



Donna R. Paradiso

December 9, 2018

It is with deep sorrow we announce the passing of Donna Rae Paradiso on December 9, 2018. Family, fidelity, devoted children and a committed, caring, loving husband of forty nine years provided her a path to her journey to the Garden of Paradise by way of Via Paradiso. Donna was born in Stafford Springs, CT on October 17, 1943, the daughter of the late Woodrow Pitkat and Hazel (Jacobsen) Pitkat. Donna was a life long resident of Stafford and was educated in the Stafford School System. Upon completion of her schooling, she chose employment in the office and secretarial field and while so employed, she made the acquaintance of Joe, who later would become her beloved husband of 49 years. Once married, the meaning of life would be focused on family and she was the consummate stay at home Mom. Attendance at school functions, meetings and activities were a must. No basketball games were missed regardless of the distance to travel, but more importantly was her attention and persistence in obtaining the proper programs for those who needed special help. Her cooking skills were expanded and her baking raised. Small and large family gatherings were welcome, and traditional meals were weekly; thanks to an impeccable hostess. One child wished to become an entrepreneur by owning a hot dog truck. The truck was purchased, but help was greatly needed so Donna took over and the truck was ready. Then Donna drove the truck, put on an apron and did everything for the entrepreneur except run the register! The truck was called Chez Jo-Jo. With children grown, Donna was ready to begin the employment she desired. She turned to retail sales and a satisfying career in the shoe business. Because of her desire to satisfy, she was able to manage several shoe stores successfully before retiring. Donna was a person of tremendous faith. Her faith gave her strength, courage and the will to endure, succeed and survive. Donna was stricken with cancer on three separate occasions and heart surgery. On each occasion, she was guided and helped to recover by prayer, faith in God and assistance from Father Ray Introvigne of The Spiritual Renewal Services of Norwich. Although the pain was plentiful, the radiation and chemo sickening and debilitating, Donna was not a person to complain. She wished to endure for her family who needed her guidance and love. When Mass attendance was not an option any longer, she watched Mass each day on T.V. Donna enjoyed the good fortune of having a vacation home at Watch Hill, a home that took years to build because of zoning issues,

but faith said to persevere and the “little house” is a dream house. A place of fun, sun, family, food and friends. Donna had a passion for the beach which was life-long. It started in Misquamicut and ended in Watch Hill. The winter water was never too cold and the summer sun was never too hot. The sun and water brought a sparkle to her blue eyes that will never dim. She was a wonderful woman. Besides her husband, Joe, she leaves behind to mourn, her son, Joseph Paradiso (Yuki) of New York, her son Christopher Paradiso (Mary Alice) of Stafford, CT, her special daughter Rachel Paradiso of Manchester, CT, and her devoted dog, Tony, her twin grandchildren, Gianni and Mia Paradiso, her brother Woodrow Pitkat of Stafford, CT, brother Francis Pitkat of Florida, nephews, Joseph Grace (Robin) of Tampa, FL, Nicholas Oliveri (Joan) of Wethersfield, CT, Larry McKinney (Ann Marie) of Stafford, CT, John Oliveri (Lisa) of Sanibel, FL, nieces Sally Tyler of Venice, FL, Nancy MacDonald (David) of South Carolina, Rachele Lorenson (Robert) of Vernon, CT, Marylee Gordon (Robert) of New York City, Marteen Bochicchio (Anthony) of Watertown, CT and sister-in-law, Kim Fleury of Stafford, CT. Donna was predeceased by four sisters-in-law, Mary Paquin, Josephine Oliveri, Beatrice Grace and Antoinette Zahner who were the “sisters” she had always wished to have. Donna quietly, graciously and quickly adopted their Italian Heritage. Her funeral will be held on Thursday, December 13, 2018, with a procession forming by 10 A.M. at Introvigne Funeral Home, Inc., 51 East Main St., Stafford Springs, CT, followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at 11 A.M. at St. Edward Church, 55 High St., Stafford Springs, CT. Burial will follow in St. Edward Cemetery, Stafford Springs, CT. Calling hours are on Wednesday, December 12, 2018 from 4-8 P.M. at the funeral home. Memorial donations may be made to Journey Found, 60 Hilliard St., Manchester, CT 06042. For online condolences or directions, please visit: www.introvignefuneralhome.com

Cemetery

St. Edward Cemetery

West Stafford Rd.

Stafford Springs, CT, 06076

Events

DEC **Visitation** 04:00PM - 08:00PM

12

Introvigne Funeral Home, Inc.

51 East Main St., Stafford Springs, CT, US, 06076

DEC **Service** 11:00AM

13

St. Edward Church

55 High St., Stafford Springs, CT, US, 06076

Comments



“ An external video has been added.



