



Jeanette Reale

June 18, 1952 - April 12, 2024

Jeanette Marie Reale, 71, a recent resident of Manalapan, New Jersey, passed away peacefully on Friday, April 12, 2024.

Jeannette was born in Brooklyn, New York on June 18, 1952 to the late Alice and Raphael Zurlo. Jeanette was the third child and first daughter for the family as she was welcomed by her older brothers Ralph and Robert and soon to be joined by Debra Ann, to round out their family.

Jeanette was raised in the Bensonhurst section of Brooklyn where she was in no short supply of her extended family. She grew up amidst the warmth of two aunts, two uncles, their spouses, and eleven cousins, fostering a tight-knit community.

In 1970, Jeanette graduated from Lafayette High School in Brooklyn, where she not only received her diploma, but met a young man from the neighborhood. Despite initial reluctance, this young mans persistence was rewarded. After their first date, a movie, Jeanette and John would never look back as they embarked on their journey of love as they were married in 1973.

Upon their marriage, their first residence would find Jeanette moving from 20 Bay 10th Street in Brooklyn, New York to the far and distant lands of 22 Bay 10th Street next door to Jeanette's parents, the house where she grew up. In

1976, they welcomed their first child, John Jr. It has been said that John Jr. was such a delightful baby that her mother Alice told her that she was not sure she would be able to help her if they had another child.

The family relocated to Staten Island in July 1977, settling in the burgeoning Eltingville section, where they established deep roots. Jeanette's brother, Ralph 'Buddy' Zurlo, played a pivotal role in their new chapter, having developed the very neighborhood they called home. This would be their home for the next 46 years where they were blessed with wonderful neighbors and a lifetime of memories. Later that year, in September 1977, Jeanette and John would grow their family welcoming their daughter Allison who would become the first granddaughter to the family.

Jeanette would primarily take care of the children while John would work in New York City. John Jr. and Allison were extremely fortunate of this decision as Jeanette was very active in their lives. As a mother, Jeanette consistently encouraged them to be active learners, try new things and cultivate their core values which was very influenced by their faith.

Jeanette and John found a community as part of the Parish of The Holy Child Church not far from their home. Jeanette was a constant volunteer including their variety shows and CCD program. Later on in life both Jeanette and John would volunteer with the Church's adoration group.

Through their active membership in the church, they met and developed lifelong friendships. They were fortunate that friends from their childhood in Brooklyn, like Linda and Mike Caserta, and Maryanne and Tommy Saporita, would not only move to Eltingville or neighboring sections of Staten Island, but would also be active members at Holy Child. These friendships were more like family. Beyond the dinners or vacations together, these friends experienced all facets of life together through their active friendships.

As John Jr. and Allison were getting older, they obviously proved the joys of parenthood were so fulfilling that John and Jeanette sought out to grow their family. In August 1986, they were blessed with their third child, Brian who they all affectionately called, Baby Boy.

Beyond welcoming Brian to the family and neighborhood, Jeanette would see her parents move around the corner from her family in 1987. Alice and Ralph Zurlo purchased their home, also built by their son, Buddy. This proximity not only enriched Jeanette's life as she cared for her aging parents, but also provided invaluable and lasting experiences for her children with their grandparents.

As John Jr. and Allison grew older and went off to college, Jeanette's nurturing spirit extended beyond her own family as she devoted a decade to working as a school aide in Staten Island schools, where she found immense joy in supporting young children.

Upon retiring, Jeanette cherished her role as a grandmother, delighting in every moment spent with her grandchildren. She poured her love into creating cherished memories, particularly during festive occasions like Halloween, where her knack for creating and wearing costumes allowed her to connect so closely with children. There was no better clown than 'DeeDee the Clown' and we looked forward to her appearance annually.

Jeanette welcomed retirement where she would actively seek any-and-all opportunities to spend time with her grandchildren. At the time, Ellyanna Grace and Amelia 'Milly' Rose were young girls, while Juliana Vera and Evelyn Jane were recently born. She also embraced the opportunity to spend time with the children of her nephew Anthony Neglia, and his wife Kim, and

their sons Dylan, Devin and Alex; and her niece Teresa and her daughters Gia and Mia, acting as a bonus grandparent to them.

