

Obituary

Zotti, Frances M. of Milford CT died at the age of 88 on Saturday June 1, 2013. She was born on March 23, 1925 in New Haven CT to the late Paul Cavoli and Rosaria (Sadie) Crisafi. She received an associate's degree at Quinnipiac University. She was later a medical secretary at St. Raphael's Hospital in New Haven, CT. She married the late Mario (Mark) Zotti on November 24, 1947. They were married for 56 years.

She was predeceased by her siblings: Mary Cavoli, Esther Lena DeNicola and John Cavoli, all of New Haven County. She leaves her three children: Mark Anthony Zotti (Karen) of Cheshire, Marilyn Frances Carroll (Danny) and Nancy Claire Eldredge (Tom) of Monroe. She also leaves seven grandchildren: Francine J. Rowland of Branford, Anthony Mark Carroll of Milford, Mark Matthew Zotti (Jen) of Plainfield, Katie Helen Bates (Dan) of Monroe, Michael Walter Zotti of Cheshire, Kristen Elizabeth Zotti of Cheshire and Daniel Artur Eldredge of Monroe. She also leaves three great granddaughters: Cori Marilyn Knight (Aaron) of Cookeville, Tennessee, Colbi Sherry Rowland of Connecticut and Sadie Grace Zotti of Plainfield, CT. Fran's legacy carries down to the fifth generation; Cori is six months pregnant with Abel Michael Knight.

Frances loved people and volunteered for decades with Milford Hospital Auxiliary and served as president for a term. She also loved gardening and was a member of the Spade and Hoe Garden Club. She attended St Agnes Church for forty years. In her later years she attended OSA-CT Home Fellowship and Calvary Life in Cheshire CT. She was active in pro-life ministry and loved her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ with all her heart.

The calling hours and funeral service will be from 10 AM – 12 PM at Smith & Sefcik Funeral Home on 135 Broad St. Milford CT. Christian burial will follow with a procession to St Mary's Cemetery. Donations in her memory can be sent to Operation Save America-CT, 632 Merwin Ave. Milford CT 06460.

Fran Zotti Eulogy by Mark Anthony Zotti

"She is strong and is respected by the people, she looks forward to the future with joy, she speaks wise words and teaches others to be kind. She watches over her family and never wastes her time. Her children speak well of her, her husband also praises her. There are many fine women but you are better than all of them." Proverbs 31:25-29

These words describe my mother, Frances Zotti. She wore many different hats in life: wife, mother, sister, aunt, grandmother, great grandmother, friend, volunteer and child of God. She was also so excited to learn she was going to be a great, great grandmother this fall. Each role she lived to the fullest, making everyone she met feel special and loved.

Mom was born in New Haven, March 23, 1925 to Paul and Sadie Cavoli, the 4th child and baby of the family. Her dad and siblings; (John, Esther and Mary), nick-named her Chickie. She was raised during difficult times but always had a positive outlook; warm sunny smile and was quick to seize the moment to dance. Mom graduated from Quinnipiac College, quite an accomplishment for a woman of that era. She was very proud to have worked at St. Raphael's as a medical secretary and lab technician for Dr. Nesbitt.

Mom and Dad met at a basketball game. He asked her out through her brother Johnny. This was the beginning of a lifelong love affair and a marriage that lasted over 50 years. Two years after they wed, I was born and they were also blessed with my two sisters: Marilyn and Nancy.

Mom had a full and busy life raising three kids, helping us with homework, taking us to our activities, even finding time to be a scout leader. She also helped Dad with his Tailor Shop; going to Aldo's, C&R Cleaners, tidying up the store and doing his bookkeeping. She found time to care for herself, loved having her hair done weekly and going to dinner and dancing on Saturday nights, especially in the company of her many brothers and sisters in laws. Mom was active in the Milford community; a member of the Spade & Hoe Garden Club, and a member and past president of the Milford Hospital Auxiliary. She loved to travel, the highlight of which was a trip to Italy with Auntie Betty. She enjoyed telling us all about her roots.

She was a loving Grandmother to Francine, Anthony, Mark, Katie, Michael, Kristen and Daniel, and great grandmother to Cori, Colbi and Sadie.

(Anthony and Francine would like to share some thoughts with you also about their grandma.)



FOR GRAMMA ZOTTI by Anthony Mark Carroll

Hi I am Anthony one of Fran Zotti's seven grandchildren. We were all very blessed to have a grandmother who loved and cared about us so much. If I could use one word to describe my Grandma it would be Love! Before I tell you how she loved so much I want to just share a quick little story that all of us grandchildren have told and enjoyed a lot over the years.

In June 1982, My Uncle Mark and Aunt Karen brought my cousin Mark, my sister Francine and I on a trip to Florida. When we were exiting the airplane in Orlando Grandma had a little incident where she didn't let this other lady passenger who was about her same age cut in front of her from in back of the plane to get off before us. That turned into being a very entertaining incident that was the beginning of a week long friendship for Fran Zotti that none of us would ever forget. That lady apparently bought the same tour as us and she was everywhere we were. She was on the same bus leaving the airport, stayed at the same hotel and went to every amusement park...Disney World, Sea World and all the restaurants we were eating at. Our favorite line of that trip was "Grandma there's your best friend" and she was such a good sport about it! Not only did she endure our own little tropical storm on that trip, but all us cousins teasing her, getting sun poisoning and being asked to use a plunger and towel to unplug and clean up one of the bathroom's her unnamed grandchild flooded.

