



Violette (Hajjar) Tahan

June 11, 1932 - February 2, 2026

WHITESBORO - Violette (Hajjar) Tahan, whose blessed Christian name was chosen by her mother, age 93, passed away peacefully on Monday, February 2, 2026, when God called her to her eternal home. At the time of her transition, she was so comforted to be in the familiarity and dignity of her home, being cared for by her family with great love and reverence.

Born in Aleppo, Syria, on June 11, 1932, Violette was the cherished daughter of the late Michael and Adjiba (Balbouse) Hajjar. In November 1949, she married Joseph S. "Joe" Tahan after a respectful courtship in the traditional style. She quickly realized he was a reliable man of his word, and she found peace and security in the deep love they shared. Her heart belonged to him, just as his belonged to her, and together they embarked on a beautiful journey and lifelong partnership that spanned 65 years until Joe's passing on February 18, 2015. Following his death, their children remained devoted to her, always by her side as a loving team, advocating for all her needs and ensuring she was never alone.

As a young woman, Violette came to the United States during one of the coldest seasons, and was welcomed by her in-laws in Utica. They first lived on Conkling Avenue, then Taylor Avenue, followed by Jewett Place. Violette quickly learned English, obtained her driver's license, and became a beautician. Eventually she and Joe relocated to the Whitesboro area, residing

in several homes over the years. Never attached to material possessions, Violette embraced each change with grace. No matter where they lived, they always maintained a deep respect and connection with newfound neighbors, the community, and those of their native land. They never forgot their family back home and even welcomed many relatives to the United States. Violette remained in close contact with her cousins and childhood family, playing a central role in supporting her siblings in every way possible and keeping them together.

Always energetic, she welcomed friends who became family with an open heart. Bringing people together came naturally to her and was a true expression of her generosity and kindness. Violette was admired for her beauty, both inside and out; her stylish and graceful presence mirrored the gentleness of her soul. Wise and perceptive, she recognized the needs of others and met them with warmth and charm. Joy radiated from her heart, and her humble, magnetic nature left a lasting impression on everyone who knew her.

Some of the greatest gifts she imparted to her family were her native Arabic language, celebrating and singing the traditional songs, and delicious customary foods. She was an incredible chef and baker, two arts she learned from her father and Nanny, her husband's mother. Everything she did, she did with confidence. Where other people would see a problem as a mountain, she would see it as a mole hill. She had an excellent work ethic and was masterful with a needle, sewing clothing from her vision of a pattern, and knitting. She was masterful at multitasking on so many levels. Along with her many other responsibilities, Violette was also an independent hairdresser. She was a wise and astute businesswoman who saw clients every day.

The most important people in Violette's life were her children. She taught them how to move ahead in life with class and dignity. She stressed education and

the need to find – and have the courage to find – freedom and a future for their hearts and minds. Each child was introduced to promises of hard work being rewarding – the same values that were shared with her by her parents. As a mother, she was fair with her children, spreading her love and concern evenly among them.

Violette lived each day to the fullest, meeting physical challenges with calmness, and boundless determination. She faced every obstacle with confidence, rising to them spiritually and emotionally. Captivating and dedicated, she was a beacon of inspiration to many. Her world was vast and inspiring, and as an influential presence, she was guided solely by love and a sense of duty.

Violette loved to travel with her husband, Joe. Together, they explored many places in Europe, including a memorable trip to Italy, where they had the extraordinary opportunity to have a papal visit with Pope John Paul II for which they were forever grateful. In her later years, she returned to Syria with her children, showing them the places of her childhood. She always remembered the bright days spending time at her son Al's camp in Cleveland, on the North Shore of Oneida Lake. Meals galore were the center of every gathering. As a matter of fact, people were not happy if they were not invited! She also especially cherished trips to Florida, where she was once again surrounded by many members of her family. The hallmark of her life was her large and extended family, through whom her love, values, and spirit continue to live on.

