



Catherine "Cathy" Canepa Zajac

April 28, 1926 - November 12, 2020

Catherine Canepa Zajac

Born on April 28, 1926, Catherine was the fourth of seven children to Salvatore (Sam) and Concetta (Mary Rizzo), a carpenter and a housewife. She was born just before The Great Depression, which affected the rest of her life.

Born and raised in Staten Island (South Beach) New York, she was greatly loved by her siblings and was very close to Rose, Louise (Lou Lou Belle), Gloria, Frances, Frank, and Joey all her life. Even at a young age, Catherine learned the lessons of financial conservation, which she would keep dear to her the rest of her life. Few things made her happier than finding a great bargain or cutting out valuable coupons from the newspaper.

A mutual friend introduced Cathy to John Zajac. They dated for several years and when he returned from the Navy, they were married on June 3, 1945. She had two sons, John and Robert while living in Staten Island. The family then moved to Long island where they had two more, Thomas and Linda. Cathy would eventually become a grandmother to 11 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

Catherine and John retired to Florida in 1986, where they were in close proximity to three of Cathy's sisters: Lou Lou Belle, Franny, and Gloria. Eighteen years after John passed in 1998, Catherine moved to an assisted living facility in Hudson where Gloria lived as well. After the passing of Gloria in 2019, Catherine wanted to be closer to her children, and In January of 2020, she moved to Layton, Utah to a retirement home close to Bob and Linda and many grandchildren.

Catherine celebrated her 94th birthday in April, but Parkinson's played a key role in her failing health. On November 6 she took a bad fall from which she would not recover. She died peacefully in Linda's home on November 12, with Linda, Robert, and Thomas by her side. She was blessed to be surrounded by her large and loving family in the hours and days prior to her passing.

She will be greatly missed by all of her family and friends who will remember that she was a very kind, sweet, and loveable lady who always wore a smile and never had a cross word about anyone.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations to Hospice.

Comments



“ MARYELLEN lit a candle in memory of Catherine "Cathy" Canepa Zajac



MARYELLEN - November 21, 2020 at 07:48 AM



“ Aunt Cathy has to be an angel in heaven now, as she was always an angel here on earth. She was always smiling, caring, loving and so concerned about each and every one of her friends and family. It feels as though there's a huge void in the universe since she passed, but her spirit will always shine on within each of us, making all of our lives better for having known her. She loved not only her own immediate family, but the entire clan, always commenting at how fortunate she was to have such a wonderful and beautiful family. I will miss our phone calls, hearing her sing or watching her dance as she absorbed every note of the music. She adored her children, John, Bob, Thom and Linda and they were so blessed to have her as their mother. She will be missed so very much and we are ever so grateful and also blessed that she was our aunt.

With much, much love always, MaryEllen, Tom and Family

MaryEllen - November 21, 2020 at 12:28 AM



“ So pleased and honored to have Cathy as 1 of the best friends my Mom, Dad, and myself have ever had since 1956. So happy to have had the opportunity to visit her in Florida for a few days 3 or 4 years ago. I certainly will miss our phone calls together, pretty much every other week! Sincere love and condolences to John, Bob, Linda, Thom, and the rest of the family.

Peter McNally - November 19, 2020 at 06:47 PM



“ Aunt Cathy was a very special person full of kindness and love. She loved her entire family more than life itself. She would tell me very excitedly when she was going to be a great grandmother or someone was coming to visit her in Florida! She always said she had the best kids, and I had to agree with her.

We were not connected by blood, but connected by love and heart. She was married to my late mother, Genevieve's brother John. She was my mom's sister in law. But she was so much more to my mom, she was a "sister" in every sense of the word.

Something that I didn't know until my last visit, was that she wore my mom's wedding dress on her wedding day.

I always looked forward to our phone conversations. She or I would just call to say, "how are you" and "how is the family".

My husband, Kenny and I will miss her greatly. He loved speaking to her too. We were so looking forward to seeing her in March of this year, but plans changed quickly. I was so happy when she told me she was going to Utah to be near her children in January. Looking back now, that was definitely the best decision for her. She was surrounded by her loved ones at the end.

Family meant everything to Aunt Cathy. Rest in Peace my dear loving aunt. You will be sorely missed by SO MANY.

Sending our deepest condolences to John, Thom, Bob, Linda and their entire family. With profound sadness and love,
Donna and Kenny



Donna McWeeney - November 18, 2020 at 11:47 AM



“ This wonderful lady was my Godmother , and checked up on me with a phone call right up to a week before she passed . Fond memories of spending time with her & her family at the Long Island beaches , eating fresh ripe tomatoes from the garden , and Brown Derby pizzas . She loved and enjoyed her life and all those around her could not help but be uplifted by her cheerful demeanor . She will be greatly missed by all who knew her . I for one will always carry her in my heart .

dave rudnicki - November 17, 2020 at 08:44 PM



“ This was a wonderful lady , my Godmother, who always had a smile and cheerful word for everyone . Some of my fondest memories were visiting the Zajac family , summers at Sunken Meadows and Gilgo and Jones Beach , garden fresh tomatoes , and Brown Derby pizzas . My Aunt Cathy was always welcoming , full of fun , ready to laugh . We often chatted on the phone these past few years , where the memory of needing to be thrifty kept her conversations down to a few fast minutes . A new star shines in the heavens and the sunshine is a little dimmer with her passing . Rest in peace , Sweet lady !

Dave Rudnicki - November 16, 2020 at 02:12 PM



“ I only met Cathy a few times but she left a lasting memory of happiness and kindness. My heart is with you Linda and kids.

Brenda Wilson - November 16, 2020 at 01:20 PM