



## Janie C. Olsen

February 22, 1929 - November 6, 2017

Our world is a little less bright today without the presence of our dearly loved Janie Castellana Olsen. Giovanna 'Janie' Castellana Olsen of Conyers, Georgia, beloved spouse to Robert 'Bob' Olsen and matriarch to many, passed away on November 6, 2017 after a long illness.

Giovanna was born on February 22, 1929 in Tampa, Florida, the third of four children to Emanuele and Vincenza Bonanno Castellana, originally from San Biagio Platani in the Italian Region of Sicily. The family would eventually relocate to Atlanta where Janie learned to speak English, in addition to her native languages of Italian and Spanish. The Atlanta area would be her home for the remainder of her life.

Janie was proud of her Italian heritage and Catholic faith. Sadly, her father died when she was only 12. She adored her 'Papa' and missed him terribly throughout her entire life. Her two brothers, Sam and Frank, stepped in to fill the gap, providing strong, paternal love during her younger days. Her tiny yet mighty Italian mother, Vincenza, would also serve as provider and protector, taking over the family business in the wake of her husband's sudden death. The mother/daughter duo shared a particularly close bond, speaking in Italian, and loving and caring for 'la familia' and celebrating life...the Italian way.

She found the love of her life, Robert 'Bob' Olsen, Sr. on the dance floor at the USO during the early '50s when Atlanta was flush with soldiers in uniform preparing for the Korean War. As Janie would tell the story, she was jitterbugging on the dance floor when Bob broke in. It was at that moment that the great love story of 'Janie and Bob' began.

Married for over 64 years, Janie and Bob embody the scripture passage found in Mark 10:8, 'and the two shall become one flesh.' They loved each other deeply--heart and soul--and honored and lived their marriage vows to the fullest, 'for better for worse, in sickness and in health, til death us do part.'

Janie and Bob have two birth children, Angela Olsen Martin and Robert 'Bobby' Olsen, Jr.

and three grandchildren, Madison Olsen, Maxwell Jamison and Vincent Olsen. Others adopted along the way including her sister and best friend for 66+ years, Diva Maisto and husband Angelo; daughters Marisa Maisto Grant and Rena Olsen (daughter-in-law), and too many others too numerous to mention. She has a number of cousins, nieces and nephews/great nieces and nephews who held an extra special place in her heart, especially those who've helped care and serve her and Bob during her final days.

In addition to being a wonderful wife, mother, daughter, mother-in-law, aunt and friend to many, Janie enjoyed a career with the DeKalb Library System, putting her God-given talent of organization to work. She and Bob have enjoyed many close friendships over the years, got the chance to travel to Italy on multiple occasions and have been active members at St. Pius Catholic Church for 30+ years.

A Funeral Mass to celebrate Janie's life will be held at St. Pius Catholic Church in Conyers, Georgia on Friday, November 10th at 11:00 a.m. A private ceremony for family and interment to follow at Westview Cemetery.

The family would like to extend their sincerest thanks to all those who've prayed and helped carry Janie over the finish line to our heavenly Father. The loving care she received at Yellow Brick House in Lithonia, Georgia during her last year of life has been heartfelt and extraordinary. She truly lived a full, wonderful and blessed life. While our hearts are broken, we celebrate knowing she's in heaven, fully restored by the loving hand of our Father, reunited with all those who've gone on before her, and having the 'partito' of her life.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made in honor of Janie Olsen to Yellow Brick House, 6903 Main Street, Lithonia, GA 30058.

Condolences may be submitted on-line at [www.scotward.com](http://www.scotward.com). Scot Ward Funeral Services, 699 American Legion Road, Conyers, GA 30012, 770-483-7216.

# Cemetery

---

## Westview Cemetery

1680 Westview Drive SW  
Atlanta, GA, 30310

# Events

---

**NOV**   **Service**                      11:00AM

**10**

---

St. Pius X Catholic Church  
2621 Hwy 20 SE, Conyers, GA, US, 30013

# Comments

---



“ So sorry that I am not able to be with family for the service.

My heart aches for Bob, Angela, Bobby and family. I am with you in thought and prayers and wish you comfort with the people that surrounds you. I wish you strength and peace during this difficult time. I will always treasure the wonderful fun times Janie and I had together and will miss Janie's smiles and laughter. All of the wonderful memories will be tucked away in the corner of my heart. Janie was the glue that kept the family together.

La famiglia meant so much to her.

As Janie would always end our telephone conversations.

“Ti vogilio bene con tutti mia cuore”

R.I.P.

Rose Mongiovi - November 09, 2017 at 06:00 PM

---



“ My thoughts and prayers are with you all. I know how much Mrs. Janie will be missed as she was a wonderful lady who always brought love and joy to all. My fondest memories of Mrs. Janie were at Christmas, on Christmas Eve Mrs. Janie would walk over after dark with her bell and stand at the front window under the tree and ring that bell. As a young child I would say, Santa is outside. On one Christmas Eve my dad took a picture of her standing under the tree with the bell in hand.

Sending my love to you all,

Susan (Mercer) Tyson (Cherry Lane Family)



Susan Tyson - November 08, 2017 at 06:02 PM

---



“ Our condolences to you, Bob, Angela, and Bobby, and your families. We understand how difficult it is to say goodbye to someone so loved. Her smile will always be with us. It was contagious. She smiled and everyone around her smiled. Our prayers are with you all. Deborah and Frank Castellana

Deborah Castellana - November 08, 2017 at 03:40 PM



“ Dear Angela and Max, Just wanted you to know you all are in my prayers.....I remember so many stories of Mom, GMa and Ms. Janie, especially their 50th anniversary celebration.....Prayers and HUGS from across the miles.....Safe Travels, Strength, comfort and wisdom as you all tread the new path.....Love Rhonda Beal Cox

**Rhonda Beal Cox** - November 08, 2017 at 10:38 AM

---



“ When you were with Janie a feeling of happiness flowed to all around her. Prayers for Janie, Bob and family. Jack and Mary Cherie Smith



**Jack and Mary Cherie Smith** - November 07, 2017 at 09:17 PM

---



“ So sweet to me every time I'd see her. When I entered the room at Frank's Restaurant where she and her family would be having lunch, she would say "Yes I know you. Come here and give me a kiss!" Her smile and her attitude was always so frisky and sweet to me. Rest In Peace, Aunt Janie. From Artie Brunson

**Artie Brunson** - November 07, 2017 at 08:51 PM



“ Like Artie, I can still see her sitting with the family at Frank's. Always that big smile greeted us and she had a way to make everyone around her feel happy too! Rest In Peace Aunt Janie.... your struggles here are done. Bonnie and LaMoyne Brunson

**Bonnie Brunson** - November 08, 2017 at 10:00 AM

---



“ Gina Castellana lit a candle in memory of Janie C. Olsen



**Gina Castellana** - November 07, 2017 at 08:15 PM