



Antonina Maria Ferlito

February 19, 1935 - November 2, 2021

Antonina Maria Ferlito was born on February 19, 1935. She passed away on November 2, 2021 at age 86. Her friends called her Toni and her late brother, Giuseppe (Joe) Amore, called her Nina.

Toni was predeceased by her beloved husband and high school sweetheart, Joseph Ferlito. They were married for 35 years. Together, they raised four children: Leeann Ferlito (Dr. Randall McGregor), Niella Neubauer (Greg), John Ferlito (Sheryl) and Benny Ferlito (Shari). She was adored by nine grandchildren who called her "Nonnie" and four great grandchildren who referred to her as "Great Nonnie." During her spare time, Toni enjoyed spending time with family, volunteering for her church, attending live musicals, and traveling.

For years, Toni was a gifted hair stylist. In midlife, she and Joe owned and operated Ferlito's Restaurant in Grosse Pointe Woods, Michigan. After the death of her husband Joe, her son Ben became her business partner. Thirty-five years of hospitality and sharing the wonderful food of her Italian heritage was pure joy for Toni Ferlito. She retired at 80 years old.

Instate Monday, December 13 from 8:30am until time of 9:30am Mass at St. Blase Catholic Church, 12151 15 Mile Rd, Sterling Heights.. If you choose, send donations in her memory to Frontotemporal Dementia | Dementia Society of America. FTD, also known as frontotemporal dementia, is the most common dementia diagnosed before age 60. Please share memories with the family at their online guestbook at WujekCalcaterra.com

****the family kindly requests that masks be worn and social distancing observed****

Cemetery Details

Resurrection Cemetery

18201 Clinton River Road
Clinton Township, MI 48038

Previous Events

Instate / Funeral Mass

DEC 13. 8:30 AM - 9:30 AM (ET)

St. Blase Church
12151 15 Mile Road
Sterling Heights, MI 48312

Tribute Wall

DW

“ I hope that it is never too late to pay tribute to someone you truly care about. Though I moved from Michigan more than 20 years ago, Toni is someone that made an impression that will last my lifetime. When my best friend Leeann dragged me home from high school, Toni and (Mr Ferlito) welcomed me into their home, fed me the most amazing food, gave me advice and generally kept me out of the ditches for several years. Toni was also my hairdresser for many many years. Thinking of her this afternoon, and doing an Internet search, I was sad to see that I missed her passing by almost 2 years. To Leeann, Niella, John and Ben- I offer my sincere condolences as you prepare to honor your mom on the second anniversary of her arrival in Heaven.

Dawn Thomas Willey - October 14, 2023 at 04:14 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Antonina Maria Ferlito.



December 09, 2021 at 06:54 PM

DD

“ Our deepest sympathy to the entire Ferlito family. Toni was a wonderful lady who welcomed everyone to her home. Memories of her bring huge smiles to our faces and an intense warmth to our hearts. Love to the Ferlito family,
Dan and Gail Dall'Olmo

Dan and Gail Dall'Olmo - December 06, 2021 at 03:02 PM

TP

“ Toni, a class act. Few words can describe her better. Known as Nonnie to all friends and family, as well as neighborhood children and my daughter Alyssa, Nonnie showed love and respect for all. Family and friends are blessed to have had Nonnie in our lives. She will be missed.

Ted Passmore - November 11, 2021 at 07:30 PM

JF

Nonnie loved Alyssa so much!

Jen Ferlito - November 13, 2021 at 08:22 AM

SH

Thank you, Ted. I hope that Nonnie and Alyssa are cooking up a storm in heaven. Alyssa loved helping nonnie cook when she was a little girl.

Sheryl - November 15, 2021 at 10:19 PM

SH

Thank you, Ted. I hope that Nonnie and Alyssa are cooking up a storm in heaven. Alyssa loved helping nonnie cook when she was a little girl.

