



Mrs. Rosanne "Ro" (Fusco) Ondarcho

December 1, 1948 - May 13, 2020

CAPE CORAL, FL/VERONA BEACH - Mrs. Rosanne "Ro" (Fusco) Ondarcho, age 71, passed away unexpectedly on Wednesday, May 13, 2020 with those she loved the most in her heart.

Born in Utica on December 1, 1948, Rosanne was the daughter of the late Angelo J. and Marie (DeFiore) Fusco. She was a graduate of T.R. Proctor High School/Class of 1966. On June 22, 1974 she married John Ondarcho with whom she shared a wonderful life and a deeply-rooted love that prevailed during their marriage of nearly 46 years. She had a mission, and with John by her side, together they completed it.

When they moved to Florida, she became an owner of a real estate company, Island Real Estate on Sanibel Island. She later sold the company to VIP Realty and relocated to North Carolina where she and John were very involved in designing and building their dream home. She had a knack for decorating and a vision of how the house would reflect the region where they lived. Add to that, her flair for color coordination and unique touches, and she was well ahead of her time. The rural environment allowed them to manicure the acreage around their home, ...it was picturesque and incredibly amazing! —HGTV had nothing on her!

A decisive, goal-driven gal, Rosanne was an inspiration to her husband and loved ones. She was a good organizer and called out to John when it was time to move on to the next task. When she put her sights on an objective, she made it come true. Rosanne was an enlightened old soul who loved and

respected her family. She enjoyed cooking and researching recipes to perfectly complement the meals she prepared for her themed dinner parties. She socialized with style and grace. Holidays were a family affair with an abundance of food prepared; appetizers were a must, and countless courses followed. Memories of these times will never be forgotten. She traveled and enjoyed every opportunity to see new things, and often returned to those locales.

Rosanne knew the blessings of her nieces and nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews, and she took a great interest in them. She, in turn, was an important part of their lives, and she knew how lucky she was to have their enduring love and respect. Rosanne had faith in her heart, a virtue that was seen in her many kind deeds that are now tucked away in the hearts of those who loved her.

Rosanne is survived by her loving and “patient” husband, John; her sister, Melanie Rose Griffiths; nieces and nephews, Richard A. Griffiths, Jr. (who was also her godson) and fiancée Carrie Atchison, Michael and Doresmi (Torres) Griffiths, Jaimie (Griffiths) and Michael Plainte, and their father, Richard A. Griffiths, Sr.; great-nieces and great-nephews, Makenna Marie Minelli-Griffiths, Everleigh Plainte, Ava Plainte, Daniel Morales, and Leyla Torres Griffiths; aunts, Frances Whitney, June Lia, and Angie Fusco; uncle, Gus Servello; great-uncle, Frank “Junior” Moracco; and many cousins. She also leaves her in-laws, William Cieslak, Jeanette Grube, and Barbara Majka, and their families, Deborah and Mike Dewey and their children Amanda and Chris Schrom and son Jack, Nicole Dewey and Richard George, Melissa Grube and fiancée Chelesea Talarico, Michelle Grube and Kris Murphy and their son Ryan and Pamela Majka; her friends, Cathy (Cook) DiBernardo, and Susan Andrews. She also shared a kinship and friendship with Marty Broccoli, and Gin Hutchinson. May we keep close the memory of the many aunts, uncles, and cousins who preceded Rosanne.

The family extends their appreciation to the NY State Troopers, volunteers, and Ambulance personnel for their quick response and valiant efforts.

Due to current health concerns and in keeping with federal and state regulations, the family will honor Rosanne's life privately.

Please take a moment to connect with Rosanne's family through the "Memories" section of her obituary on our website.

Our prayers continue to go out to all as a sign of our community support.

Tribute Wall

MN

“ So very sorry to learn in June 2022 of Roseanne's passing. She & John were neighbors of my Mom, Cate Forszt (Lowenstine) on Rabbit Rd on Sanibel. When Mom passed away in January at 95, she had left a list of friends to reach out to. The card I sent to Hayesville was returned. Both Roseanne and John meant so much to Mom and I remember meeting them too when I visited Mom from Germany. Hope John is well. Many blessings to the whole family, Mary Carlene Nadler, Babcock Ranch, FL.

