



Anita DeSantis

NOV 19, 1930 - APR 24, 2025



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Anita DeSantis

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With heavy hearts, we announce the passing of Anita DeSantis, age 94 who died peacefully with family holding her through the tender moments of her final breaths. Her genuine kindness and love were a blessing to all who had the pleasure of being in her radiant presence. Even as dementia slowly compromised her mind and body over the past 12 years, her special warmth and smile continued to touch the hearts of family, friends, caregivers, and even strangers. She was a constant source of joy and comfort to everyone around her. Anita's courageous spirit and love never wavered throughout her rich life.

Born in Syracuse to the late Joseph and Lena (Senise) Moretti, Anita was predeceased by her adoring husband, Mario DeSantis of 67 years, her beloved son Thomas DeSantis, and her brother, Alfred Moretti. She is survived by her children, Maria DeSantis of Syracuse, Andrea DeSantis of Yonkers, Mario (Debbie) DeSantis Jr. of Camillus and Joanna DeSantis (Fred) of Manahawkin, NJ; her sister Paula Petosa; nieces and nephews John Petosa (Jennifer), Tom Petosa, Mary Anne Blaney; Don Moretti (Anne) and Nick Blaney.

Anita graduated from North High School and received a Biology Bachelor's of Science in LeMoynes second graduating class of 1952. While raising her family of five children, Anita was an avid tennis player and enjoyed being part of leagues like TACNY and the Pine Grove Country Club. She was part of the St. Cecilia's Women's Parish Council Auxiliary, Piercefield Women's Club, and was a board member of the Solvay-Geddes Youth Center. In her early 60's, Anita's natural talents led her to a 17-year career as a Bridal Registry Consultant at Macy's in the Destiny Mall. She enthusiastically assisted couples in creating their registry choices with a caring "mother's touch."

Anita's exceptional cooking abilities tempted everyone as she eagerly invited you into her home for comfort foods, desserts, and conversation. Being a night owl, she faithfully cooked and read



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while awaiting her husband's late night arrival home after his band and orchestra completed an event. She always found time to support school events, (i.e., taxi driver for all of us) along with the challenge of raising a developmentally disabled child (Thomas) during the 60s and 70s when few services were available. Anita's special ability to listen to anyone who needed a sympathetic space was exemplary. She listened intently with sincere concern and empathy. She truly sought to understand the story of anyone who needed support and then offered words of wisdom. Family and friends knew they could always find patience, warmth, and acceptance in Anita's presence.

The family of Anita DeSantis would like to thank all of her incredible caregivers who dedicated their care, love, and kindness to sustain her health for over 10 years. Our caregivers became part of our family and allowed Anita the great privilege of remaining in the comfort of her home for the final years of her life. Additionally, we want to personally thank Christine Trimboli from iCircle Managed Care and the relationship managing staff of BURD Home Health; Mason Judd, Stacy DeNardo, and Sean Costello. These professionals were the foundation of the home care program (CDPAP) that allowed our caregivers to provide exemplary care at home for Anita.

We also want to express our deep gratitude, for the kind and caring staff at SUNY Upstate 9G Neuroscience floor. They not only provided exceptional care and guidance, but even more touching was that they treated us like family in Anita's final weeks.

Anita leaves behind family and friends who adored her sweet demeanor and loving-kindness. Though her words and memory faded, her eternal sweetness brightly shined through the veil of dementia and will forever be embedded in our minds and hearts.

A public visitation in celebration of Anita's life will take place at THOMAS J. PIRRO JR. FUNERAL HOME on Thursday, May 1, 2025 from 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be offered at Our Lady of Pompei Church, 301 Ash Street on Friday, May 2, 2025 at 10:00 am. Anita will be laid to rest next to her husband Mario and son Thomas in Woodlawn Cemetery Mausoleum, Syracuse.

Anita was blessed to receive full time care at home through a Consumer Director Personal Assistance Program (CDPAP) now PPL. This Medicaid funded service was a gift that allowed her the dignity she deserved to sustain the quality of her life during her aging years. An agency called the Caring Majority Rising dedicates countless hours to ensure that CDPAP/PPL provide fair pay,



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quality care, and training to over 300,000 New York care recipients. Therefore, donations to the Caring Majority Rising would perpetuate Anita's legacy and pay it forward to other families.

Donations can be made online to Caring Majority Rising in Anita's name here:

<https://actionnetwork.org/fundraising/donatecmr/>



Events

Anita DeSantis

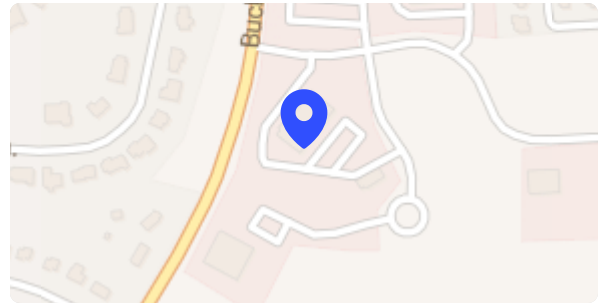
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Visitation

