



Joan Califano

March 8, 1935 - March 5, 2026

Joan Califano, 90, of Bradenton, FL, passed away on March 5th, 2026.

The funeral service will be held at Our Lady Queen of Martyrs Church on March 13th at 10am., followed by a reception at Gold Tree Mobile Home Park in Bradenton from 11am to 1pm.

Joan was born in Brooklyn, NY on March 8th, 1935.

Joan was married to Vincent on June 13th, 1954; they were married 44 years.

Joan worked in the banking industry for most of her life. She enjoyed dancing, playing cards and spending time with her family. She never met a stranger. She will be remembered for her wit, sense of humor and that big beautiful smile.

Joan is survived by her sister Anne, her 3 children, Vincent, Laura and Lisa, 8 grandchildren and 17 great grandchildren.

Joan is preceded in death by her brothers, John, George and Herbert and her husband, Vincent.

In lieu of flowers memorial donations may be given to Alzheimer's Association

at <https://www.alz.org>.

Alzheimer's was near and dear to her heart after caring for her husband who suffered from it. The family of Joan Califano wishes to thank Life Care Center of Sarasota for the excellent care over the last 8 months.

Previous Events

Funeral Service

MAR 13. 10:00 AM.

Our Lady Queen Of Martyrs Church

Reception

MAR 13. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM.

Gold Tree Mobile Home Park

Tribute Wall

KF

“ *There's so many more photos I could post! But here's a few for you Nan...my darling grandmother ❤️ I love you!*



Kimberly Friday - March 31 at 11:51 AM

KF

“ My Nanny! Thank you for loving me so well! And unconditionally. I miss you so much and it deeply hurts my heart. I've been postponing coming on here to type something because ultimately, there are no words great enough to express my thoughts and feelings in a way that comes close to the honor you deserve. You are the best! You are my special Nanny and there is truly no one like you in all the earth. I love you with all of my heart and my soul and I don't know what life is going to look like without you here. I cannot imagine it. You've been so present in my life since the day I was born (I'm almost 42) and I cherish all of our special times together. Thinking about our couch conversations, with laughter and tears, is so precious to me. You walked with me through the good and the bad and you always had my back. I'm thankful for the care you've provided me throughout my life, whether it was watching me and my siblings while my parents went out on a date, having me over for special sleepovers, or tenderly caring for me when I got out of the hospital. Those are all moments that are deeply treasured in my heart. Worth more than diamonds or pearls. I love all the times with you in the kitchen, where you taught me how to cook! Your food is the best my Italian grandmother! I love your servants heart and how you always wanted to make sure everyone was taken care of. You've gone out of your way to cook, clean, pray for, and love on those around you whenever it was needed. You continually offered up prayer for me, for our family, even for those you barely knew. We all would say that you never a stranger because you took everyone in and showed them so much love...treating new friends like a part of the family...giving hugs and kisses to someone you just met! You're so good Nan. Your body and hands have worked so hard for 91 years. God bless you for it. I love your silly affections with made up names like Suzybell for me or Pishaluna for Bella! I love how you dance, knowing how to move your body just right. And I especially love when you would dance with Chris (my husband). You loved him so much too, because he loved me, your precious Kimberly Dawn. I love how you love my children and were their special Nanny too! Mostly, I love how you loved...deeply and devoted. Your devotion to

God and to family is so admirable and I'm thankful for the example you set for me in this way. You have created a beautiful legacy of faith, love, humility, hardwork, and excellence. My most beautiful Nanny. I hope you are so proud of who you are, because of God's grace and blessings on your life. And also so proud of the family that He gave you. I know that you are!! All of these things are special and precious treasures that are stored in my heart. A sacred place for our sacred bond. I'm so thankful to God for these sweet memories of you, to sustain me until we meet again. It feels impossible to have to wait so long, but I know the Lord will comfort me and give me peace along the way. My Nanny, I pray for you and I rejoice that you are in glory. No more earthly brokenness; sickness, pain, suffering, heartache. I can only imagine what it's like for you to be in the presence of God the Father and Christ the Son! And now I don't want to stop typing because I don't want to say goodbye. The finality is too painful to bear... Nanny I love you, I love you, I love you. Always and forever. And I will miss you until we are together again. I will miss you so greatly. You are in my heart and I will think about you everyday and in every season of life that I have left on this earth. You took such joy in watching your family live their lives. You were so filled with joy and I know that's because of God's goodness and faithfulness to you. Easter is coming up, our first holiday without you physically here with us. It will be tough, but what a day to celebrate...we have a risen Savior, who, because of His sacrifice, is why we have hope in seeing you again one day! I wish I could have said goodbye to you before you breathed your last breath. I wish I could've held your hand and kissed your face and told you these things before you closed your eyes for the last time. God's ways are higher than mine though, this I know. And I pray you are in his tender care now, perfectly peaceful, perfectly loved. My beloved Nanny. You were wonderful and special and I hope that you knew in the depth of your bones, just how much I love you.

Kimberly Friday - March 31 at 11:44 AM

MC

“ Where do I begin we thought we were going to be celebrating your birthday and instead we're celebrating your life. I've known you for over 43 years and felt part of your family since day one. Both you and your sister titty are amazing woman you loved life, your family, your friends .dancing,music,. playing games and you did it to the fullest. Your energy , your fistyness,quick wit and zest for fun describes you to a T. We had so many memories over the years with birthday parties Christmas Eve and other family gatherings I was lucky and honored to be a part of it. You made everybody feel like family you will be missed and in our hearts daily. I enjoyed talking to you on the phone visiting you and just being around you energy was very contagious I always said watching you and your sister today was such a thrill to see people at your age still living life to fullest dancing singing and having a great time you were the Golden Girls. My heart thoughts and prayers go out to you're a big family. Much love to Lisa, Vinnie, Laura and the rest of the family. Forever in our hearts💔🙏🎉🍷👭



Maryanne Conlan - March 13 at 08:29 AM

DC

“ *Mama Joan, you were so much more than a mother in-law to me. You embraced me from day one and I knew I belonged. You made sure I always felt loved, and I did! I thank you for every moment.. the laughter, the love, the talks and our crazy antics! My heart is more than broken 💔 but I know you would want us all to carry on and be joyful! That's what you were, joyful! Thank you mom, for loving me and letting me love you! I will cherish every memory until the day I am with you again 🙏💕*



Diana Califano - March 10 at 07:26 PM

MM

*Mothers hold their children's hands for a while, but their hearts forever!
Love as powerful as your mothers love for all of you leaves its own
mark .
With love, Melissa and Brad Meece 💕*

Melissa Meece - March 12 at 08:24 AM