



Rosa M. "Rose" (Pietropaolo) Vita

July 7, 1941 - March 15, 2024

UTICA – Rosa M. “Rose” (Pietropaolo) Vita, age 82, was reunited with her adoring parents when she passed away on Friday, March 15, 2024. At the time she went home to paradise and peace, she was surrounded by her loving family, which was of great importance to her.

Rose was born on July 7, 1941, to the late Domenico “Dominick” and Caterina “Catherine” (Pontoriero) Pietropaolo in the scenic town of Ricadi, part of the Vibo Valentia province of Calabria, Italy. She immigrated to the Utica area to be united with her Uncle Sabatino Pontoriero “Ponti,” but later returned to Italy to join in matrimony with her husband, Francesco “Frank” Vita. The couple came to the U.S. and called Utica their home. As many of that era did, they came to provide a better life and opportunities for their family. Rose never failed to welcome her own family, her in-laws, and other Italian immigrants looking to settle and be a united front.

Rose began her working years at Mills Factory, where she found new friendships and brought with her a promising work ethic. She then turned her focus to her own family and had three sons, in whom she instilled honesty, a robust work ethic, and a strong family bond. She easily became the family matriarch and did so in good standing. She was selfless, tireless, had the great strength of passion, and her home became a sanctuary for all as well as many in need. She then engaged as well in accepting a position at the iconic Joseph and Feiss where she forged many close relationships that lasted a lifetime.

If there were a symbol for Rose’s life, it would be a beautifully set and abundantly laden table of Italian delicacies. Her vast culinary expertise included creating a masterful meal out of whatever was on hand. Cooking for Rose was friendship, warmth, acceptance, enjoyment, family, life, and love.

There is nothing Italian mothers like Rose could not do, and do well. To be raised by an Italian mother is to be showered in love, kindness, nourishment, and toughness. Italian mothers know how to delicately traipse the fine line between nurture and discipline – so

much so, they've made an art of it. Italian mothers turn into Italian Nonnas, and a fiercer breed you could not find. There was no interfering with Nonna's love, Nonna's care, or Nonna's loyalty.

In her life, she made it all seem effortless. One of Rose's happiest memories that she cherished throughout her life was when she returned to her hometown to be with her family and life-long friends. She rejoiced and loved reliving her childhood, seeing the land she played upon, grew up on, and how it had become cultivated. The memories of the time she spent there filled her heart with many vivid stories. She never missed an opportunity to share her customs and heritage, and sharing her soul was to share friendship. Her musical culture reminded her of her homeland, and she formed many wonderful memories while dancing and singing.

Having a warm personality, Rose enjoyed the simple things in life. She was in tune to others' needs and helped them whenever she could. She would often pray for her many friends and in turn, many people also prayed for her. As an immigrant, she came to love, respect, and help many in that network, and never failed to show them an example of the American way of life and hospitality. Rose was a good-hearted woman who lived her best life. She loved Christmas Eve and the famous Calabrese "Stocco Fish" - along with every other traditional dish.

A member of St. Anthony and St. Agnes Church, she was devoted to her God, and relied on her faith to sustain her. She held a devotion to Saints Cosmas and Damian.

Rose is survived by her beloved sons, Frank A. Vita, Jr., Dominick S. Vita and Karen Greco, and Anthony Vita, and their father, Frank A. Vita, Sr. She cherished the memory of her late daughter-in-law, Patricia A. "Patti" (Tresoline) Vita, who passed away on May 1, 2009. Her loss is also felt by her adored grandchildren, Franca and Anthony LaBarbera, twins Matthew, and Jessica Baye; Dominick P. Vita, and Gianna M. Vita. She was over the moon when she was in the company of her great-grandbabies, Giada Rose LaBarbera, and Anthony Francesco LaBarbera. She will also be deeply missed by her sister, Caterina "Catherine" Putruele, who was her best friend and confidant. The sisters were protective, supportive, and always there for each other. She was blessed to know, love, and connect with her nieces and nephews, Mary Rose and Charles "Chuck" Mitchell, Cathy and Josh Uttamsingh, Jerry and Bianca Putruele, and their children, Brendan, and Avery; Olivia, Blake, and Alexa; and Carissa, and Alec. She also held a brother-like relationship with her dearest friend, Deacon Bill Dischiavo. She will also be missed by her two special cousins, Lino, and Francisco Schiariti, who remembered Rose in conversation each day; her in-laws who reside in Italy, whom she loved and treasured; and her childhood friends,

Vincenzina Pontoriero, and the late Damiana Panetta, who was her best friend. Throughout the years, Rose held a close bond with others who were family to her including members of the Dischiavo family, the Moses family, the Eannace family, the Catherine Caruso family, the Roy family, and her dear neighbors, Jill Harvey, and Susie & Kurt Freeman.