Introvigne Funeral Home, Inc. - January 03 at 03:47 PM



“ Dear Paradiso Family,

I was so sorry to hear about Donna. I am thinking of you all during this sad time.

Deepest condolences,
Dianne Bilyak

Dianne Bilyak - December 21, 2018 at 10:47 PM



“ Our condolences to all who have been touched by such a remarkable woman.

Having never met Mrs. Paradiso and reading her obituary in the paper we can see what a wonderful woman she was. We are sure she will be missed by many but also know that her legacy and love will live on in all of your hearts.

She has given you that gift to cherish forever and so it will be.

With great respect and condolences we mourn your loss,

Jon and Susan Becker

Jon Becker - December 14, 2018 at 04:36 AM



“ I always enjoyed my visits to Donnas' house. Every time I was in her pressence, she had always shown me how big of a heart she had. Everything that she'd done, she put her all into it. One time when the twins were only babies, I went to see her. It was a good thing too, because when I showed up, one of the twins were crying, the other needed their diaper changed Donna had a wonderfully smelling pasta dish going on and finally during all of that the phone was ringing. I stepped up taking care of the twins. That totally helped her out. Talk about a super woman. Donna never got

anxious. The entire time she was keeping her cool. That's the type of woman she always was. An amazing asset to her entire family and a wonderful inspiration and person I loved looking up to. I'll always love and miss Donna. Bless her entire family and over time let their broken hearts become whole once again.

Martha Fogg - December 13, 2018 at 11:18 PM



“ Joe and Family, Our sincere condolences to you at this most difficult time.
Andy & Tina Mihaliak



C Mihaliak - December 13, 2018 at 05:48 PM



“ Joe, Chris, Rachel, young Joe, Woody and the entire Paradiso family,

sincerest condolences on the passing of Donna, wife mother, sister, grandmother, aunt and friend. Donna was obviously devoted to her family, and a friend to many. She faced many difficult trials later in life with courage and faith and grace. She will be missed.
May the thoughts and prayers of family and friends comfort you during this difficult time.

Gordie Frassinelli and family

Gordon Frassinelli - December 13, 2018 at 04:45 PM



“ Judy Chaplin Geary lit a candle in memory of Donna R. Paradiso



Judy Chaplin Geary - December 13, 2018 at 11:26 AM



“ Joe and family: we are so sorry for your lost . Philip and Ruth Tripoli

philip tripoli - December 13, 2018 at 10:33 AM



“ Chris, I was so sorry to learn of the loss of your mother. You're in my thoughts and prayers.

Ellen Carney - December 13, 2018 at 09:25 AM



“ To Joe and the family sorry for your loss.



Dinofrassinelli - December 12, 2018 at 07:29 PM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Donna R. Paradiso.



December 12, 2018 at 04:16 PM



“ Miguel, Lisa, Dante & Lucia Colombo purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Donna R. Paradiso.



Miguel, Lisa, Dante & Lucia Colombo - December 12, 2018 at 02:20 PM



“ Dear Chris, we r so sorry for your familys loss. U r in our thoughts and prayers, Sue and Bruce Gross



Sue Locke Gross - December 12, 2018 at 12:35 PM



“ Peter & Cindy Ostrowski lit a candle in memory of Donna R. Paradiso



Peter & Cindy Ostrowski - December 12, 2018 at 08:19 AM



“ My wife Jean and I wish to express our heartfelt condolences to Joe Paradiso and the entire Paradiso and Pitkit families concerning the loss of Donna Rae. She received loving supportive care from her husband Joseph and her extraordinary families.

Michael R. Sharon, MD

Michael R. Sharon, MD - December 11, 2018 at 09:00 PM



“ Linsley Mordasky RN purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Donna R. Paradiso.



Linsley Mordasky RN - December 11, 2018 at 08:32 PM



“ Joe, Chris, Rachel and family, I am so sorry for your loss. Donna was a wonderful woman and I will miss seeing her at Paradiso Insurance events. You will all remain in our thoughts and prayers. May God bless Donna and also each of you. Bruce and Donna Richardson

Bruce Richardson - December 11, 2018 at 08:23 PM



“ John & Sally Rowell lit a candle in memory of Donna R. Paradiso



John & Sally Rowell - December 11, 2018 at 07:20 PM



“ Fran, Cheryl, and Family purchased the With Deepest Sympathy Gift Basket for the family of Donna R. Paradiso.



Fran, Cheryl, and Family - December 11, 2018 at 07:11 PM



“ Kay M. Warren lit a candle in memory of Donna R. Paradiso



Kay M. Warren - December 11, 2018 at 06:29 PM



“ Sweet Tenderness was purchased for the family of Donna R. Paradiso.