Sheryl - November 15, 2021 at 10:19 PM

KF

“ *It was with tremendous sadness that Tim and I learned of Toni’s passing. She was a bright light in this world. We will never forget the time Leeann told Toni that we had an overnight layover in Detroit and we were staying at the hotel at the airport. Lee was in Detroit at the time and she and Toni drove the 45 minutes each way to collect us and take us to Ferlito’s restaurant. Oh what a fabulous night! Joined by Niella, we proceeded to sample EVERYTHING on the menu, with Toni dictating what we ate and drank that evening with the perfection of a conductor! We all laughed and lingered over fabulous food and wines and Toni refused to take one penny for the best Italian meal we’d ever had in our life! Or will have, I might add. We both loved Toni and will always love Toni. She was our kind of gal - full of life and love and giving. To Lee and Niella and Ben and John, please know your mother will continue to be loved and cherished. Her memory lives on in many hearts. Certainly in ours. ❤️ Karen & Tim Foote*

Karen and Tim Foote - November 10, 2021 at 12:48 PM



X

Sheryl Ferlito - November 10, 2021 at 08:50 PM



Thank you for your kind words, Karen and Tim. We love reading memories like this. Here’s to overnight layovers, good Italian food shared by family and friends.

Sheryl Ferlito - November 10, 2021 at 08:54 PM

LF

It was a FUN night at Ferlito's restaurant! Mom was not the least bit daunted by the early snowstorm that started as we drove you back to the airport that night. A full immersion of the Ferlito's restaurant hospitality. Thank you for pulling up those memories!

Leeann Ferlito - November 12, 2021 at 11:56 AM

PR

“ Every once in awhile on life's journey, one meets an individual whom you know, in an instant, God has been placed on this earth for a reason. Whatever Toni's childhood and upbringing, it all culminated into fashioning the strong, intelligent, moral, caring and charismatic woman that she was. Though our paths rarely crossed, each time conversation flowed like she'd been family all my life. She was a good listener and confident to offer sage advice delivered with warmth and a smile. Given her years at the restaurant, as a hair dresser, as a mother, grandmother, great grandmother and avid church parishioner, one can only imagine the number of lives she's influenced or brightened through her friendship and sharing of herself. This is a lovely picture of Toni with her perfect smile and is as I remember her. We thank her for the gift of her progeny who carry aspects of Toni within, sharing those wonderful traits with friends and family. Toni lives on in each of them and for that, we can be grateful! Our deepest condolences to the family over the loss of this precious treasure. Toni is not an individual who can be forgotten. We carry her memory in our hearts.
Love, Pris and Bill Stoddard

Pris - November 09, 2021 at 09:31 AM



A charismatic woman, a precious treasure - so true. Thank you for commenting on her picture. We combed through many. This one represents her well in so many ways. Thank you for posting your memory of our dear mom.

Sheryl Ferlito - November 10, 2021 at 08:58 PM

LF

Thank you Priscilla, Our mom always enjoyed time with you and your family during her visits to Alaska.

Leeann Ferlito - November 12, 2021 at 11:38 AM

MD

“ We have many, many wonderful memories of time spent with Toni. She was always so gracious, friendly and welcoming. From dinners and visits at her lovely home, to times by the pool, to going out and having her visit us up north. She was a delight so kind, helpful and ever so thoughtful. We are deeply saddened to see her gone and know that she will be sorely missed. The family is in our thoughts and prayers. Love, Kaye and Mike Duika

Mike Duika - November 08, 2021 at 04:06 PM



Thank you for sharing your memories, Kay and Mike. Toni loved your visits in her home and yours. Thank you for your thoughts and prayers.

Sheryl Ferlito - November 08, 2021 at 05:57 PM

GH

“ To the Ferlito’s Family, I am so sorry for your loss. Toni meant a lot to me and she was a very important person in my life while I was growing up. Since I spent a lot of my time working during my childhood at the restaurant, Toni was always there to provide me with guidance and support. She truly was a second mother to me and I really appreciated that. She will be forever missed.

Gregory Hoenle - November 08, 2021 at 03:29 PM



Thank you, Greg, for your heartfelt words. You were blessed with her guidance and support like so many that she cared about. So many have described her as a second mother, a mentor, etc. Toni definitely made the world a better place.

