



Phyllis Lucille Gemellaro

May 2, 1942 - February 14, 2026

GEMELLARO, PHYLLIS LUCILLE (nee MATTIELLO) Age 83 passed away February 14, 2026 surrounded by her family. Phyllis was born on May 2, 1942 in Brooklyn, NY of Viola Treffi and Ralph Mattiello. She married the love of her life, Marcello (Marc) Gemellaro at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in Brooklyn, NY on December 1, 1963. She began her life with Marc in sacrificial love and strength.

Beloved wife of Marc of 63 years. Loving mother of Deborah (Michael) Newman, Marc (Sharon) Gemellaro, Edward (Laura) Gemellaro, & John (Jennifer) Gemellaro. Proud grandmother of Sarah (Parker) Leighton, Luke Newman, Jane Gemellaro, Annalise Gemellaro, Matthew Newman, Santo Gemellaro, William Newman, Elaina Gemellaro, Michael Gemellaro, Drayden Gemellaro, Jack Gemellaro, Charlotte Gemellaro & Henry Gemellaro. Step-grandmother of Nicholas (Ranae) Pfeiffer & Adam (Lexi) Pfeiffer. Dear sister of the late Ralph (the late LuAnn) Mattiello.

Phyllis was a woman with an abundance of love and great courage for all that she would encounter in life.

Phyllis's exceptional talent was first realized in her early graduation from New Utrecht High school and at that time she drew the attention of agents from the Federal Bureau of Investigation's New York office. They approached her with

an offer to join the FBI as a stenographer during the height of the Cold War, a period in which she quickly proved herself to be both highly skilled and deeply trustworthy. Assigned to the espionage division in the New York office, Phyllis later received an Award of Excellence from FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover for her service during the investigation of the assassination of John F. Kennedy.

Phyllis was so highly regarded by the agents of the FBI that, many years later, in October 2021, the Bureau reestablished contact with her to transcribe interviews conducted by agents investigating the September 11 attacks, including those connected to the plane that crashed in Pennsylvania, as well as the Oklahoma City bombing. She completed numerous transcripts and submitted them to the FBI for inclusion in its archives.

Phyllis met Marc when his cousin introduced them during their morning commute on the Sea Beach Line of the New York City subway, the elevated route into Manhattan. Marc boarded the train at the 62nd Street station, and Phyllis at 73rd Street. From their very first meeting, she captured his heart. They were married on December 1, 1963.

They waited a few years before having children. Their life together on East Second Street in Brooklyn, NY was loving, happy, and full of laughter. They would often be found in the bowling alley with friends and family having a good time.

In 1966, when their daughter, Deborah, was born, Phyllis left the FBI to devote herself fully to raising their family. She embraced her role as a stay-at-home mother with dedication and grace. As their family grew with the births of two sons, Marc and Edward, Phyllis encouraged a move to the suburbs north of Manhattan—to New City, New York—to provide more space for their growing family. There, their fourth child, John, was born.

As providence would have it, a promising professional opportunity opened for Marc in Detroit, Michigan. Once again, Phyllis demonstrated strength and courage, agreeing to relocate from the East Coast to Detroit—making the move with a broken leg, four young children, and leaving their extended family far behind.

In their new community, Marc and Phyllis served on the steering committee that helped establish Holy Family Regional School in Rochester, Michigan. Phyllis conducted a detailed demographic study that clearly showed the school would soon require expansion, and a master plan was developed based on her research. With their four children older by this time, Phyllis returned to the workforce as the school's first secretary, bringing her experience, organization, and steady dedication to this new role.

A woman of remarkable courage, Phyllis never shied away from a challenge or a new adventure. Always willing to take risks, she faced them with steadfast bravery and a heart full of love. In 1985, at Phyllis's urging, they sold everything they could to raise funds to purchase property on Little Creek Drive in Rochester, for their growing family. This proved to be a pivotal decision in their lives: the land, situated on wetlands, increased in value and later provided the necessary collateral to launch their startup business

In 2003, Phyllis signed the document granting her husband permission to be ordained as a permanent deacon in the Catholic Church. By 2008, they had taken on the responsibility of guiding the formation of other permanent deacons and their wives. For the next seventeen years, Phyllis exemplified what it meant to be a loving, selfless wife, fully supporting her husband's mission and ministry. In doing so, she also influenced countless women, showing them how to serve as instruments of unselfish love and support in their own marriages.

Phyllis found joy in transcribing, reading, crossword puzzles, Scrabble, and card games, but her greatest devotion was always to her family. She gave herself wholeheartedly to her husband, four children, their spouses, and grandchildren. Her abundant, unconditional love touched everyone privileged to know her, serving as the grounding force in her family. It flowed effortlessly, boundlessly, and without condition—being on the receiving end of it was a taste of heaven on earth.