The Vita family would like to thank the physicians at Wynn Hospital, especially Dr. Lisette Alfaro, Dr. Rashid Girshab, Dr. Emile Wassel, Dr. Anwar Wassel, Dr. Leo Sullivan, and the ICU staff, as well as the members of the Hospice and Palliative Care team, especially Lisa Altieri, and Irene Cherrick. The staff of Abraham House was exceptional, especially Gina Ciaccia and nurse Amanda Wheeler; the family extends their heartfelt gratitude for so much consolation and the gracious care given to Rose and her loved ones.

Visitation will be held on Friday, March 22, 2024, from 4:00-6:00 p.m. at the Eannace Funeral Home, Inc., 932 South St., corner of Hammond Ave. Memorial contributions in Rose's honor may be made to the Abraham House online at www.theabrahamhouse.org/donate; envelopes will also be available at the funeral home. Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend Rose's Mass of Christian Burial and Celebration of Life which will commence on Saturday, March 23, 2024, at 12:00 p.m. at St. Anthony St. Agnes Church, 422 Tilden Ave. Entombment will take place in Christ Our Savior Mausoleum at Calvary Cemetery at the convenience of the family.

Cemetery Details

Christ Our Savior Mausoleum at Calvary Cemetery

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

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 22. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

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

Funeral Service

MAR 23. 12:00 PM (ET)

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

Tribute Wall

CS

“ So very sorry to hear about Rose's passing. My zia (Marianna Savoia) grew up with Rose in Italy and was saddened that she wasn't able to say goodbye to her dear friend. Hoping I can put my aunt in touch with someone in the family, Caterina (they call her Lina?). All my best, Cristina Savoia

Cristina Savoia - July 07, 2024 at 05:20 PM

MO

“ My Deepest sympathy goes out to Frank, Dominick, Anthony, their Dad Mr. Frank Vita Sr. And the entire Vita Family. Aunt Cathy, And her Family. Rose was a very special woman. She will be missed by all. And in my heart, May she be surrounded by angels forevermore. Rest in Peace And God Bless you Rose.

Michael Orsomarso

MICHAEL ORSOMARSO - May 22, 2024 at 09:46 AM

KE

“ Dom, Frankie, Anthony, Karen to the entire family our deepest condolences treasure the memories.
Love Always, Kevin and Kristy Enea & Girls.

Kevin Enea - March 23, 2024 at 08:33 AM

RT

“ Frank, So sorry for your loss. Our thoughts and prayers for you and your family.
MaryJo and Robert Timpano



Robert Timpano - March 22, 2024 at 03:24 PM

JB

“ With deepest sympathy, may his memory be eternal.

John Brown - March 22, 2024 at 02:49 PM

RL

“ On behalf of the Ralph Lauren Family:

Please accept our sincere condolences on the loss of an amazing wife, mother and grandmother. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the Vita family!

Ralph Lauren - March 22, 2024 at 02:44 PM

RP

“ I will always remember how my father loved Rose and Catherine They spent a lot of time with us when they first mived here fromItaly They would come up every Sunday and play Iralian Music push the furniture back and dance in the living room It was wonderful to experience this My sincere condolences to her family She will not be forgotten
Rosangela Putrelo

Rosangela Putrelo - March 22, 2024 at 12:33 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Rosa M. "Rose" (Pietropaolo) Vita.



March 22, 2024 at 10:03 AM

AB

“ Andy, Marlene, Claudia and Anita Biernat planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Rosa M. "Rose" (Pietropaolo) Vita.

Andy, Marlene, Claudia and Anita Biernat - March 22, 2024 at 10:03 AM

KF

“ Kalil (Charlie) Moses and Family. purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of Rosa M. "Rose" (Pietropaolo) Vita.