December 11, 2018 at 05:39 PM



“ Your Vanliner Insurance Family purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Donna R. Paradiso.



Your Vanliner Insurance Family - December 11, 2018 at 05:08 PM



“ My heartfelt condolences are with the entire Paradiso Family.

Dori Wilson



Dori Wilson - December 11, 2018 at 03:11 PM



“ Denise Reynolds Corcoran lit a candle in memory of Donna R. Paradiso



Denise Reynolds Corcoran - December 11, 2018 at 02:16 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Donna R. Paradiso.



December 11, 2018 at 01:38 PM



“ Mark Ostrowski lit a candle in memory of Donna R. Paradiso



Mark Ostrowski - December 11, 2018 at 12:47 PM



“ Your friends at EMPLOYERS purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Donna R. Paradiso.



Your friends at EMPLOYERS - December 11, 2018 at 11:18 AM



“ Amparo purchased the Crystal Cross Bouquet for the family of Donna R. Paradiso.



Amparo - December 11, 2018 at 10:12 AM



“ Thoughts and prayers to the Paradiso family at this sad time. A wonderful woman. She and Joe made a great team.

Louie & Cindy Lacaprucia

Louie & Cindy Lacaprucia - December 11, 2018 at 09:22 AM



“ Rick And Linda Baker lit a candle in memory of Donna R. Paradiso



Rick and Linda Baker - December 11, 2018 at 04:21 AM



“ Lisa Greene Everett purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Donna R. Paradiso.



Lisa Greene Everett - December 10, 2018 at 11:13 PM



“ Wayne & Sheryl Miller



Sami Miller - December 10, 2018 at 10:15 PM



“ Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Donna R. Paradiso.



December 10, 2018 at 08:39 PM



“ Your Light Shines was purchased for the family of Donna R. Paradiso.



December 10, 2018 at 08:15 PM



“ Joe, Joseph, Chris, Rachel & always Tony...Im so very very sorry for the loss of your wife and mom and best friend to Tony..I will always keep a special place for Donna as well as all of you in my heart since we all go way back when....I've watched all of you grow to become fine adults and know that your mom was and always will be proud of each one of you. You now have a special angel watching over for always. R.I.P. Donna for you are no longer in any pain and sadness...fly like the birds my old friend for you are now safe and free as the wind....

Kathleen Hartley - December 10, 2018 at 08:00 PM



“ Joe,Chris and families our deepest sympathy on your loss of Donna,May she rest in peace. Wayne and Madeline Wohllebe



Wayne Wohllebe - December 10, 2018 at 07:54 PM



“ Paula (Bruce) Dupre lit a candle in memory of Donna R. Paradiso



Paula (Bruce) Dupre - December 10, 2018 at 07:50 PM



“ One of the most gracious women I've every had the pleasure of knowing. My love and prayers to all her wonderful family.

Paula - December 10, 2018 at 07:51 PM



“ My deepest sympathy for the loss of your wife (Mom). She was a very brave, strong, compassion, caring and loving person. I'm so bless to be her friend. She will be miss. RIP Donna.

Amparo Simpson - December 11, 2018 at 08:28 AM



“ She was so beautiful and strong, my prayers for all of the Family xoxo



Edward Wood - December 10, 2018 at 07:01 PM



“ Please accept my sincere condolences. I got to know Donna through my husband when he would help her out with tasks at her home. She was always friendly and welcomin

Teresa Boivin - December 10, 2018 at 06:38 PM



“ Peter Ference lit a candle in memory of Donna R. Paradiso



Peter Ference - December 10, 2018 at 06:04 PM



“ My thoughts and prayers are with the Paradiso family



Patricia Kovaciny - December 10, 2018 at 05:52 PM



“ Joan Mitta lit a candle in memory of Donna R. Paradiso



Joan Mitta - December 10, 2018 at 05:38 PM



“ Joe, Joseph, Yuki, Christopher, Mary Alice, Rachel, Gianni and Mia,

Our thoughts and prayers are with you all during this sad time. Donna was a wonderful, caring, loving and thoughtful person and will be truly missed. Sending hugs to you all.

Larry and Joan Mitta

Joan Mitta - December 10, 2018 at 05:41 PM



“ Joe and family, I am so sorry for your loss. She was blessed to have had such a caring Husband that helped her through her time of need. Donna was a kind and generous person. She will be missed. I will cherish my memories of her. She was a good friend. May God bless all of you during your time of sorrow.

Lisa Greene Everett - December 10, 2018 at 04:47 PM



“ Lisa Greene Everett lit a candle in memory of Donna R. Paradiso



Lisa Greene Everett - December 10, 2018 at 04:26 PM