



Joan Marie Cannella

November 24, 1935 - January 14, 2026

Joan Marie Cannella (née Loverde) Joan Marie Cannella passed away peacefully at home on Wednesday, January 14, 2026, at the age of 90. She was born on November 24, 1935, in Chicago to Josephine (DeRose) and Paul Loverde. Joan attended Tuley High School and was a proud member of the Class of 1954. Joan was preceded in death by her parents, Paul and Josephine Loverde; her beloved husband of nearly 60 years, Frank Cannella; and her sister, Rosemarie Errera. She is survived by her children: Frank Cannella Jr. (Susan), Pamela Cannella Treacy (Jim Jameson), Joseph Cannella (Lisa), and Paul Cannella; her grandchildren, Tricia Horab (Jeremy), Luke Treacy (Kaycee), Katherine Treacy, Ivy Rusch (Will), Liliana Cannella, and Jack Cannella; her great-grandchildren, Daven Williamson (Kaylee), Kylee Treacy, and Leah Joan Treacy; and her great-great-grandchildren, Westyn Williamson and Alina Williamson. She is also survived by her sister, Jacqueline Loverde, as well as many nieces, nephews, cousins, and dear friends. She met her future husband, Frank, while working as a secretary at Motorola. They were married in 1955, beginning a lifelong partnership that set a benchmark for devotion, stability, and love. Together, through hard work and sacrifice, they ensured their four children could attend college and graduate without the burden of debt—a gift that shaped generations. After the birth of her first child, Joan devoted herself fully to raising her family. Later, she returned to work part-time in the grocery industry, where her strong work ethic and natural leadership quickly led her to become a deli manager at

Dominick's. She ultimately retired from her role as office manager at Case Construction Equipment, where the general manager famously remarked that Joan truly "ran the business." Joan ignited her family's love of travel. From organizing road trips when her children were young to continuing adventures well into her later years, she believed in seeing the world together. Before Joan and Frank had children, they often travelled with other family members including Frank's brother Dominick and his family to Miami, Wisconsin and Springfield. Family trips with Frank and the children included destinations of Colorado, Florida, Wisconsin Dells, the Ozarks and California. She also traveled to Italy with her husband, sister Rosemarie and brother-in-law Jim. She cherished time at the family lake house in Wisconsin, their home in Florida, fall drives to Minnesota with Paul to visit Joe and his family, and annual winter and spring drives to Florida with a stop at Pamela's home. Joan's home was often the heart of extended family gatherings, especially during the holidays. Her kitchen was legendary—filled with Italian dishes, including her famous manicotti, calzone, red gravy with meatballs, homemade sausage and braciola, frazzoles, pizzelles, and lamb shaped poundcakes for Easter, all made with love. Joan loved celebrating life's moments and rarely missed a chance to come together with family and friends. She delighted in Cousins Club gatherings, weddings, showers, and birthdays.

For Joe's 50th birthday party, Joan embarked on a road trip with her sister Jackie, niece Bianca, and her kids —where she gleefully hid in the pantry and jumped out to surprise him. A lifelong volunteer, Joan supported Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts as a troop leader and later as a regionwide volunteer. She also enjoyed her volunteer landscape gardening while living at Cambridge on the Lake. Joan spent her later years at Brookdale Independent Living and volunteered at Kenny's Closet to raise funds for Alzheimer's disease. She especially enjoyed playing Rummikub and Hand and Foot with her Brookdale friends and was always encouraging fellow residents to keep up with their weekly blood pressure checks. The years never slowed Joan's willingness to travel to see family. At age 87 Joan took her final road trip with grandchildren

Liliana and Jack, driving from Illinois to Georgia to visit Paul's cabin and spend time with all the grandchildren. Hopping on a plane at 89, she traveled to Frank's home to enjoy the ocean view from the deck, accompanied by Brian and Sandie Cannella. In November, Joan joyfully celebrated her 90th birthday surrounded by immediate family—and, of course, plenty of Italian food. The family was truly blessed to have her for 90 incredible years. Her legacy is one of family, hard work, generosity, adventure, and unforgettable memories. Live like Joan lived. Be kind, take the trip, eat the cake, and cherish each day as a gift—because each day is a gift, including this one. Visitation will be held Wednesday, January 21, from 3:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Carbonara Funeral Home, 1515 N. 25th Ave., Melrose Park, Illinois. A chapel service will be held Thursday, January 22, at 11:00 a.m. at Carbonara Funeral Home, followed by a procession to Saint Joseph Cemetery for entombment.

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN **21**. 3:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Carbonara Funeral Home
1515 N 25th Ave
Melrose Park, IL 60160
(708) 343-6161
<https://carbonarafuneraldirectors.com/>

Tribute Wall

CM

“ We honor the life and legacy of Joan, a woman whose quiet strength, warmth, and unwavering love helped shape the family—and spirit—behind our company.

While many in our company may not have known Joan personally, her influence is unmistakable. The integrity, resilience, and humanity that define our founder did not happen by chance—they were nurtured by a woman who believed deeply in showing up for others and doing things the right way.

