



## Elvira Rosemarie Gilberti

September 1, 1926 - February 14, 2021

Elvira Rosemarie (Cerreta) Gilberti, 94, passed away peacefully at home on February 14, 2021 surrounded by her loving family. Born September 1, 1926 in Stamford, CT, she was the daughter of the late Ernesto Cerreta and Rosemarie (Cestone) Cerreta. On September 1, 1947, at just 21 years old, she married her soulmate, William J. Gilberti, Sr., and for 41 years they shared a life rooted in love and family - a vow that she honored even after his death in 1988. She was his "Vera," and it was truly serendipitous that they were reunited on Valentine's Day. When the time came, her "Bill" was waiting there to take her hand and share that long-awaited dance to their song, Let Me Call You Sweetheart.

Vera's world revolved around family. A strong woman of faith and proud homemaker, she moved with her husband and three children to Syracuse, NY in 1960 to open a family restaurant. For nearly 40 years, Gilberti's Corner House was a neighborhood gathering place known for its homestyle meals and warm atmosphere. She was the face of the dining room, greeting guests as if they were family and friends; a tradition that carried on even after her husband passed and she stepped in to help manage the restaurant until her retirement in 1997.

Vera's greatest joy came from raising her children whom she taught to lead with kindness, and always value the love of family. For her, there was no greater achievement than being their mother, the grandmother to her three granddaughters, and the great-grandmother to her four great-grandchildren, who affectionately call her their "GG." Even in her absence Vera's love will live on through them always.

Elvira is survived by her children, Donna (Gilberti) DeSiato; William J. Gilberti, Jr. and his wife Kimberly Gilberti; Carmel Gilberti and her wife Jennifer Gilberti; grandchildren, Danielle (Brian) Kuhn; Erika Gilberti; Alyssa (Matt) Albert; and great grandchildren: Emily (6), Daniel (3), Jackson (3), and Noah (1).

The family would like to extend a special thank you to all of Vera's wonderful nurses and caregivers; especially Bessie, Julie and Tammy, and her own personal angel-on-earth,

Jennifer, for their unsurpassed love and care.

A private Mass of Christian Burial and entombment will be held in Syracuse, NY. Vera's recorded version of her funeral mass will be available for viewing at [tjpfuneralhome.com](http://tjpfuneralhome.com) from Tuesday, February 23, 2021 on.

A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date. Funeral arrangements entrusted to THOMAS J. PIRRO JR. FUNERAL HOME.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in her memory to the following organizations:

The ESM Education Foundation <https://www.esmef.org>

The Family Pantry of Cape Cod <https://www.thefamilypantry.com>

McMahon Ryan Child Advocacy Center <https://www.mcmahonryan.org>

# Comments

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“ Happy memories of our teenage years. I would run to the school bus and ask Tommy to wait for Vera, who was running behind me!

**Rose Cerreta** - February 27 at 12:05 PM

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“ Bill, sorry to hear of your Mom's passing. What a great legacy. I have wonderful memories of your family and still remember "sleep overs" where your Mom spoil us. God Bless.  
Roger and Darya Glass

**Roger Glass** - February 25 at 08:02 AM

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“ Carm and Jennifer, sorry to hear about your Elvira's passing. She was a strong woman and came from "good stock." You gave her such wonderful care these many years. You should have no regrets. Thinking of you during this time of great loss.  
Susan Duenas

**Susan Duenas** - February 24 at 09:18 AM

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“ Donna, Bill and family, Patti and I offer our deepest sympathy on the passing of your Mom. I remember her from back in the day at the Corner House. A beautiful lady who took great pride in welcoming you to the restaurant. She had to be proud of her family and all your success. Sorry for your loss. Patti & Nick Pirro

**nick Pirro** - February 23 at 02:13 PM

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“ Donna - We are so sorry to hear of your mother's passing. It is always difficult to go through this; yet seems to be harder in these times we are living in. Our thoughts and prayers go out to you and your family.

Tina and Sean Redmond

**Tina E Redmond** - February 22 at 09:06 PM



“ Joel Felber & Linda Spear lit a candle in memory of Elvira Rosemarie Gilberti



Joel Felber & Linda Spear - February 22 at 05:25 PM

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“ John & Sheila Kresse lit a candle in memory of Elvira Rosemarie Gilberti



John & Sheila Kresse - February 22 at 01:42 PM

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“ Hi Donna. I was so sorry to see that your mother had died and I want to offer my condolences to you and your family. You might remember your brother lived in my neighborhood and his children played with ours many years ago! Yet my contact was mostly with you, and you were always a mentor in many ways. The picture of your mother is beautiful and the write up certainly says a lot about her wonderfulness. And yes, I know she passed that down to you! I retired long ago, but you will not be forgotten. BTW, I listened to your fun snow day song! I'm sure you and your family share much joy amidst the sadness with memories galore! Lots of Love, Kathy Effler ( a voice from the past!)