Now to Grandma Zotti and the love she had for all of us. She would do anything for us. She truly did give her life fully to her family. This was spurred on by her love for God. It was unconditional love and being so selfless when it came to helping us and being there whenever we needed her.

I have great memories from early in my childhood when she and Grandpa Zotti would bring me to Nursery School in the early morning and she would pick me up for years after school as I continued onto Kindergarten. She would come get me every day and take care of me till my Mom came to pick me up after work. I remember one time crying because I slept too late and missed watching the Mickey Mouse Club. After that time Gram made sure I never overslept and missed the show again because she wanted me to be happy.

Gram did many fun activities with us like bringing us fishing, to the movies at the Capital Theatre near Papa's store, to sporting activities and playing in her yard in the sprinkler while she did her well known gardening. This was where she got her nickname "Muscles" from Grandpa Butchie for all the hard work she did around the yard and the house. Like any good grandmother she always made sure we were well fed with her awesome home cooked Italian meals. One treat I loved was going to Donahoe's a few doors down from my Grandpa's Tailor Shoppe. Donahoe's was like a Woolworth type old school restaurant that had a grill and fryer for the best cheeseburgers, fries and shakes. We sat on their bar style red revolving chairs that we loved to spin around on.

Another fun thing that we all enjoyed was Gram taking us to visit Grampa at his Tailor Shop in downtown Milford. She built much of her day around Grandpa. Every day she would get up and prepare him breakfast and make his lunch for that day. Next was driving with Grampa to work, going to the grocery store for odds and ends, bringing them home, taking care of the dog (Zippy, Jason or Veda Lee) and going back to eat lunch with him. Then going home again if there was time and making sure she was back by 5 o'clock to drive home with him. She was a devoted wife and loved Grandpa Zotti with all her heart.

Probably the other biggest and most memorable joy we all as a family experienced was our annual Italian Seafood Christmas Eve dinners at the Zotti's with Grandma and Grandpa. This was the most exciting

night of the year for any Zotti grandchild or family member. Not only were all of the grandchildren adorned with all the gifts any child would love but this was the best meal of the year that included antipasti , baccala, fried shrimp, angel hair with a red seafood sauce with clams and mussels and baked stuffed lobster. From there 185 Brewster Road turned into a mad house with all the kids ripping open their gifts from the always and ever giving grandparents. Then every family member got their own crisp clean 100 dollar bill. Grandma and Grandpa Zotti both did everything with love and lived to make all our lives happy and full of love.

Coming to the end now, things changed as there are different seasons in life and after Grandpa Zotti died in 2004 our Grandma lost a step or two but still loved her family so much and spent her last 9 years ever in the presence of those she loved. My wonderful mother was with her daily till her dying day and as her body weakened. Her time to leave this Earth was this past Saturday. Gram endured many sicknesses, falls, heart attacks and strokes in her final years so we really had no idea when her last day would ever be.

On Friday her breathing was very bad and most of the family were all with her midafternoon on for what would be her final full day with us. All her children were with her Friday night and around midnight my Mom, Danny and Aunt Nancy all left for the night because they were exhausted. I was at the nursing home on and off on Friday and came back around 10pm for a 3rd time that day. Something in my spirit told me Grandma was not going to make it through that night. It was very fitting that next door to the nursing home was the church where I was taken to nursery school by Grandma and Grandpa. I felt like life was coming around full circle. That was a place Grandma took care of me and now I was right next door taking care of her Somehow I knew and I stayed with my awesome grandmother all through the night and was there when she breathed her last breath.

After midnight, alone with grandma I held her hand rubbed and massaged her arms, gently touched her head caressing her hair and told Grandma it was ok to go that she lived her life and it was ok now for her to go be with Grandpa and Jesus. I told Grandma how much I loved her and thanked her for everything she did for me, all of her family and thanked her for loving all of us so much! During her last hour I prayed with her, I talked to her and I played from my phone and laptop some gospel and church music to comfort her because I knew she was going to indeed shortly be in the presence of the Lord. The three last songs we listened to were "Thy Word" by Amy Grant," It's OK" by the gospel duo Bebe and CeCe Winans and the last song I played Grandma was " Jesus Loves Me" by Whitney Houston from the Bodyguard which I thought was very appropriate for the moment.

The nurse who came in the room at 2:53 when I thought grandma stopped breathing told me earlier that night that Grandma told her last week how proud she was of all her children and grandchildren and that she was so proud of her family. A few minutes later as I was praying with her with the nurse there Grandma left this Earth having lived a full and beautiful life. Frances Zotti a beautiful woman , mother, grandmother and wife who's gift in her 88 years of life was LOVE to her family that she loved with 100% of her heart.

Today, I end with a Poem Grandma wrote for her 4 Grandchildren that were alive at the time in February 1988 for all of us titled: LITE OF MY LIFE : It reads...(Dated Feb. 13, 1988)

Lite of My Eyes
Joy of My Heart
You are to me all of
Those Things and more

There are four of you
Who have captured my Heart
And nothing on Earth can
Change the feelings that
Are felt in my Heart

For the Love I have for you
Yes goes beyond human reason.
There may be times that I
May tell you things that may
Not coincide with your life

But remember I have been through a few experiences so take heed
In What I may say
Why ? Because I love you
The Four of You.

To My Precious Grandchildren,

Gram . - Fran Zotti