Violette's faith was the cornerstone of her life. She was an active member of the Syrian American Club, the Nocturnal Adoration Society, St. Mary's Guild, and the Rosary Society, and she participated in numerous pilgrimages and retreats to shrines and churches. She prayed each night and maintained a

powerful, personal relationship with God. Guided by her faith, she faced life's challenges without fear and embraced the Father's will. As a devoted member of St. Louis Gonzaga Church, she believed in the power of prayer, which sustained her throughout her life.

One of her deepest regrets was accepting her declining health, knowing it would force her to leave behind the family that meant everything to her on this earth as she became part of the next.

A quotable Arabic phrase that Violette often cited, especially while cooking large meals for family gatherings, translates in English as, "What we eat is gone, but what we give away remains." She believed generosity was the key to a good life, that what we do for ourselves alone dies with us, but what we do for others remains and is immortal.

Nothing was more precious to Violette than her children and their spouses, Mary M. Tahan and her fiancé Keith Gros, Bernadette A. and James Quenneville, Genevieve M. Tahan, Albert J. "Al" and Theresa Tahan, and George P. Tahan and the late Siobhan (Sweeney) Tahan; grandchildren, Milton and Alia Barell, Jason and Katie Barell, and Matthew Barell; Justin Keyes and Margaret Tahan, twins Joseph H. and Veronica Tahan, and Albert G. Tahan and Salina Suy-Tahan, Jack O., and Tate N. Tahan, Timothy and Lacey Devereux, Edward and Stephanie Wilson; and great-grandchildren, Bennett, and Lorelai Barell, Jack, and Emmeline Barell, Violette Barell, Dylan, Claire, and Emmie Keyes, Theodore, Joseph, and Gabriel Tahan, Gavin, Merick, Ryder, and Camden Devereux, Finnley, and Emmett Wilson, Madison, and Avery Lints, and Hayden, and Riley Noon. Violette is also survived by her dear younger brother, Niam Hajjar, with whom she shared a special bond. She remained a guiding and supportive sister to Niam in a way only a sister could. During her life, she held close to her heart the memories of her brother and sister-in-law, George and Anita (Namy) Hajjar, her sister, Maggie Kowiatek

and her sister and brother-in-law Nadia and Mickey Gulla, all of whom preceded her. Her loss is also felt by many beloved nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, and cousins in Montreal, Syria, and Australia; and a host of treasured friends gathered throughout her lifetime, especially her childhood friend from their time in Syria throughout their lives in the United States, the late Georgette Baccash and her family; Marcell Rawda, with whom Violette was as close as sisters; and Georgette Nehme, a cherished and treasured longtime friend.

Violette was further predeceased by her father-in-law and mother-in-law, Albert and Genevieve (Srour) Tahan; and her in-laws, Sister of Charity, Rita born Mary Tahan, Elinor Tahan, Susan Kassis, Jeanette and Jewell Roberts, Anthony and Alice Tahan, James and Rose Tahan, John George Tahan, and Emma and George Winn.

Violette was deeply grateful for the care her children provided her with such outstanding compassion, a quality of which she was immensely proud. She also cherished the support of her niece, Lisa Metacarpa; her close family friend, John Mariano; her cousins Salem and Katia Makarri; and a remarkable team of five incredible and empathetic women who assisted her in her time of need. The faith and devotion of Father Boutros El Hachem was delivered with such reverence and so gratefully received by Violette and her family. The kind acts of faith by the fellow members of St. Louis Gonzaga Church will always be cherished by the Tahan family, for all their spiritual needs and desires were so lovingly met.