Sheryl Ferlito - November 10, 2021 at 09:02 PM

JM

“ Toni was one of the most influential women in my life. She was strong, loving, kind and beautiful inside and out. I have so many unforgettable memories of her and will always keep her close in my heart. My sincere condolences to the Ferlito family. I know she loved you all and will continue to watch over you from heaven.



Jamie Middaugh - November 08, 2021 at 10:18 AM



Strong, loving, influential - all describe Toni well. Thank you for sharing the impact that she made on your life.

Sheryl Ferlito - November 10, 2021 at 09:04 PM

ND

“ I'll never forget the week after I turned 14 yrs old; Toni told me to come up to Ferlito's to interview for a job. This was after at least 8 phone calls over the course of 3 weeks. I rode my bike up to the restaurant, hair still wet from swimming, I was so excited to possibly get my first real job. Toni sat me down and told me she didn't normally hire table bussers so young but, because of my persistence she was “willing to take a chance on me and I better not make her regret it”. At that time I was starting my first “job”, it wasn't until I was much older and more mature that I would realize it was more than just a job, it was an incredible start with teachings to what life was going to be. Toni not only gave me a chance to make money, she helped lay the foundation to a life of hard work, dedication, and commitment; I still tell people this story several times a year. I've had to explain to people why at 30 I was still including a job on my resume I had from 14-18 yrs old, I'd tell them that it showed character that someone so young could work at a place while in high school for so long. It's character that Toni Ferlito helped me build, not only as a boss but a loving mentor with a heart so big. Toni is one of a handful of people who made a great impact in my life and I will miss her so dearly. 15+ years after my time at Ferlito's I would still leave with a warm hug from Toni and a full belly any time I would visit. Those hugs I will remember, those hugs I will miss. My condolences go out to Toni's entire family, all of her friends, and everyone she touched while listening to stories as patrons enjoyed the comforts of fine Italian cuisine in the most welcoming place that always felt like a home away from home.

Nick Dziurda - November 07, 2021 at 08:31 AM

NI

Oh Nick! I had no idea, my heart is full. Thank you for the beautiful tribute to my Mother. Niella

Niella - November 10, 2021 at 09:48 AM



Thank you for sharing. Like many, this post warms my heart and makes me cry thinking about the impact that Toni made on others.

Sheryl Ferlito - November 10, 2021 at 09:07 PM

DE

“ This beautiful woman was a second (and sometimes only) mother to so many young people. She taught me self respect, and a work ethic that is my best strength to this day. RIP Ms. Toni, and Thank You, for being such a force of nature ❤️

Diane Edwards - November 07, 2021 at 01:25 AM

CO

I was lucky enough to know Toni for 50 years. To know her was to love her. Toni taught me so much about life while talking over coffee, sitting by the pool or while out on one of our many adventures. Toni was a second Mother to me, the sister I never had and was also one of my best friends. She was always the first one there with food, help or advice when I brought a new baby home from the hospital and the first to step up when I didn't feel well. She was one of the kindest as well as one of the strongest women I have known. She loved her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren fiercely. Someone like Toni comes along once in a lifetime ~ if you are lucky. If Toni could tell us how she wanted us to remember her ~ she would say to dry your tears and smile ~ that will not be hard for me ~ I will always smile when I think of Toni.

Colette - November 09, 2021 at 10:05 PM



You and Toni definitely had a special connection. She was my second mother, too! Thank you for sharing your memory and important relationship.

Sheryl Ferlito - November 10, 2021 at 09:11 PM

DK

“ *Rick and I send heartfelt condolences .. family was always her priority and we are blessed to members of her second Ferlito's family .. she was more than a boss - a treasured friend and mentor to us all .. words cannot express the impact she had on my life .. such a classy woman deserving of our greatest affection and respect .. her legacy will live on love, Rick and Deb Kallmes*

Deborah Kallmes - November 06, 2021 at 08:40 PM

SH

Toni mentored so many. She was a classy woman. She taught me to be classy. At least she tried. Lol. Her legacy will live on. True words for sure. Thank you for your post.

sheryl - November 06, 2021 at 09:30 PM

PP

Toni was so beautiful, kind, genuine & quite funny. She always made me smile and I absolutely adored her. Sending my deepest condolences to her loving family. 💔

Phyllis Purcell - November 07, 2021 at 12:10 AM



Thank you, Phyllis. Toni loved to laugh. She was funny. We loved laughing with her.