Mary Carlene Bennett Nadler - June 27, 2022 at 03:55 PM

RC

“ We had the pleasure to have John and Rosanne be our dear friends for 20 plus years. As they say and believe this you can count “true friends” on one hand, they come few times in a lifetime Our memories of Rosanne, many laughs, vacations, not to mention the fabulous meals prepared by one of the best cooks imaginable will be in our hearts forever One vacation shared by John and “Ro” was an array of mishaps - not on their part but ours. If it could go wrong it did! Encountering an array of hilarious situations we laughed until we cried. I know she is looking down laughing now Rosanne will always be remembered for her generosity, planning, designing, expertise, attention to detail and of course her renowned meals. A true friend we will miss dearly but hold these memories close....until we see you again our dear Ro as we know we are promised this! Now we know you have plenty to do, so get to WORK

Rick sbd Debbie Croft - June 14, 2020 at 03:09 PM

ME

“ Dear Melanie, I'm so sorry to hear about Rosanne's passing. I enjoyed watching you two girls growing up next door. You are in my thoughts and prayers. Mary Ernest

mary ernest - May 26, 2020 at 03:09 PM



“ I have no idea where I would be today with out Ro, by some miracle of mowing lawns with John I became a beneficiary of her fondness for bums and her good advice,
Thanks Ro, Boom

Suzi Carroll - May 21, 2020 at 08:16 PM

LS

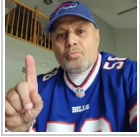
“ John,
I will forever be grateful for the friendship and so many fun times we shared with You and Rosanne on our many trips to visit Shari. Will always remember your visits up to our place in King Salmon. I guess life is all about creating friendships and lasting memories. Lots of memories of you both. I am so very sorry for your loss. Prayers for you my friend.
Lynn Shawback

Lynn Shawback - May 19, 2020 at 10:13 PM

HS

“ We were down in Florida with Shari and Tommy and decided to head down to the Florida Keys for the weekend! I was looking for a van with captain seats for us and John n Rosanne to Cruze down there! Rosanne said her parents had an LTD station wagon And take that!!! We didn't get an hour on our trip and had a blowout!!! Half way there, the alternator bearings locked up and a new one of those and a new belt and we were back on the road! By the time we finally got to the Keys and got into the hotel and a Hurricane came thru...white caps in the toilet bowls!!! It was a trip of a lifetime!!! We had so much fun!!! Good times with great friends!!! With miss you Lady!!!💕💕💕

Harry Shawback - May 19, 2020 at 09:38 PM



“ I now regard it as one of the most fortuitous days of my life

A day early in the month of September, 1962.

It was when I entered Proctor High School for the very first time as a newly enrolled freshman.

I now recall it as being a bit overwhelming. Proctor had a population north of 3000 students, a dramatic departure from my elementary school, Roosevelt.

It all seemed very chaotic as I entered room #147 which was to be my home room for the next 4 years. I found the unfamiliarity unsettling. I did not know one person.

I was quickly given my assigned seat which was determined alphabetically. As luck would have it, Rosanne had the seat behind me.

That moment proved to be the genesis of an endearing friendship that spanned 55 years!!!

Ro always would remind me the reason we became friends was because I was an FE and she was an FU (Femia/Fusco} - (double entendre intended). . She would, of course, deliver this line in a dry, “matter of fact” fashion that characterized her general demeanor.

She was not a particularly flowery or animated person. That simply was not her way. The word “gravitas” comes to mind but not to the extent she did not embrace levity. She had a truly organic sense of humor.

She was as compassionate, generous, truthful and morally straight a person you might find. In every circumstance, I found her to be a source of calm and comfort. Even if she disapproved of my behavior I always knew she had my best interest at heart. In a word a solid

and valued "friend".

And then she "double downed".

She met and married John.

Together they debunked the notion "opposites attract".

John & her were much more alike than not. So much so, they became one of those couples that were hard to think of as individuals, seemingly inextricably linked together as one...simply "Rosanne & John".

A few years ago, Marty & I decided to take up their repeated invitations to visit them and stay at their beautiful home in North Carolina. They proved to be beyond the "gold standard" for hosts. Every accommodation and detail to make us comfortable was attended to.

When planning it with Rosanne over the phone, I jokingly made a movie reference suggesting our road trip would be like the one portrayed in the film "Sideways". Without any hesitation, all too familiar with Marty & my "nit wit" ways, she responded: "I just hope it doesn't end up like "Thelma and Louise".

Quintessential Rosanne.

We will all miss you Rosanne. You may have left us with a hole in our hearts but over time we will back-fill it with our fond memories and the blessing & gratitude for knowing you.

My sincere condolences to Melanie and family.