Visitation will be held on Tuesday, February 10, 2026, from 3:00-7:00 p.m. at the Eannace Funeral Home, Inc., 932 South St., corner of Hammond Ave. The Prayer of Incense will be offered at 6:45 p.m. prior to the conclusion of visitation. Out of respect and in honor of those who care for others in their time of need, it would be Violette's wish that memorial contributions in her

honor be considered to the Abraham House online at theabrahamhouse.org/donate; envelopes will also be available at the funeral home. Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend Violette's funeral service which will commence on Wednesday, February 11, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. at St. Louis Gonzaga Church, 520 Rutger St., where the Divine Liturgy of the Faithful Departed will be celebrated by Father Boutros El Hachem. Interment will take place in Calvary Cemetery alongside her beloved husband, Joe.

Cemetery Details

Calvary Cemetery

2407 Oneida Street
Utica, NY

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 10. 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Eannace Funeral Home, Inc.
932 South Street
corner of Hammond Ave.
Utica, NY 13501
(315) 724-6714
eannacefh@roadrunner.com
<https://www.eannacefuneralhome.com>

Funeral Service

FEB 11. 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Louis Gonzaga Church
520 Rutger Street
Utica, NY 13501
(315) 732-6019

Tribute Wall

MA

“ *Bernadette and Families,*

Your mom.....how I remember her when at your home so many years ago. She not only was a beautiful person with a gigantic heart of love but her graciousness excelled her way of life for all. Her genuine smile was a take away when you left and always remembered her kindness with that smile.

My husband Frank, use to enjoy lunches with her and her brother George and his wife Anita.

What a small world we live in when there is love and unity.

*Much love my friend, Bernadette and your family,
We shall Rejoice one day as the Good Lord Promises us to see our loved ones once again.....Hallelujah to that reunion in Jesus Name!!!!*

*Frank&Mary Guzzardo Annese
Venice, FL*

Mary Annese - February 11 at 09:32 AM

JL

“ *Rest in Peace Mrs Tahan. You were a great next door neighbor Mom.*

Joey Lachacz - February 10 at 03:06 PM

LN

“ I had the pleasure and honor of spending a little time with Violette over the past several years, and I can sincerely say that I have never walked away without feeling that I was family and very special to her. That's just the way she was. Dear lady, I will forever hold you close to my heart. Rest in blessed peace now. ♡



Linda Nasbe - February 10 at 09:34 AM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Violette (Hajjar) Tahan.



February 09 at 10:39 PM

TF

“ The Baccash, Lupo&Della Pietro Families planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Violette (Hajjar) Tahan.

The Baccash, Lupo&Della Pietro Families - February 09 at 03:55 PM

SQ

“ Sally and Al Quenneville purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Violette (Hajjar) Tahan.



Sally and Al Quenneville - February 09 at 03:53 PM

SL

“ Paul Baccash and Sandra Lupo and Family wish to extend our deepest sympathies for the passing of our beloved Aunt Violette. A true loving matriarch, Aunt Violette was our second Mom, best friend forever to our Mom, Georgette Baccash. Even across the miles we have beautiful memories growing up with the Tahan Family, too many to mention. God Bless You Aunt Violette, in the Lord's arms and with Uncle Joe.



Sandra Lupo - February 09 at 03:44 PM

DC

“ David Stern Memorial Golf Committe purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Violette (Hajjar) Tahan.



David Stern Memorial Golf Committe - February 09 at 12:15 PM

LH

“ Love Jackie & Dave Hawthorne planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Violette (Hajjar) Tahan.

Love Jackie & Dave Hawthorne - February 09 at 10:17 AM

LH

“ Love Jackie & Dave Hawthorne purchased the Ar
rive in Style for the family of Violette (Hajjar)
Tahan.



Love Jackie & Dave Hawthorne - February 09 at 10:17 AM

SC

“ Beautiful, sweet, loving mother blessed all who knew her.... Sue
Carpenter

Susan Carpenter - February 09 at 09:53 AM

JR

“ John & Julie Roberts purchased the Full Of Love
Bouquet for the family of Violette (Hajjar) Tahan.



John & Julie Roberts - February 09 at 09:53 AM

JB

“ Jansen Brothers planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Violette (Hajjar)
Tahan.