She was fully present in every moment, dedicating her whole self to those she loved. She never missed her grandchildren's events: Sarah's softball games, Jane's horseback riding, Anna's graduation, Santo's baseball, Elaina's softball and riding, Matthew's ice hockey, Luke's and Billy's football games, Michael's concerts and football games, Drayden's robotics tournaments, Jack's flag football, Charlotte's dance recitals, and even Henry's building-block adventures—just to name a few.

Through the years, Phyllis embraced both joy and challenge with courage and grace. She consistently led Marc into new beginnings, and now, once more, she is leading the way—this time to Heaven, because Love is Eternal.

Visitation Thursday 4-8pm, Friday 1-8pm with 7:00pm Scripture Service at Wujek-Calcaterra & Sons 54880 Van Dyke at 25 Mile Rd. (SHELBY TOWNSHIP). Funeral Saturday Instate 9:00a at St. Andrew Catholic Church 1400 Inglewood (E. of Rochester Rd btw. Romeo and Tienken Rds.) until time of Mass at 9:30am. Donations are welcome to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital or Mary's Mantel. Interment Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Southfield, MI. Share memories with the family at their "On Line Guest Book" @ WujekCalcaterra.com.

Cemetery Details

Holy Sepulchre Cemetery

25800 W. 10 Mile Rd.
Southfield, MI 48034

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB **19**. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Wujek-Calcaterra & Sons - Shelby Township
54880 VanDyke Ave
Shelby Township, MI 48316

Visitation

FEB **20**. 1:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Wujek-Calcaterra & Sons - Shelby Township
54880 VanDyke Ave
Shelby Township, MI 48316

Scripture Service

FEB **20**. 7:00 PM (ET)

Wujek-Calcaterra & Sons - Shelby Township
54880 VanDyke Ave
Shelby Township, MI 48316

Instate / Funeral Mass

FEB **21**. 9:00 AM - 9:30 AM (ET)

St. Andrew Catholic Church
1400 Inglewood
Rochester, MI 48307-1518

Tribute Wall



“ *Wujek ~ Calcaterra & Sons, Inc. created a Tribute Video in memory of Phyllis Lucille Gemellaro*



Wujek ~ Calcaterra & Sons, Inc. - February 17 at 02:47 PM

SS

Our heartfelt condolences to the Gemellaro family. Sending prayers and love to all on your great loss. ❤️🙏
Chris & Shannon Santella

Shannon Santella - February 18 at 03:34 PM

JM

Sending our heartfelt condolences with prayers for the Gemellaro family. Joyce & Deacon Michael McKale

Joyce McKale - February 19 at 05:25 PM

DG

We are so saddened by Phyllis's passing. Our heartfelt condolences are with Deacon Marc and his beautiful family. We would be there to celebrate her life with you, but unfortunately, we are out of state and cannot attend. She and all of you are remembered in our prayers. Ron and Donna Golembiewski

Donna Golembiewski - February 20 at 08:32 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Phyllis Lucille Gemellaro.



February 20 at 03:13 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Phyllis Lucille Gemellaro.

February 20 at 03:13 PM



“ Ron & Karen Gooch purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Phyllis Lucille Gemellaro.



Ron & Karen Gooch - February 19 at 11:59 PM



“ Josh, Megan and Joshua Harmon purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Phyllis Lucille Gemellaro.



Josh, Megan and Joshua Harmon - February 19 at 02:12 PM

JC

“ *Judy Callahan purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Phyllis Lucille Gemellaro.*



Judy Callahan - February 19 at 12:55 PM

JF

“ *Jesse Ball and Family purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Phyllis Lucille Gemellaro.*



Jesse Ball and Family - February 19 at 09:42 AM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Phyllis Lucille Gemellaro.*



February 19 at 08:46 AM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Phyllis Lucille Gemellaro.*

February 19 at 08:46 AM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Phyllis Lucille Gemellaro.*



February 19 at 07:05 AM



“ *Kapaj Family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Phyllis Lucille Gemellaro.*



Kapaj Family - February 19 at 06:35 AM



“ *Kapaj Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Phyllis Lucille Gemellaro.*

Kapaj Family - February 19 at 06:35 AM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Phyllis Lucille Gemellaro.*



February 18 at 08:42 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Phyllis Lucille Gemellaro.

February 18 at 08:42 PM



“ Gary & Diana Szor purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Phyllis Lucille Gemellaro.



Gary & Diana Szor - February 18 at 05:01 PM



“ Gracious Lavender Basket was purchased for the family of Phyllis Lucille Gemellaro.



February 18 at 04:33 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Phyllis Lucille Gemellaro.



February 18 at 03:31 PM



“ *Crystal Cross Bouquet was purchased for the family of Phyllis Lucille Gemellaro.*



February 18 at 03:21 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Phyllis Lucille Gemellaro.