"Gratitude is the memory of the heart"

David Femia

David Vee - May 19, 2020 at 05:10 AM

PM

*I have beautiful memories of her kind heart and generous soul❤️❤️❤️
.. I was hers and Johns neighbor on Rabbit Road on Sanibel in the
80's. Always great laughs and fun.. RIP❤️❤️❤️*

Pam Murray - May 19, 2020 at 09:48 PM

KL

“ *John, my wife and I are so sorry to hear that Ro has passed. The memories that I have of her are all very happy ones. Our thoughts and prayers are with you at this time.*

Kevin and Deb Lojewski - May 17, 2020 at 07:35 AM

SA

“ *2 files added to the album Memories Album*



Susan Andrews - May 16, 2020 at 06:11 PM

JP

These are beautiful photos! Can you please sent them to me? Jaimie

Jaimie Plainte - May 18, 2020 at 07:48 PM

CL

“ *John, Bruce and I are so sorry to hear about Ro. We had such good times in the early days. If you need anything please let us know. Give us a call, it's been too long.
Cheri & Bruce Lojewski*

Charlene Lojewski - May 16, 2020 at 04:06 PM

LO

“ John, Melanie and family, we are all reeling from one of the most tragic times in our lives. We are all better for Ro being in our lives. She set so many examples for us to learn by. So many memories, thank God for them. She lived her life to the fullest, and the love shared by her and John was second to none. May she Rest In Peace and know she will never leave our hearts and minds. Ro is irreplaceable and unforgettable.

Lorraine - May 16, 2020 at 12:15 PM

PS

“ John I am so sorry for your loss my heart goes out to you if there's anything we can do please just ask take care of yourself Peter and Diane Servello.

Melanie I am also deeply sorry for your loss if you need anything just let me know also give my remorse to do your kids take care of yourself Diana and Peter

Peter Servello - May 16, 2020 at 08:31 AM

FC

“ Dear John, Melanie and family our hearts are full with sorrow for your wife, sister and our loving, caring cousin. Roseanne and John introduced us to Florida's fine dining on Captiva, boat rides and fishing trips with Lori who was so excited to catch a fish. Her home was always open to everyone, a most generous and caring person. We are so happy we were able to share dinner this past September at our townhouse and talked about seeing the new remodeling she and John were completing at the beach. Thanks for the memories. Rest In Peace lovely lady. Hi to our beautiful family as they welcome you to eternity, free of pain. Love Freddie and Cookie. 🙏🏻🌈❤️

Freddie and Cookie - May 15, 2020 at 11:17 PM

JH

“ I don't know where to start, but I agree with Marty. Too many memories to list. But a few of my favorite are water skiing up at the lake. Ro driving the boat with me and Melanie so we could look for guys in our younger days and standing up in John and Roseanne's wedding. So much love and memories that I will always carry in my heart. I will always treasure our times we were together in Florida and up at the beach. Going out to dinner and drinking wine will never be the same. I'll never stop missing you. Soar high Our beautiful angel.

Jin Hutchins - May 15, 2020 at 02:05 PM

DC

“ John, Melanie and families, We are so saddened and shocked to hear of Ro's passing The heavens may have gained a beautiful wonderful soul, but life will never be the same. So many memories...so much love...Know that you are surrounded by much love and many prayers and thoughts. Our love to all, Bernie, Doreen and family

Doreen M Carcone - May 15, 2020 at 10:50 AM

LC

“ Seems like we were just catching up, reminiscing and laughing 7 short months ago and now here we are. It doesn't seem real. I will always remember how you introduced our family to Sanibel and Captiva Island. ".....you've got to try the Bubble Room...check out the Mucky Duck at sunset...you'll find the best shells on Captiva." So many great memories and visits to Sanibel, having dinner at your house on Rabbit Rd, and the big beautiful house where I got to spend Spring Break, Easter Sunday with you and John on the boat where I caught my first big fish thanks to John! Such great memories. Thank you for those memories! xo Lori

Prayers and thoughts to John, Melanie, Richie, Michael and Jaimie.

Lori (Demma) Calabrese - May 15, 2020 at 09:57 AM

MB

“ It is very difficult for me to share one memory. We were born 2 months apart and grew up like a brother and sister. Went to Albany School and Proctor together, spent our summers together at Kayuta Lake and I vacationed with her and John every year. Roseanne and John were Maid of Honor and Best Man when Diane and I got married on Captiva Island, Florida in 1985. To this day we talked to each other at least twice a week. Her sudden and unexpected passing is going to be hard to accept but just having been able to share my life with her has been something so special that i feel blessed. Will miss you cousin and rest in peace. I am sure you are already looking at how to remodel heaven! Love you, Marty

Martin Broccoli - May 15, 2020 at 06:59 AM