



Mrs. Rose M. (Valenzano) Simard

December 21, 1944 - December 4, 2021

FRANKFORT – Mrs. Rose M. (Valenzano) Simard, age 76, passed away after courageously battling several health issues on Saturday, December 4, 2021; at the time of her passing she was held dear in the hearts of those she loved most.

Born in Utica on December 21, 1944, Rose was the daughter of the late Donato Anthony “T” and Rose M. (Leone) Valenzano. She remained local for her formative educational years, having attended Roosevelt Elementary School and then graduating from Utica Free Academy/Class of 1962.

Rose went on to become a professional caretaker at St. Luke’s Hospital.

There she accepted a position as a care attendant in the Maternity Ward; her deep love for the babies she encountered there unquestionably earned her the respect of her co-workers and parents. Rose’s skillset – her knowledge coupled with her compassion – blessed the babies she served, each of whom she would forever hold in her heart. Rose worked at St. Luke’s Hospital for over 20 years and then retired to tend to her own grandchildren.

Rose’s story with the love of her life, Henry Simard, Sr., who she affectionately called Hank, began on the dance floor. There, their life together began, and the couple could boast a love for the ages. They were married on October 1, 1966 by Fr. Ralph DiOrio. For 55 years, they shared a “never ending love and devotion,” hearts filled with affection, and Hank stood by her side with endless love.

Rose was known for her numerous excellent qualities: strength, devotion,

wisdom and honesty. She lived by the motto of “doing things her own way,” and poured herself – all of her loving heart – into those around her. Truly, her magnanimity gave her a great advantage in life. Those who loved her will always remember her as amazing, and with fond recollections of how she lived her life filled with emotion and determination.

As a parent, Rose was authoritative and filled her days with attending to all of the demands of motherhood: completing daily tasks such as caring for her home, preparing meals, and honoring the holidays with an Italian flair. She was a traditional Italian cook with her meals appreciated by all those fortunate to be at her table. Rose’s pride in her children’s successes paved the way for her joy and pride in her grandchildren.

When she became “Nana Rosie,” she was so delighted; her grandchildren were perfect to her. They respected her, enjoyed her, she knew each of their hearts uniquely, and they in turn will forever cherish her in their hearts.

For entertainment, Rose enjoyed trips to the casino in Atlantic City, especially with Hank. These excursions were packed with little delights; Rose enjoyed and excelled at playing the dolphin slot machines, and the pair would take in a show and even get the opportunity to dance to live bands. To further challenge herself and develop her talent, Rose would play at Turning Stone Resort Casino and Vernon Downs. Additionally, Rose engaged in the game Bingo, which she played at the Columbia St. Hall, churches, and in more recent times at the casino. When the holidays approached, Rose’s specialty turned to the card game of Tripoley, yet any card game was amusement to her. The family also cherishes the memories of their summers with Rose at Sylvan Beach, which were filled with fun times for all.

Rose was a spiritual woman who honored her Catholic Creed, and was very devoted, especially in the last part of her earthly journey. She bore a strong spiritual sense that illuminated her actions and was especially fervent in her intercession for others through prayer.

Rose is survived by her beloved husband Hank and their children and their loves, Rose M. and Jonathan Bronson, and Henry Simard, Jr. and his wife

Jennifer who Rose loved like a daughter and always provided a calming presence for her. She will be cherished in the memories of her grandchildren, Anthony Donato, Joseph James, Matthew Michael, and Christopher Henry; and Khloe Rose. Rose leaves behind her brother Vito A. Valenzano, and was preceded by her sisters, Marie D. Valenzano, Vita L. Ritzel; and her sister-in-law Donna Valenzano. Rose will be fondly remembered by her many beloved nieces, nephews, great-nieces, and great-nephews, as well as her cousin Fran. She will be missed by her longtime friends and former work colleague, Bonnie Evans, and Anne Marie Nicotera; both of whom were as close as sisters; and James Aldi, who is the father of Rose's grandsons, and whom Rose loved as an additional son.

The Simard family would like to extend their gratitude to Dr. Aydin-Ghormoz Emmanuel "Dr. Al," who was a true professional and had an incredible bedside manner, and the staff at Albany Medical, as well as to Glen Brownell, a special friend of Rose's who was blessed to be with her during the last days of her journey.

The family will commemorate Rose's life at a private time. Entombment will take place at Christ our Savior Mausoleum at Calvary Cemetery at the convenience of the family.

Tribute Wall

TM

“ Vito, I'm sorry for the loss of your sister. I know you value your family members.

Ted McCarthy - December 30, 2021 at 10:03 PM

SF

“ My heart goes out to all of you.
Rose was such a beautiful soul. I had the pleasure of meeting her when I worked at St. Luke's hospital and to find out she was the wonderful nurse who cared for me and my sister when I was born. My mom raved about Rose and her heartfelt compassion. What a gift to have known her. May God Bless you all. Selma (Sageer) Fumarola

Selma Fumarola - December 13, 2021 at 06:46 AM

GI

“ I'm so so sorry to learn of Rosie's passing. She was a wonderful woman and will be greatly missed by all. She sure could make me laugh! My thoughts, prayers and love will be with you all during this difficult journey called grief. If anyone needs anything, please don't hesitate to call. Love Gigi

Gigi - December 09, 2021 at 06:12 AM