



Kathryn E. Francolini

January 8, 1933 - September 29, 2022

Kathy Francolini of New York and Colorado, died peacefully in her Colorado residence surrounded by her family on September 29, 2022. She was 89. Kathy was predeceased by her husband of 35 years Richard Francolini, her parents and brother, Fred Barbaro. She is survived by her three children; Rick (and wife, Joan Francolini), Janine (and husband, David Lee) and Karen Connell. She is also survived by her six grandchildren; Tara, Rene, Nolan, Quinn, Claire, and Ellis.

Kathy was born to Maria and Salvatore Barbaro on January 8th, 1933 in Astoria, NY. She graduated from Oswego with a BA and Queens College with a Master's degree in school counseling. Her career in education began as a classroom teacher and she served as a guidance counselor at East Islip Terrace Junior High School in a role she cherished helping adolescents navigate their often challenging teenage years.

Kathy had an adventurous spirit and after retiring she moved from Huntington to New York City where she created the second half of her life. There, she focused on the passions which brought her much joy: arts, culture, fashion, travel and numerous intellectual pursuits. Her love for the arts led to volunteer commitments at both the Metropolitan Museum of Art and The Guggenheim Museum where she served as a docent for many years. When she wasn't inspiring visitors at these museums, she was inspired herself by all that NYC had to offer. And when it was time for a break from the city, traveling abroad - to Italy in particular - was at the top of her list.

While Kathy enjoyed a lifetime of learning, her greatest joy was the time spent with family. Her mother Maria, husband Richard, brother Fred, three children, six grandkids, and ten nieces and nephews were ongoing sources of pride. A wonderful cook and entertainer, she loved hosting gatherings which brought her friends and loved ones together - and she passed these gifts on to her three children who enjoy doing the same.

When Kathy finally left NYC, she headed to Colorado - where she traded the energy of the city for the beauty and tranquility which Colorado had to offer. It provided a peaceful ending to an adventurous life.

In lieu of flowers, Kathy's family requests that donations be made in her name to the following charities that embody Kathy's lifelong commitment to education, the families within her East Islip school community and mental health.

The Fred Barbaro Achievement Award at Adelphi University
Adelphi.imodules.com/barbaro

The Kathy Francolini Memorial Fund at Flawless Foundation.
flawlessfoundation.org/kathy-francolini-memorial-fund/

East Islip Teachers Association Family Assistance Fund

Kathy Francolini Memorial gifts can be sent by check payable to EITA.

Claire Noto, East Islip Teachers' Association 3500 Sunrise Highway, Building 200/Suite 105B, Great River, NY 11739.

Cemetery Details

Huntington Rural Cemetery

555 New York Avenue
Huntington, NY 11743

Previous Events

Mass of Christian Burial

OCT 15. 9:30 AM (ET)

St. Elizabeth of Hungary R.C. Church
175 Wolf Hill Road
Melville, NY 11747
(631) 271-1415
<http://www.stelizabeth.org>

Burial

OCT 15 (ET)

Huntington Rural Cemetery
555 New York Avenue
Huntington, NY 11743

Tribute Wall

JZ

“ Dear Family,
I just learned that Kathy had passed.



Although I lost touch with Kathy after she moved to the City, we were both friends and colleagues, before that.

I first met Kathy when we “ shared “ a student. Kathy was a Guidance Counselor in East Islip, at the time, and I was an Itinerant Teacher of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

We quickly discovered our shared love of all things, Italian.

I loved hearing her stories about the trips she took there.

She had a cousin who was Chief of Police in Catanzaro, which is 5 minutes from where my father was born.

After a while, Kathy joined the Italian language group that I was part of.

We met at one of the other student’s homes and had grammar, conversation, and, always cafe and dolci!

I was honored when Kathy attended the wedding of my husband, Howard, and I.

Kathy was always so easy to talk to.

We spent many evenings at the Greek restaurant in Huntington, chatting about all kinds of things.

Kathy always spoke about you, her family.

She had a special love for each and every one of you.

I will always remember Kathy's beautiful face and her sense of style.

I know that she is happy in heaven with your father.

*Love,
Jo Ellen Zinzi
Jojoz@optonline.net*

Jo Ellen Zinzi - September 13, 2025 at 03:02 PM



“ *Kathryn E. Francolini*

November 27, 2022 at 05:33 PM



“ *To The Family of Kathryn B. Francolini:*

On behalf of the Administration, Faculty and Staff of Queens College, our sincere condolences on the loss of your loved one, Kathryn.

May she Rest in Peace,

Anna Rossini - October 30, 2022 at 02:20 PM