then the Utica School of Beauty Culture. On September 30, 1950 she married Robert J. Cunningham, Jr., with whom she shared 56 years in a loving union.

Rita was a hairdresser by vocation, operating out of her parents' home. She was also employed by Carl Cleaners and later Progressive Cleaners as a presser. Lastly, she worked at Nation R, now known as ACS in the check processing department.

A loving person, Rita always put others before herself. She had an affinity for animals, and cared for her pets. She was a communicant of St. Agnes Church.

Rita is survived by her husband Bob; her sons and daughter-in-law, Robert J. III and Terri Cunningham of Schuyler, and Richard J. Cunningham of Utica; and her grandchildren, Richard Cunningham, Jr. of Utica, and Rob Cunningham IV of Schuyler. Also surviving is her brother and sister-in-law, Vincent "Butch" and Donna Sbarra of White Lake; her many nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, and cousins; and sister-in-law, Louise Sbarra of Utica. She was predeceased by her brother, Louis Sbarra, her sisters and

brothers-in-law, Concetta “Jessie” and Joseph V. Maggio, and Rose and Peter Cerminaro.

The family wishes to thank the staff at the Heritage Health Care Center, especially the 2nd floor Rehabilitation Dept. and the 4th floor for their help and concern.

In keeping with Rita’s wishes, there will be no public visitation. Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend Rita’s Mass of Christian Burial which will be celebrated on Friday morning at 10:00 at St. Agnes Church. The family will receive visitors at the conclusion of the service. For those wishing to do so, please consider memorial donations in Rita’s name to the St. Jude Children’s Hospital; envelopes will be available at the service. Interment will take place at St. Agnes Cemetery at the convenience of the family.

Arrangements have been entrusted to the Eannace Funeral Home, Inc., 932 South St., corner of Hammond Ave.

Previous Events

Service

APR **27**. 10:00 AM (ET)

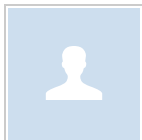
St. Agnes Church
700 Kossuth Ave
Utica, NY

Tribute Wall



“ My dearest sympathy to the Cunningham family. I was Rita's co-worker at Nation R and also good friend. We use to take the bus together to the 258 Genesee St. She always walked to my house when we moved to Nation R and I gave her a ride to work. Rita was a wonderful and kind person. I am very sorry for your loss. Rita will be missed by all and great memories. May God keep her close and provide strength to all who knew and loved her. Love Rita's friend and co-worker Sharon##imported-begin##Sharon Wood-Crouse##imported-end##

April 30, 2007 at 08:47 AM



“ To Uncle Bob & Cousins,
I just wanted to let you all know how sorry I'm to hear about Aunt Rita. And also to let you know that you are in every thought, every hope and every prayer. And though this time of pain and sorrow, God hides a smile in every memory, and hope in every tear that falls.
With all our Love
Mark Maggio & Family##imported-begin##Mark Maggio##imported-end##

April 28, 2007 at 12:19 AM



“ I once worked with Rita at ACS. It's been over ten years since the last time I saw her and I was shocked to hear about her passing. She was such a nice lady.....so upfront and comical. Heaven will enjoy her!

My thoughts and prayers are with her family.##imported-begin##Karen Jerominek##imported-end##

April 26, 2007 at 11:17 PM



“ My sincere sympathy to the Family of Rita.
I worked with Rita at ACS. She was such a nice person. Will remember the laughs .

May God Bless all of you at this most difficult time.

Sincerely,

Marlene Dybacz##imported-begin##MARLENE

DYBACZ##imported-end##

April 25, 2007 at 02:08 PM