Kalil (Charlie) Moses and Family. - March 22, 2024 at 05:37 AM

TF

“ *The Flihan & Cristalli Families purchased the Rose Remembrance for the family of Rosa M. "Rose" (Pietropaolo) Vita.*



The Flihan & Cristalli Families - March 21, 2024 at 11:34 PM



“ *99 files added to the album LifeTributes*



Eannace Funeral Home, Inc. - March 21, 2024 at 04:41 PM

HN

“ *Hamid N. purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Rosa M. "Rose" (Pietropaolo) Vita.*



Hamid N. - March 21, 2024 at 04:38 PM

SP

“ *To the Vita family, sorry for your loss. Rosa was a great lady and friend. May she Rest In Peace.*

Simona & john Pedulla - March 21, 2024 at 03:39 PM

BP

“ *Our deepest sympathy for the loss of your mother Rose, to The Vita family. What a wonderful lady, May she rest in peace.*

Beth and Joe Pedulla - March 21, 2024 at 03:35 PM

CU

“ So Sorry for your loss.

Craig Urbanke

Craig Urbanke - March 21, 2024 at 02:39 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Rosa M. "Rose" (Pietropaolo) Vita.



March 20, 2024 at 10:32 PM

TF

“ The Velletto family. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Rosa M. "Rose" (Pietropaolo) Vita.

The Velletto family. - March 20, 2024 at 10:32 PM

KB

“ Dominic & Family. We are sorry to hear of the loss of your Mom. God Bless, the Bender, Brown & Drake families.

K Brown - March 20, 2024 at 06:22 PM

MR

“ Anthony our deepest sympathies to you and your Family.

She raised a gentleman. We love you Maria, Tiziana and Giuseppe.

May her Memory be Eternal

Maria Elena Romero - March 20, 2024 at 04:58 PM

ST

“ Dominick and Family,

Jackie and I are so very sorry to hear about the passing of your mom, Rose. May you cherish the wonderful memories that you made. Thoughts and prayers are with each of you. God Bless!

Stephen & Jackie Teti

Stephen & Jacqueline Teti - March 20, 2024 at 02:09 PM

PC

“ So sorry for the loss of your mother. May she rest in peace. Thinking of you Dominic

Patricia Ciccone - March 20, 2024 at 12:47 PM

DV

“ Dominick and family, I'm very sorry for the loss of your mother, you have my deepest sympathy. Dominic Viti

Dominic Viti - March 20, 2024 at 11:11 AM

NP

“ Domnick and family,
I am so sorry for your loss of Rose, may she rest in peace

Nick Parrotta - March 20, 2024 at 10:53 AM

DS

“ Dominick and family I'm very sorry for your loss.



Dolores P Salerno - March 20, 2024 at 10:48 AM

TZ

“ My deepest sympathy to the Vita family in the loss of your mother. RIP eternally.

Terry Zangrilli - March 20, 2024 at 04:46 AM

LT

“ Our love and prayers go out to you Dominick and your family. So sorry for your loss.

Lorraine & Joe Tartaglia - March 20, 2024 at 02:27 AM

MS

“ Mr Mrs Larry Smith purchased the Gracious Lavender Basket for the family of Rosa M. "Rose" (Pietropaolo) Vita.



Mr Mrs Larry Smith - March 19, 2024 at 10:29 PM

MS

“ Mr Mrs Larry Smith planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Rosa M. "Rose" (Pietropaolo) Vita.

Mr Mrs Larry Smith - March 19, 2024 at 10:29 PM

AD

“ To the Viti, So sorry for your loss you are all in are thoughts and prayers

Anthony & Elizabeth DeCarolis - March 19, 2024 at 10:10 PM

LS

“ Love Richard, Valerie & Richie Simpson purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Rosa M. "Rose" (Pietropaolo) Vita.



Love Richard, Valerie & Richie Simpson - March 19, 2024 at 10:04 PM

JC

“ My heartfelt and deepest sympathy go out to Frank, Dominick, Anthony, their Dad Mr Frank Vita Sr. and the entire Vita Family. Aunt Cathy and her Family. Rose was a very special woman. She will be missed by all. May she be surrounded by angels forevermore.
Jeanne Castronovo

Jeanne Castronovo - March 19, 2024 at 09:33 PM

JD

“ Rosa and Catherine were considered part of our Dischiavo family. They were present for every family event and loved by all of us.
I will hold her in my heart and memories forever!
I am blessed to have had her in my life and will miss her dearly!
Jean Dischiavo-Darzi

Jean Dischiavo-Darzi - March 19, 2024 at 08:51 PM

DM

“ David Muha purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Rosa M. "Rose" (Pietropaolo) Vita.



David Muha - March 19, 2024 at 03:37 PM

DM

“ David Muha planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Rosa M. "Rose" (Pietropaolo) Vita.

David Muha - March 19, 2024 at 03:37 PM