To state that Jeanette prioritized spending time with her family would be an understatement. She fully embraced being a grandmother where she simply could not spend enough time with her grandchildren. Jeanette would seek to create experiences with her grandchildren. The memories that best stand out are those of Halloween or whenever Jeanette would decide to make an occasion like Halloween. Perhaps what Jeanette really understood well was how to connect with the kids and celebrate moments.

In 2010, Jeanette bravely faced a diagnosis of Parkinson's Disease, supported unwaveringly by her devoted husband, John. Together, they navigated the challenges posed by the illness, participating in clinical trials with hope for advancements in treatment both for her and for others in the future.

After 47 years in their Staten Island home, where they created a lifetime of memories, John and Jeanette embarked on a new chapter in Manalapan, New Jersey, drawing closer to their son Brian, his wife Tara, and their three children, continuing their tradition of prioritizing family.

Jeanette's lasting legacy of love, faith and values will endure through the lives she touched, leaving an indelible mark on her family, friends and community.

Jeanette is survived by her beloved husband of 50 years, John; her loving children, John Jr. and his wife Kim of Houston, Texas, Allison and her husband Dennis Convery of Eastchester, New York, and Brian and his wife Tara of Manalapan, New Jersey; her sister and lifelong friend Debra Ann and her husband Anthony Neglia of Staten Island, New York, and her caring sister Phyllis Reale of Staten Island, New York, and by her cherished grandchildren.

Jeanette had six grandchildren which she loved beyond words. Ellyana Grace (15), Amelia 'Milly' Rose (11), Juliana Vera (six), Evelyn Jane (six), Lucas John (four), and Lilian Maeve (one)

Friends are invited to pay their respects on Monday, April 15, 2024 from 2pm to 4pm eastern and 6pm to 9pm eastern at Michel Hegarty & John Vincent Scalia Home from Funerals and Cremation Service, 3377 US Highway 9, Old Bridge, New Jersey.

A Funeral Mass will be held on Tuesday, April 16, 2024 at 10am eastern at The Church of the Holy Child located at 4747 Amboy Road, Staten Island, New York, 10312 followed by interment at Resurrection Cemetery, Staten Island, New York.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly suggests donations in Jeanette's memory be made to The Michael J. Fox Foundation or the Tunnel to Towers Foundation. <https://give.michaeljfox.org/>

Online condolences may be made to the family at www.HegartyScaliaFuneralHome.com

Cemetery Details

Resurrection Cemetery

361 Sharrot Avenue
Staten Island, NY 10309

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 15. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Michael Hegarty & John Vincent Scalia Home for Funerals and Cremation Service
3377 US Highway 9
Old Bridge, NJ 08857
(732) 679-4422
hegartyfh@scaliahome.com
<https://www.hegartyscaliafuneralhome.com>

Visitation

APR 15. 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM (ET)

Michael Hegarty & John Vincent Scalia Home for Funerals and Cremation Service
3377 US Highway 9
Old Bridge, NJ 08857
(732) 679-4422
hegartyfh@scaliahome.com
<https://www.hegartyscaliafuneralhome.com>

Service

APR 16. 10:00 AM (ET)

Holy Child Church
4747 Amboy Rd
Staten Island, NY 10312

Service

APR 16 (ET)

Resurrection Cemetery
361 Sharrot Avenue
Staten Island, NY 10309

Tribute Wall



“ *Michael Hegarty & John Vincent Scalia Home for Funerals and Cremation Services created a Tribute Video in memory of Jeanette Reale*



Michael Hegarty & John Vincent Scalia Home for Funerals and Cremation Service - April 15, 2024 at 11:04 AM

