



Joyce Farnett "Gigi" Donegan

October 17, 1932 - November 27, 2020

Heaven's stars are all a little brighter since Joyce Farnett Donegan left this earth on November 27, 2020. She had the gift of making even the simplest things seem elegant. To know "Gigi" was to love her, and the feeling was mutual. She had a keen and sincere interest in people, making them feel instantly comfortable. She had an incredible memory for even the smallest details of family's or friend's lives.

Gigi had a passion for travel, especially large family trips to Italy and yearly summer vacations at Goose Rocks Beach in Kennebunkport, Maine. A lifelong voracious reader, she always had great book recommendations to share.

Twelve days before her retirement as a Human Relations specialist at Niagara Mohawk, Gigi had to rethink her life plans, due to the sudden death of the love of her life, her husband of 42 years, Jim Donegan. Together they had raised their four children with the belief that they could do and be whatever they wanted. Their encouragement of their every endeavor was a gift Gigi continued to instill in their six grandchildren. They all knew they had the coolest grandmother in the world: Ageless, beautiful, forever engaged, beyond fashionable. She was present for every family graduation, sports event, play, recital, dance revue, birthday, and celebration.

Gigi treasured her friendships with her "NiMo" coworkers, especially their monthly dinners together. She also loved the recent discovery of mahjong, and the ladies who taught her to play, enjoying her time, laughs and company with them.

Her home was her sanctuary, pretty large for a woman living alone, but filled to the brim with family for every holiday. She surrounded herself with lovely things that made her happy. It was there that she said her goodbyes to her adoring children James (Katherine) Donegan, Mary Patricia "Trish" (John) Abert, Kathleen (William) Henderson, Amy (Daniel) Scobell and her nephew Scott Farnett, who Gigi always called her second son, a source of unwavering love and support.

Gigi was a force of nature, incredibly kind and generous, a treasure of a woman who

leaves us with nothing unsaid, and a lifetime of “Gigi stories” to make us smile.

Gigi was predeceased by her five brothers and one sister. In addition to her children and grandchildren, she is survived by her five beloved great grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

In keeping with Gigi’s wishes and per COVID recommendations, a private memorial service was held on December 2, 2020 at THOMAS J PIRRO JR FUNERAL HOME, with interment at Woodlawn Cemetery.

If inclined to give a donation in Gigi’s memory, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts. Food Bank of Central New York, 7066 Interstate Island Rd Syracuse, NY 13209.

Cemetery

Woodlawn Cemetery & Mausoleum

800 Grant Boulevard

Woodlawn Cemetery & Mausoleum, NY, 13203

Comments



“ Dear Jim, Trish, Kathy, and Amy,
I am so deeply sorry to hear of your mother's passing. Joyce was a truly great friend and inspiring mentor to me. May God give you strength during this most difficult time, and may your wonderful memories of her sustain you for many many years to come. She will never be forgotten. She really was a gift from God.
My prayers to you and your entire family. Love in God and to you all,
Linda Purcell XXX

Linda Purcell - December 13, 2020 at 10:22 AM



“ Dear Amy and Dan, and the entire Donegan family,
We were so very sorry to read of Joyce's passing. She was an amazing woman! She was one of those people that you can talk with for hours. She was so full of life and love and always made you feel special whenever she saw you. Always so stylish with her beautiful clothes, jewelry and handbags....a fashion icon for sure. What I admired most about Joyce was her fierce love for her family. When I think back on my NiMo days, Joyce will always be a part of my memories.
Sending you all sympathy and love for your incredible loss. May Joyce rest in God's peace.
Love, Kris and Chris Gonzalez

Kristine Gonzalez - December 12, 2020 at 08:05 AM



“ Dear Amy, Trish, Kathy and Jim.
We cannot express how sorry we feel about the passing of your mom. She was such an amazing woman who was full of life! She told the most wonderful stories, and she had many! She will always be the beautiful, fun, full of life mom on 304 Barton circle that the entire Culotti loved!
We will truly miss Joyce as Marie and Ray lovingly referred to her and will cherish the wonderful memories.
Our deepest condolences...Love to All....Dayna and Matt

Dayna Offredi - December 09, 2020 at 11:47 AM



“ Gig, spending time with you and your family was such a gift. We will miss you so much but the stories and laughter will live on. Hope there's a lot of your beloved Italy in heaven. The Gagnes



andrea gagne - December 09, 2020 at 07:27 AM



“ While my heart is filled with gratitude for having Joyce as my neighbor and friend, words could not adequately express how I feel. Blessings on the generations of family members who have been so enriched to have had her as their GIGI. ...in this life and will have her in the years of stories and memories to come. Father Carlo Stirpe.

Rev. Carlo Stirpe - December 06, 2020 at 03:43 PM



“ Dear Jim ,Trish ,Kathy and Amy , I'm so sorry Your mom was an amazing woman - she was funny ,beautiful, sincere ,loving ,honest , glamorous and I could go on and on. When ever I saw her my day was happier - she always made me laugh - she always had a wonderful outlook on life. She was indeed ageless. It was a beautiful obituary and she will be missed by all her family but also by the many many people who's lives she touched
She was truly special My condolences to all
Love Andrea Liberati

Andrea Liberati - December 06, 2020 at 11:49 AM



“ So sorry for your loss. Amy, Dan, Scott and Kathy, we only met Gigi a few times. She was full of love and laughter. Our prayers are with you all.