Jansen Brothers - February 08 at 06:13 PM

JB

“ Jansen Brothers purchased the Lily and Rose Tribute Spray for the family of Violette (Hajjar) Tahan.



Jansen Brothers - February 08 at 06:13 PM

HF

“ Hajjar Samira and family purchased the Gracious Lavender Basket for the family of Violette (Hajjar) Tahan.



Hajjar Samira and family - February 08 at 04:32 PM

HF

“ Hajjar Samira and family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Violette (Hajjar) Tahan.

Hajjar Samira and family - February 08 at 04:32 PM

MK

“ Michael & Inez Roberts, and the kids. purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Violette (Hajjar) Tahan.



Michael & Inez Roberts, and the kids. - February 08 at 04:20 PM

MK

“ Michael & Inez Roberts, and the kids. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Violette (Hajjar) Tahan.

Michael & Inez Roberts, and the kids. - February 08 at 04:20 PM



“ Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Violette (Hajjar) Tahan.



February 08 at 04:01 PM

AF

“ Armond, Natalie, and Kathryn Festine planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Violette (Hajjar) Tahan.

Armond, Natalie, and Kathryn Festine - February 08 at 04:01 PM

BN

“ Beloved Nieces and Nephews purchased the Gracious Lavender Basket for the family of Violette (Hajjar) Tahan.



Beloved Nieces and Nephews - February 08 at 11:12 AM

RB

“ Rosemary Brown lit a candle in memory of Violette (Hajjar) Tahan



Rosemary Brown - February 08 at 10:18 AM

RB

My deepest sympathies to the Tahan family.

Rosemary Brown - February 08 at 10:20 AM

NF

“ Niam Hajjar and Family purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of Violette (Hajjar) Tahan.



Niam Hajjar and Family - February 08 at 10:10 AM



“ Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of Violette (Hajjar) Tahan.



February 07 at 07:42 PM

LT

“ Love, Albert G. Tahan & Salina Suy Tahan planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Violette (Hajjar) Tahan.

Love, Albert G. Tahan & Salina Suy Tahan - February 07 at 07:42 PM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Violette (Hajjar) Tahan.*



February 07 at 05:50 PM



“ *The Jewett Wilsons, Laura, Marc, & Deb planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Violette (Hajjar) Tahan.*

The Jewett Wilsons, Laura, Marc, & Deb - February 07 at 05:50 PM



“ *Suzanne F. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Violette (Hajjar) Tahan.*

Suzanne F. - February 07 at 03:35 PM



“ *Our sincerest prayers and condolences to the Tahan family. Violette and all the Tahan family was a big part of our family. Her zeal and joy of life was always present. May Violette's memory be eternal.*

Alfred Ajaeb - February 07 at 03:29 PM

MB

“ *Michael & Sharon Brushett purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Violette (Hajjar) Tahan.*



Michael & Sharon Brushett - February 07 at 01:49 PM

WF

“ *With love, The Denton Family purchased the Fairest of All for the family of Violette (Hajjar) Tahan.*



With love, The Denton Family - February 07 at 09:23 AM

JA

“ *I was just a child when I met the Tahan family. I will forever remember the kindness that Violet has shared with me and my family for all these years.
Sending love to Mary Margaret, Bernadette, Genevieve and the entire Tahan family and their extended family. Jo-Ann Acey*

Jo-Ann M. Acey - February 07 at 08:43 AM

DZ

“ *Drs. Salina Suy Tahan & Justin Zalatan purchased the Rainbow Of Remembrance Spray for the family of Violette (Hajjar) Tahan.*



Drs. Salina Suy Tahan & Justin Zalatan - February 07 at 07:39 AM

DZ

“ Drs. Salina Suy Tahan & Justin Zalatan planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Violette (Hajjar) Tahan.

Drs. Salina Suy Tahan & Justin Zalatan - February 07 at 07:39 AM

TF

“ Please accept our sincere condolences on your mom's and grandma's passing. Peace & prayers to all.