“ How do I share a memory that I had with Jeanette? There are 57 years of memories. We were friends since we were children and remained friends until death. She was more than a friend though, she was a sister. She was my children's Aunt. That was our relationship. We went through every phase of life together; school, discovering boys, falling in love, getting married and raising a family, losing our parents, coping with illness and everything in between. We lived around the corner from each other for 44 years and had so many good times, parties, silly times and some sad times together. There are too many to recount. One silly thing that always sticks out in my mind is during covid when we couldn't see each other, except for outside, and in the very early stages we were even afraid to be 10-15 ft away from each other. So one day Mike and I were sitting on our deck and Jeanette and John were sitting on their deck. We could see each other's decks clearly. So we were talking (yelling) across the yards and then I decided to place charades. So imagine two backyards away from each other we're playing charades on the deck and laughing like kids! There are so many moments, precious moments, of supporting each other through or weddings, motherhood, our children's weddings our parents' deaths, becoming grandparents, fun things we did as silly teenage girls and responsible things we were forced to do as parents, that are going through my mind right now. These are the memories that I will never forget and will stay with me forever. I was blessed to be with her the last day of her life not knowing, nobody knowing, she was going to die. She didn't know she was going to die but for some reason she wanted me there. We went to see their new house and to share a meal but what we shared was her last sacrament of death. I am so happy we were there for her and John but this memory will stay with me forever. I don't know how to say goodbye to Jeanette because no matter what we went through, even when we had a fight as sisters do, we loved each other unconditionally and I can't accept that she's gone. Selfishly, I want her back, but I know she was getting tired, I know she was tired of trying and I know that God was merciful to his faithful servant and put her out of her suffering. That selfish side of me is having a hard time accepting the reality. Rest in

peace Jeanette I hope you are singing with the angels and the united with all your loved ones. I'll always love you and you will always be in my heart and in the hearts of my family. Love Linda and the Caserta and family.

Linda Caserta - April 19, 2024 at 09:32 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Jeanette Reale.*



April 18, 2024 at 11:27 AM



“ *We are so sorry to hear of the passing of Jeannie. I have great memories of Jeannie. Our deepest condolences to John and his family during this very sad time.*



The Fultz Family - April 16, 2024 at 08:16 AM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Jeanette Reale.*



April 15, 2024 at 03:55 PM

TF

“ The Bruno Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Jeanette Reale.

The Bruno Family - April 15, 2024 at 03:55 PM

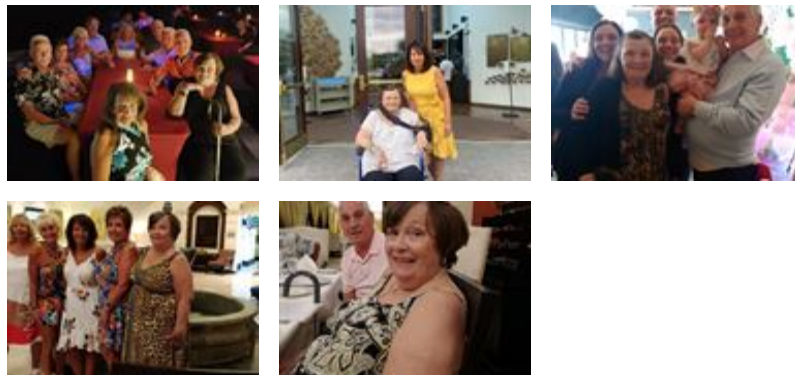
SS

“ Although I never had the pleasure of meeting Jeanette, I can tell how special a person she was through the person her daughter Alison is and the love she brings to her children (both at school and home). Her impact on many is crystal clear.

Steven Schwartz - April 15, 2024 at 11:40 AM



“ 96 files added to the album Life Tributes



Michael Hegarty & John Vincent Scalia Home for Funerals and Cremation Service - April 15, 2024 at 10:20 AM

TF

“ The Tuder Family purchased the Serene Reflections Bouquet for the family of Jeanette Reale.



The Tuder Family - April 14, 2024 at 09:48 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Jeanette Reale.* ”



April 14, 2024 at 08:56 PM



“ *We will always treasure sharing a meal and great conversations. Our deepest sympathy to John and family* ”



Lucille & Sal - April 14, 2024 at 12:37 PM



“ *Marc & Irina purchased the Serene Reflections Bouquet for the family of Jeanette Reale.* ”



Marc & Irina - April 14, 2024 at 11:47 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Jeanette Reale.* ”



April 14, 2024 at 11:33 AM

TF

“ *The Funks planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Jeanette Reale.*

The Funks - April 14, 2024 at 11:33 AM