Kathleen M Effler - February 22 at 12:25 PM

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“ Dorothy Cerreta lit a candle in memory of Elvira Rosemarie Gilberti



**Dorothy Cerreta** - February 21 at 07:46 PM

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“ My husband Bob and I bought our first home on the North Side of Syracuse. We soon learned of a wonderful restaurant right across the street-The Corner House! We shared many meals there as newlyweds!! We will NEVER forget the house salad dressing-delicious!!! I always enjoyed the fun stories about your mom on the opening day of school! Gather with family to share fond memories, laugh, and cry together.  
Fondly, Elaine Polak

**Elaine Polak** - February 21 at 01:22 PM

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“ Thoughts and prayers to the Gilberti and DeSiato families in your time of loss. Hold tight to those wonderful memories

**Cheryl Valentine Dardano** - February 21 at 12:37 PM

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“ Oh, what wonderful memories we have of The Corner House. We moved to Syracuse (Jasper Street) in 1984 and The Corner House was our “go to” restaurant. Mrs. Gilberti was always there to greet us. It was still a regular stop for us after we moved to Dewitt. In fact, we were there the last week she ran the restaurant. It was never the same after that. What a wonderful person. Our thoughts and prayers are with the whole family.

Bob Deyo  
Hyannis, MA

**Bob Deyo** - February 21 at 09:48 AM

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“ Our sympathy to the Gilberti Family on the passing of Vera. We were next door neighbors for over 30 years. What a Joy she was, sweet and caring. Rest In Peace dear friend.  
Love Al and Sue

Sue and Al Fiero - February 21 at 09:26 AM

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“ Whenever we came to Syracuse to visit family, we always headed to the Corner House and after a satisfying meal and the warmth of the Gilberti's, we'd take 2 orders of whatever we fancied, to bring backhoe to New York City. Vera used to get a laugh out of it. She was so kind and attentive to my brother and wife and their daughters and to our Mom. She always took the time to be like a"mother" to everyone. What a privilege to have such a fantastic memory of dining out at the restaurant, for we felt like visiting a relative. God rest her soul.

John L. Gibbons  
New York, New York

John L. Gibbons - February 20 at 08:32 AM

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“ Donna, so sorry to hear of your Mom's passing. I am sure she will always be with you and the family in your hearts. How wonderful to have had Mom so long with your family. I remember celebrating my in-laws 40th anniversary at the restaurant and how wonderful everything was for all of us. Sending prayers.  
Patty Tanguay

Patty Tanguay - February 19 at 01:39 PM

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“ Dear Billy ,Donna and family,  
We are so sorry to read of your Mother's  
Passing.  
Please know that you are in our thoughts and heart.  
With love,  
Santo and Debbie Di Fino

debbie Di Fino - February 19 at 11:24 AM

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“ Love and condolences to your family. Saturday night dinner at the Corner House was a staple for my parents, and the rest of the Schardts still share memories of our wonderful meals, of Vera and Bill's warmth and hospitality, and of enduring friendships with the Gilberti's.

**Sue Schardt** - February 19 at 09:24 AM

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“ As a new member of the staff, I remember her warmth, sunny attitude and comforting smile when visiting her restaurant or a family event. ( And who could forget the delicious Corner House food!). Our condolences, thoughts and prayers are with the wonderful Gilberti family! Love, Pat and Ben Lamanna

**Pat Lamanna** - February 19 at 09:06 AM

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“ Paula & Tony lit a candle in memory of Elvira Rosemarie Gilberti



**Paula & Tony** - February 19 at 08:50 AM

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“ A beautiful lady...our prayers and sympathy to the entire Gilberti family

Francis and Donna Stinziano

**francis stinziano** - February 18 at 03:48 PM

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“ Donna, Bill,

Sending my condolences on the passing of your Mom,.  
May she rest in peace,!

Victor Ianno

Victor Ianno - February 18 at 03:44 PM

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“ Donna & Family so sorry for your loss. Will keep you all in my Thoughts & Prayers.

Louise Jarmac

Louise A Jarmac - February 18 at 01:08 PM

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“ Will,  
So sorry to read about the death of your mother. Peace to you and your family.

Tony & Lee Bucci

Anthony F. Bucci - February 18 at 01:06 PM

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“ Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Elvira Rosemarie Gilberti.



February 18 at 11:34 AM

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“ I had the pleasure of meeting Mrs. Gilberti while I was working at Key Bank Shop City. She was a lovely person and always smiling when she was at the branch. She was that way with her customers too. We had several branch events there because of her hospitality. My condolences to her family and friends.

**Mike Cartini** - February 18 at 07:58 AM

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“ Billy,  
Very sorry to hear your Mom passed away.  
You have my most sincerest condolences to you and all the Gilberti Family.  
Mike McSherry

**Michael McSherry** - February 17 at 04:46 PM

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“ What a wonderful long life. I will always remember Aunt Vera's smile, her positive attitude, her pride in her children, and her deep faith. Her prayers, I'm sure, helped tremendously with my husband's recovery. You were all so blessed to have such a great mom.  
Sue Gilberti and family

**Sue Gilberti** - February 17 at 02:15 PM