Tim & Colleen Moylan Family - February 07 at 06:12 AM

TH

“ Aunt Violet was loved by all. And she was the BEST cook. She was a master of Arabic cooking...love to the whole Tahan family.
Theresa Roberts

Theresa - February 06 at 09:15 PM

PP

“ I was saddened to learn of Violette's passing. I still remember fondly going to their house on Jewitt Place and getting our hair cut as kids with my cousins. Then we would go outside to play and my mom and aunt Maggie (Violette's sister) would get their hairdos.. my sincere sympathies to the family. What a wonderful lady she was..
♥ Rest in Peace

Patricia Piperata - February 06 at 07:02 PM

VH

“ *Violette, you were a beacon of light everywhere you went. You were such a joy to be around and I will always remember how beautiful & kind you were to me & my family. I will cherish my memories of you. You & Joe definitely raised some really GREAT kids & I am forever grateful to have had all of you in my life. Give Joe a hug for me & maybe a sandwich..... ;)*



Gen, Al, Bern, Mary, George, Niam and all of your families, our family sends our Sincerest Condolences. May your wonderful memories of her bring you joy in this time of sadness.

*Love Always,
Vicki, Jim & Kim Hopper*

Vicki Hopper - February 06 at 02:17 PM

SQ

“ *Sara Q. purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Violette (Hajjar) Tahan.*



Sara Q. - February 06 at 01:08 PM

MR

“ *Mary Roberts planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Violette (Hajjar) Tahan.*

Mary Roberts - February 06 at 12:25 PM

MR

“ *Mary Roberts purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Violette (Hajjar) Tahan.*



Mary Roberts - February 06 at 12:25 PM

SA

“ *It was a an honor growing up with such beautiful and close ties between our families. I heard about your dream dancing with my mother. Heaven will be a better place with you. Condolences to the entire Tahan and Hajjar families.*

Sam Ajaeb - February 06 at 11:21 AM

PG

“ *Penelope Gusse planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Violette (Hajjar) Tahan.*

Penelope Gusse - February 06 at 10:48 AM

PG

“ *Penelope Gusse purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Violette (Hajjar) Tahan.*



Penelope Gusse - February 06 at 10:48 AM

SS

“ 1 file added to the album *A Beautiful Soul*



Samantha Serway - February 06 at 09:46 AM

KP

“ *Momma Tahan will travel. The strongest will you could ever imagine to get it done. Honest as the days are long. Let's not forget class. I loved her.*

Kirk Parham - February 05 at 08:44 PM

JH

“ *Violet, my precious sister-in-law.... So many memories, so much laughter. I learned so much from you. I do not have the right words to express how much you will be missed. Although in recent years we didn't see each other often, when we were together we could just chat and chat to catch up! It was like yesterday when you, Nadia and Maggie came dashing in to help just after Symon was born! Rest peacefully enjoying being with Joe and your sisters once more. It will never be the same without you here Violet....❤️.*
Juanita

Juanita Hajjar - February 05 at 08:20 PM

LH

Aunt Vi ..thanks so much for being there for me growing up and loving me...have so many memories staying at your house and playing forever with one of my favorite cousins Genevieve we were double trouble sometimes ... I will miss you ...hug everyone for me on cloud #9 till we all meet again..Love you xoxo 💕🙏❤️🙏💕

liz harney - February 06 at 08:57 AM

TD

“ Momma thank you for 20 years of loving me and making me feel so loved by you ... I miss you so much already life will not be easy without you. I will take good care of Albert for you. Rest in peace your home now.

Theresa Devereux - February 05 at 06:21 PM

LN

I had the pleasure and honor of spending a little time with Violette over the past several years, and I can sincerely say that I have never walked away without feeling that I was family and very special to her. That's just the way she was. Dear lady, I will forever hold you close to my heart. Rest in blessed peace now. ♡

Linda Nasbe - February 07 at 10:53 AM