Thursday, May 1, 2025

4:00 PM - 6:00 PM ET

Thomas J. Pirro Jr. Funeral Home
3401 Vickery Rd, Syracuse NY 13212

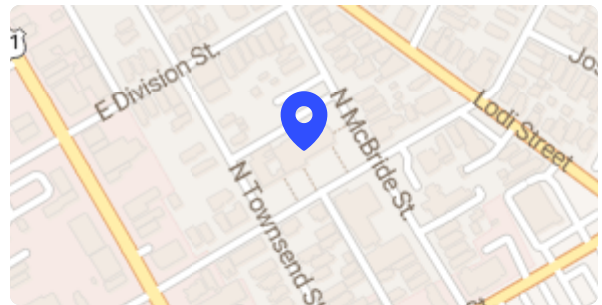


Mass of Christian Burial

Friday, May 2, 2025

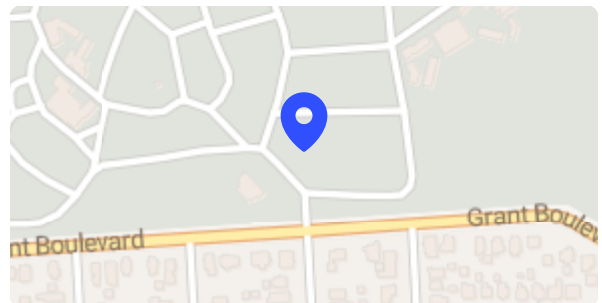
10:00 AM ET

Our Lady of Pompei - St. Peter Church
301 Ash St., Syracuse NY 13208



Cemetery Details

Woodlawn Mausoleum
800 Grant Blvd, Syracuse NY 13203





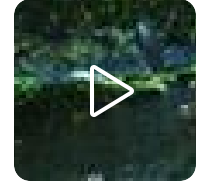
Tribute Wall

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Thomas J. Pirro Jr. Funeral Home shared a **Tribute Video**.



May 1 at 4:31 AM



Frances Szczech posted:

My deepest condolences to Maria, Andrea, Mario, and Joanna. I am so sorry for the loss of your mother. She was a wonderful and vibrant woman. I remember seeing your mom on the second floor at Macy's at the Bridal Registry. She was always smiling and welcoming. It was so nice to stop and talk with her, if she was free. Please know that you are all in my thoughts and prayers. You gave your mom the best life despite her dementia diagnosis. You worked tirelessly to ensure she was well-cared for. She must be looking down on you now and must be so proud and grateful for all that you have for her. May she Rest In Peace. Frances Szczech

May 3 at 11:11 AM



Christine Petosa posted:

My love and prayers go out to you, Maria, Mario and Debbie, Joanna and Andrea, Aunt Paula and family. Anita was such a kind, loving and delightful person. I first knew her through our families, but I also can't count the times that I would go to Kauffman's/Macy's to the bridal registry department specifically to see Anita. I knew the days she usually worked so if I had a gift to buy or if I was just in the mall, I would go to visit with Anita. We would first chat about family and how each other was doing, then just about things in general. Eventually, she would help me pick out a registry gift if that is what I was there for or say our goodbyes if I had just come to visit. I have such sweet memories of Anita. I know your memories of her are strong and many and I know your grief will run deep, but I also know that you must be very happy that she is in Heaven with Mario and she's able to be healthy and happy again. Sending my love to all of you, Chris Petosa

May 1 at 6:25 PM



Christine W. planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Anita.



May 1 at 6:26 AM



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Christine Werbeck posted:

Sending many prayers and lots of love as you grieve the passing of such a great lady. I will always remember Anita with smiles and joy as that is what she generated always. May she rest in peace with our Lord and Mario.

May 1 at 6:23 AM



Anne Ruggeri posted:

To Anita's family (especially Maria because we've met at a few Concerts over the Summers), my brother Johnny and I would like to send our deepest condolences to all of you. Our Dad, Nick Ruggeri (wife Margie) was a classmate of Anita's at North High. If I remember correctly, your Dad was in a different graduation class. My Dad looked forward to running into old friends at the Summer Concerts. And oh, how difficult it was for our parents to have a child born with Disabilities in the 1960s! They were the trailblazers for the Individuals today who are so successful in our society! Johnny was born in 1960, and with all of his Birth Defects, doctors told my parents to put him in an institution! My parents said no and never stopped loving him (and me, as well as countless others) and fighting for services and fairness for Individuals with Special Needs! My Father was still on an evaluation board for Human Rights in Massachusetts when he passed away in 2016. (Our Mom in 2017.) Johnny and I fought for them and cared for them together in their home at the very end! Johnny is an excellent Caregiver, thanks to our parents as well as excellent teacher in Syracuse and Massachusetts! We hope to see you tomorrow evening at the Wake. And eventually, I'd like to learn more about the programs that assisted your family with compassionate caregivers. You are all in our thoughts and prayers.

April 30 at 10:15 PM



Clare Rothschild May 1 at 3:24 AM

Anita was always a joy as a customer of Carlos for many years. I always looked forward to seeing her. Her smile was pure joy. My thoughts and prayers are with the family.