Judi & John Calogero - December 05, 2020 at 02:03 PM



“ So sorry to learn of Joyce's passing. She was one of my favorite Aunts. Always took a personal interest in everyone's life. She will be deeply missed. My condolences to Jim, Kathleen, Mary Pat and Amy. RIP Joyce. Mike and Cheryl Mack

Michael Mack - December 05, 2020 at 05:00 AM



“ Trish and John We are very sorry to hear of your loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.
Sue and Al Roger

sue & al roger - December 04, 2020 at 03:55 PM



“ My deepest thoughts and prayers are with you all. I remember many a laugh not only at Nimo but on road trips with Tree.....Joyce always made us laugh....Love, Patty

patty doherly - December 04, 2020 at 03:27 PM



“ To my Dear cousins Trish, Amy, Kathy and Jimmy. I am so sad to hear of your Moms passing. She was a beautiful lady and I remember her and your Dad, Uncle Jim when we spent time out at Gramma and Grampa's Donegan's camp on Oneida Lake. She always had a smile on her face. She helped me and a cousin of mine get our first real jobs at New York Bell after I graduated from high school back in 1962 as a long distant telephone operator. Many thoughts and prayers to you and all your families. Always hold on to the many memories you have of her. The Obituary you shared was so beautiful.
Your cousin. Mimsy (Donegan) Ponder.

mary Ponder - December 04, 2020 at 03:25 PM



“ Dear Trish,Amy,Kathy.Jimmy and Scott-I am deeply saddened to hear of your Mom's passing.She was a wonderful woman who touched many lives with her caring and kindness. She changed the course of my life by helping me get a job with Nimo and I will be forever grateful. Anytime I was at a Nimo 25 year clambake and someone would see Donegan on my name tag,they would ask if I was related to Joyce and I would proudly say "Yes-she's my aunt". They would then proceed with the story of how Joyce helped them in the process of getting them a job. It seemed like everyone there new Joyce and always had something nice to say about her.She truly affected many lives and people always remembered her for how she had helped them in some way..Anyone who knew Joyce will always remember her smile and her way of making you feel better just by talking to her. Although you all are missing her terribly right now, please be comforted by the memories and positive impact she has left on so many lives. She will be missed by many. In loving memory of your Mom-Brian

brian r donegan - December 04, 2020 at 10:50 AM



“ Condolences to Joyce's family. Remembering that always smiling face, her laughter, genuine, beautiful & so full of life. A truly beautiful soul has left, but will never be forgotten. I worked @ NIMO, she was definitely a shining light.

Cheryl Cooper - December 13, 2020 at 05:06 PM



“ Joyce and Jim Donegan we neighbors of our family and a coworker at Niagara Mohawk for many years. She was always a good friend and good to my two children. God puts special people on this earth to help others who are having a hard time. I think of her always and others in the Franklin Park area of East Syracuse, NY. There is a special place for her now and her light will shine on. Marilynn Arkerson

Marilynn K Arkerson - December 04, 2020 at 10:26 AM



“ To the Donegan clan....no words can describe the feelings you are feeling. We all sympathize and hope and pray for gentler times to come for you quickly. I met your Mom in July of 1962. My first real memory of her came as her birthday approached and she lamented the last of her "20's" was about to expire...she never got any older in my books. She was the cool Mom but she also had a temper that you would not want to rile up. I remember her loving the song "What's it all about Alfie" and I'm pretty sure that's how your Daschund got his name! I now see so much of you girls in her pic but also see Jimmy's smile. We were lucky to grow up where we did and we were extra lucky to have the parents we were blessed with. I wish comfort and smiles and knowledge that we will all be together again at some future time and we can then laugh about all the good times and hopefully continue making more of them!

Thomas Alexander - December 04, 2020 at 07:18 AM



“ Wow...some many memories of your mom. She truly understood that her time was the best gift she could give to her family. Wonderful woman who not only embraced her family but her children's friends as well. I know you all will miss her dearly. Best regards to all.

Tony Minieri - December 04, 2020 at 06:49 AM



“ Jim, Kathy, Mary Pat, Amy and families

I am so sorry for your loss. What tremendous memories I have of your mom (and dad) growing up! Having just this week seen two fathers of my friends in Franklin Park also pass away I had mentioned to one of them that the only parent I know that is still with us was your mom!

Her smile lit up the room and she always made me feel at home. I enjoyed visiting your house, as did all of our friends.

She now joins your dad and all the other Franklin Park parents in a better place!

I hope the many memories you all share comfort you now and in the future. God bless and stay healthy.

Mike Cartini - December 04, 2020 at 03:34 AM



“ Deepest sympathy to the family. It was a pleasure to work with Joyce for many years at NiMo. My heartfelt condolences..... Linda Martin

LINDA MARTIN - December 03, 2020 at 06:38 PM