Sheryl Ferlito - November 10, 2021 at 09:13 PM

BB

“ I'm so sorry to hear of the loss of one truly AMAZING lady. She was a second mom to many who walked through the doors at Ferlitos. I will forever treasure my memories of her. I loved her dearly.. Hugs and Strength to the family.. love the Babbie Family



Beth Babbie - November 06, 2021 at 08:11 PM

SH

Thank you, Beth. Toni loved her Ferlito's staff like her own kids. She loved watching each of you grow into young adults and start your own families and careers. She was so proud of each and every one of you. Thank you for your post. It is meaningful to us during this difficult time.

sheryl - November 06, 2021 at 09:26 PM



“ Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of Antonina Maria Ferlito.



November 06, 2021 at 07:39 PM

KK

“ My deepest sympathies to the entire Ferlito family. Words cannot express the sorrow I feel losing my beloved godmother. She was always there for me whenever I needed her. She was a strong women who always made you feel welcome. Just talking to her on the phone was like receiving a warm hug from her. Even though I moved away she was always a part of me. You will never be forgotten



Karen Kralick - November 06, 2021 at 07:01 PM

SH

Sending you a warm hug, Karen. 😊 Thank you for sharing. 🙏

sheryl - November 06, 2021 at 09:23 PM

AA

“ Farewell, Aunt Toni: a beautiful mother, grandmother, and, for me, a very beautiful aunt. You brightened so many lives throughout your journey, and your memory will be cherished by many. I've always been and will forever remain proud for having been named after you, and I will truly, truly miss you.

Anthony J. Amore - November 06, 2021 at 05:15 PM

SH

Thank you for this lovely post. It warms my heart and makes me cry. Love, Sheryl xo

sheryl - November 06, 2021 at 09:21 PM

FF

“ We heard the sad news about your Mother and Nonnie and want you to know you're in our thoughts and Prayers. May the Lord give you strength through this most difficult time.
Sincereley
Frank and Susan Ferlito



Frank and Susan Ferlito - November 06, 2021 at 03:38 PM

SH

Thank you so much. 😊

sheryl - November 06, 2021 at 09:19 PM

AR

“ *My heart goes out to the whole family.
This is so heart wrenching for so many.
I met Toni (my new boss) at Ferlito’s so the saying is ... I
came with the restaurant. My first thought was wow !! This
lady is beautiful, her style and sophistication was like no
other.....I was in Awe of her !!
I never thought at that time this woman would have such an impact on my life.
At Ferlito’s restaurant I quickly became BFFs with Niella, we went everywhere
together even work.
I spent lots of time in the Ferlito pool, and was always around for parties and even
stop by on holidays to see my second family.
When Joe passed away Toni was heartbroken as they were the couple I wished I
would be one day. I was single at the time and we saw a lot of each other, and I
loved it !!
My Toni (is what I called her) and I went on so many trips together, First train ride
was with my Toni. We saw Lion King, Show Boat, Phantom of the Opera to name
a few. We had a blast ! I could call her last minute and say, ”let’s go shopping and
out to lunch/ dinner”sometimes both in one day. I have so many memories of this
amazing woman .
I could talk to her about anything and she did not hold back on her opinion, even
if I didn’t want to hear it. We laughed we cried ..I adored her !! She was not only
my second Mom but a best friend as well. I used to say to her, “Who can say my
two best friends are Mother and Daughter.” I was blessed to have known her !!
There is a part of my heart that went with her !!
I loved that woman so very much !!*



Love and prayers to the whole family

Annie 📍

Ann Marie Russo - November 06, 2021 at 12:06 PM

SH

X

Sheryl - November 06, 2021 at 09:14 PM

SH

*Thank you for sharing your wonderful memories. Toni loved you like a daughter. We
are fortunate to have you in our village. 🥰*

sheryl - November 06, 2021 at 09:17 PM

SH

*Thank you for sharing your memory. Toni loved you like a daughter. We are lucky to
have you in our village. 🥰*

sheryl - November 06, 2021 at 09:18 PM