February 18 at 03:21 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Phyllis Lucille Gemellaro.*



February 18 at 01:34 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Phyllis Lucille Gemellaro.

February 18 at 01:34 PM



“ *Trish- Owen Tree Service planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Phyllis Lucille Gemellaro.*

Trish- Owen Tree Service - February 18 at 01:23 PM



“ *Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of Phyllis Lucille Gemellaro.*



February 18 at 12:21 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Phyllis Lucille Gemellaro.

February 18 at 12:21 PM



“ *Your NDP Posse purchased the Deepest Faith for the family of Phyllis Lucille Gemellaro.*



Your NDP Posse - February 18 at 12:13 PM



“ *Jim Hartley and the Hartley Family purchased the Crystal Cross Bouquet for the family of Phyllis Lucille Gemellaro.*



Jim Hartley and the Hartley Family - February 18 at 12:12 PM



“ Dreams From the Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Phyllis Lucille Gemellaro.



February 18 at 11:34 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Phyllis Lucille Gemellaro.

February 18 at 11:34 AM



“ Tom & Betsy Decker purchased the Sweet Tranquility Basket for the family of Phyllis Lucille Gemellaro.



Tom & Betsy Decker - February 18 at 11:28 AM



“ Tom & Betsy Decker planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Phyllis Lucille Gemellaro.

Tom & Betsy Decker - February 18 at 11:28 AM



“ Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Phyllis Lucille Gemellaro.



February 18 at 11:10 AM



“ All our love, the Windham Family xoxo purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Phyllis Lucille Gemellaro.



All our love, the Windham Family xoxo - February 18 at 08:47 AM



“ Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Phyllis Lucille Gemellaro.



February 17 at 09:28 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Phyllis Lucille Gemellaro.

February 17 at 09:28 PM

CC

“ Chris and Cathy Clegg purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Phyllis Lucille Gemellaro.



Chris and Cathy Clegg - February 17 at 09:22 PM

CC

“ Chris and Cathy Clegg planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Phyllis Lucille Gemellaro.

Chris and Cathy Clegg - February 17 at 09:22 PM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Phyllis Lucille Gemellaro.



February 17 at 07:03 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Phyllis Lucille Gemellaro.

February 17 at 07:03 PM

PS

“ What an amazing woman! Her obituary shows what a remarkable woman she was.. No wonder John turned out so nice. With deepest sympathy. Peggy Snodgrass

Peggy Snodgrass - February 17 at 03:54 PM



“ *Days of Sunshine Bouquet was purchased for the family of Phyllis Lucille Gemellaro.*



February 17 at 03:21 PM



“ *Nate Merritt and John Sutherland purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Phyllis Lucille Gemellaro.*



Nate Merritt and John Sutherland - February 17 at 09:49 AM



“ *So many memories of a gracious capable lady and secretary..They say that life brings tears and smiles and memories. Only the memories last forever.
What a privilege to have known such a lovely lady. Forever in friendship. 🙏
Sylvia Trepanier*

Sylvia Trepanier - February 17 at 09:19 AM



“ *Love, the Birmingham Family purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Phyllis Lucille Gemellaro.*



Love, the Birmingham Family - February 16 at 09:58 PM

LF

“ Love, the Birmingham Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Phyllis Lucille Gemellaro.

Love, the Birmingham Family - February 16 at 09:58 PM

TR

“ The Roddy's purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Phyllis Lucille Gemellaro.



The Roddy's - February 16 at 05:59 PM

DM

“ Daniel & Karen Mancuso purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Phyllis Lucille Gemellaro.



Daniel & Karen Mancuso - February 16 at 05:20 PM

DM

“ Daniel & Karen Mancuso planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Phyllis Lucille Gemellaro.

Daniel & Karen Mancuso - February 16 at 05:20 PM

CG

“ I met Phyllis in 1966 she eventually became my sister in law We spent many hours talking ,shopping, playing cards and scrabble at her home on East 2nd Street . We had fun playing with my niece Debbie and eventually my three children and her 3 sons When Phyllis moved to her home in New City we would visit often The kids played and we would talk , cook , play Scrabble and cards Joey my husband would be fixing things around the house And Buddy would be walking around his property with coffee cup in hand thinking ! Those were precious times
Phyllis moved again this time to Michigan that's when we did not see each other that often I missed my niece and nephews and our fun times
Thanks to Debbie Matty and I drove to Michigan for her wedding and spent a few days with Phyllis Buddy and the family It was wonderful
I'm sure Phyllis is up in heaven with Mom ,Dad, Michael and Joe While we are here with beautiful memories
Loves,
Christine

Christine Gemellaro - February 16 at 04:59 PM