Bill & Lisa Dicosimo sent a Beautiful in Blue to the DeSantis family.



April 30 at 2:22 PM



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Bill & Lisa Dicosimo planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Anita.



April 30 at 2:22 PM



Le Moyne College Office Of Alumni posted:

Please accept the most heartfelt sympathies of Le Moyne College. We hope the love and memories that you will forever hold in your heart bring you peace and comfort during this difficult time.

April 30 at 11:46 AM



Kristy Quattrocci posted:

I have fond memories of Anita, from helping me register for my wedding while she worked at Kaufman's to serving Rob and I Limoncello at her home. We are so very sorry for your loss!

April 30 at 8:03 AM



Anonymous sent a Divine Peace Bouquet to the DeSantis family.



April 30 at 5:21 AM



Anonymous sent a Peaceful White Lilies Basket to the DeSantis family.



April 30 at 4:39 AM



Anonymous planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Anita.



April 30 at 4:39 AM



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FL

Father Anthony Lipari posted:

Joanna and Family, Father Anthony Lipari, FCM and the Friars of the Franciscan Community of Mercy, will remember Anita and your family at Prayers and this Sunday's Mass. We relay our deepest condolences and sympathy to you at your time of loss and pray your Easter Faith and the condolences of so many, will bring you peace and comfort. May Anita Rest in Peace.

April 30 at 4:01 AM

CC

Charlene Coleman posted:

I am so sorry for your families loss...Prayers for you all

April 29 at 9:38 PM

EG

Elizabeth Goudy posted:

Dear Maria, There are no words to say upon the loss of one's mother. No matter how compromised she was, the mother you knew and loved was still inside that body. My mother suffered from dementia, so I understand the struggle. God bless her, and God bless you all. I'm sure the angels will welcome her into heaven with open arms!

April 29 at 3:50 PM

MP

Marie & Dario Palucci April 29 at 5:23 PM

Dear Maria, I am so very sorry for your loss. May God bless her and your family., May she RIP 🙏

GS

Gerri Scott April 29 at 5:06 PM

Dear Maria, Sending you hugs. I am so sorry to hear about the passing of your mother. My condolences to your family 🙏🌸

JG

Jim Green posted:

I knew her when I worked for kaufmanns/macys..she was the sweetest lady..my sincere condolences to her family.

April 29 at 3:46 PM



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CF

Chad Donzella And Family sent a Basket Full of Wishes to the DeSantis family.



April 29 at 3:33 PM

AM

Ann Murphy posted:

It was an honor to care for both Anita and Mario. Ann Murphy

April 29 at 12:33 PM



Anonymous sent an Arrive in Style to the DeSantis family.



April 29 at 10:59 AM



Anonymous planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Anita.



April 29 at 10:59 AM

LN

Lauriette Novak lit a candle in honor of Anita.

Maria, Keeping you and all of Anita's loved ones in our Thoughts and Prayers.
David and Lauriette Novak



April 29 at 10:54 AM

SR

Susan Ross posted:

Maria, please accept my sincere condolence for the passing of your beautiful mother. she was a treasure to everyone who knew her. I am so very sorry for your loss. With love, Susan Ross

April 29 at 9:08 AM



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Ro Bartolo lit a candle in honor of Anita.

Maria and family , I was sad to read about your Mom. I know a lifetime of memories will help to comfort you in this most difficult time.Ro Bartolo

April 29 at 7:35 AM



Victor Ianno posted:

To the DeSantis clan Sending all of you a hug of love and support as you go through this difficult time. There are so many wonderful memories of parties, family gatherings, wildwood trips, and on and on. Anita, Cecile, Toni and Jeanette, the cornerstones of our families! We lived in the best of times because we had great women in charge! Miss those days. She's at peace now and leaves us with great memories! Victor Ianno and family

April 29 at 6:01 AM



Gerry Roberts....& Bob Frione Family sent an Enchanted Cottage to the DeSantis family.

April 29 at 4:57 AM



Gerry Roberts....& Bob Frione Family planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Anita.

April 29 at 4:57 AM





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Jim Terrinoni posted:

May God receive Anita in his house and may all the DeSantis family have strong positive memories of this wonderful woman.

April 29 at 12:40 AM



Merilee Palerino April 30 at 7:09 AM

maria and family many wonderful memories with your family. we were always treated as family. prayers and thoughts to you all such a beautiful lady. love merilee palerino and Jill



Robin Cortese April 29 at 4:45 AM

Maria and Family, we send our Love to all of you during this time. What a beautiful life & tribute paid to an extraordinary woman. Peace to each and every one of you. With Great Respect, the Cortese Family



Anonymous sent a Sweet Tranquility Basket to the DeSantis family.



April 28 at 4:30 PM



Anonymous planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Anita.



April 28 at 4:30 PM



Media

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Thomas J. Pirro Jr. Funeral Home shared a Tribute Video.

May 1 at 4:31 AM

TRIBUTE VIDEO



SCAN TO WATCH



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Anita by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



Scan to Visit