We extend our deepest condolences to her family during this time of loss. May they find comfort in the countless memories they shared, the lives she touched, and the enduring legacy she leaves behind.

Joan will be remembered not only for the life she lived, but for the love she gave—and that love continues.

*With sympathy and gratitude,
The Cannella Media Family*

Cannella Media - January 21 at 01:39 PM

RM

“ Rob M. planted a grove of 10 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Joan Marie Cannella.

Rob M. - January 21 at 01:34 PM

TG

“ Thinking of Joan and all of the fantastic times we had, in both Illinois and Florida, over many years as chosen family: Loud, chaotic holidays and celebrations, countless dinner parties full of good food and conversation, hours-long card games filled with laughter and smack-talk, trips to the casino, and that one Christmas Day no one felt like cooking and we all ended up at a Chinese buffet. We are so grateful for these cherished memories, and for having had Joan (and Frank) in our lives. Joan was quick to laugh and had a great sense of humor, was sharp and perceptive, and was so proud of her children and grandchildren. Joan, you will be greatly missed, but know you will stay in our hearts forever. Kiss Frank for us.

Sending all our love and support to the Cannella family.

Love always, Terry, Jackie, Donna, and Tricia (The Gehl family)

Tricia Gehl - January 21 at 11:53 AM

EG

“ Dear Paul and the Cannella family- please accept our sympathies. All our best wishes from Texas, Eric & Sarah Grob.

Eric Grob - January 20 at 09:37 PM

PC

Thank you Oaf and Sarah! We all appreciate it. With you.

Paul Cannella - January 22 at 08:17 AM

BM

“ Aunt Joan was a strong-willed, kind, loving and generous person who ran the household with precise organization. She was also a very proud mother and grandmother who often loved to talk about her family’s accomplishments, with much pride. I have many wonderful memories of my Aunt Joan, but the one that I cherish the most was the many times Tom and I would “pop-in” to their home after church. Aunt Joan & Uncle Frank’s warm hospitality would always welcome us and insist we stay for dinner! Not much persuasion there, Aunt Joan was an excellent cook and we always enjoyed her “tasty dishes” We talked for hours about memories of the past and current events along with lots of fun and laughter! Those times will always be special to me. The reality is that Aunt Joan has passed, but the teachings, lessons and values that she instilled in her family will live on forever, and I bet even some of her famous recipes too!! I will miss you dear Aunt, till we meet again.
Your loving niece, Barbara Marcuccilli

Barbara Marcuccilli - January 20 at 07:53 PM

LA

“ Love from The ELEMENT CREW - Atlanta! purchased the Loving Lilies and Roses Bouquet for the family of Joan Marie Cannella.



Love from The ELEMENT CREW - Atlanta! - January 20 at 06:19 PM

LA

“ Love from The ELEMENT CREW - Atlanta! planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Joan Marie Cannella.

Love from The ELEMENT CREW - Atlanta! - January 20 at 06:19 PM

GS

“ I met Joan and Frank in 1992 at Lisa and Joe’s wedding and was delighted that my daughter had married into a big family with a warm, feisty, loving matriarch. Joan and I shared three extraordinary grandchildren – Ivy, Lily, and Jack – and together celebrated important events in their lives as two proud grandmothers. Joan was kind, funny, and full of life. I will miss her presence in August at Lily and Jarred’s wedding. I send my deepest sympathy to Paul, Frankie and Susan, Joe and Lisa, Pam and Jim, and all of Joan’s beloved grandchildren. Joan was a great lady.

Gayle Swandby - January 19 at 03:54 PM

LF

“ Love, The Marcuccilli & Mills Families purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Joan Marie Cannella.



Love, The Marcuccilli & Mills Families - January 19 at 12:19 PM

BB

“ Bridget & Brian purchased the Days of Sunshine Bouquet for the family of Joan Marie Cannella.



Bridget & Brian - January 19 at 12:18 PM

PH

“ Patrick and Becca Herzberger purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Joan Marie Cannella.



Patrick and Becca Herzberger - January 19 at 10:36 AM

PH

“ Patrick and Becca Herzberger planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Joan Marie Cannella.

Patrick and Becca Herzberger - January 19 at 10:36 AM

SA

“ Stephanie and Albert purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Joan Marie Cannella.



Stephanie and Albert - January 19 at 07:00 AM

SA

“ Stephanie and Albert planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Joan Marie Cannella.

Stephanie and Albert - January 19 at 07:00 AM

NS

“ Nick Smay purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Joan Marie Cannella.



Nick Smay - January 18 at 07:11 PM



“ To My Nieces and Nephews I am Keeping You In my Thoughts and Prayers

Mom will Be Dearly Missed. She Was the Best you could of Ever asked for

Cherish all the Wonderful Memories as So Will I Love you All ❤️ ☐☐

☐

Love My Dear Sister you Can Fly High Now with Your Dear Husband ☐☐

Jacqueline Loverde - January 18 at 06:07 PM