



## Mrs. Carmen M. Passalugo

July 7, 1920 - December 23, 2011

Carmen M. Passalugo of Cortland, passed away, Friday, December 23, 2011 at Cortland Regional Rehabilitation and Nursing Facility at the age of 91. Born, July 7, 1920 in Alexandria Ontario, Canada, Carm was the daughter of Archie and Corinne Rouleau Danis.

Carm and her late husband, Nicholas who preceded her in death in 2001., were the proprietors of the Hiawatha Inn in Truxton, from 1956 until 1985 when they retired and returned to Cortland. Carm was a communicant of St. Anthony of Padua Roman Catholic Church and a member of their Altar Society and the Stella D'Oro Lodge. Carm's greatest enjoyment came from helping others, whether it was family or friends she was always there to lend a helping hand. She devoted herself to her church and served in many capacities, including being a greeter or preparing the kitchen for funeral luncheons, Carm was always there to do what was needed, always with a smile on her face and kind words from her mouth, Carm was a blessing to all who knew her.

She is survived by a son, Paul (Nancy) Passalugo of Cleburne, Texas and two daughters, Denise (Randy) Amidon of Syracuse and Michelle (Joseph) Hale of Cortland, five grandchildren, Greg and Rachael Hale and Lisa, Amy and Nicholas Passalugo. In addition to her husband, Carm was preceded in death by a grandson Matthew Hale and sisters, Pierrette Dean and Annette

Atkinson.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Thursday at 11 a.m. in St. Anthony of Padua Roman Catholic Church with Rev. Lucian Urbaniak serving as celebrant. Prayers of committal will follow in St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery. In keeping with her wishes, there will be no calling hours. Contributions in her memory may be made to St. Anthony of Padua Roman Catholic Church 59 N. Main St., Cortland, N.Y. 13045 or Misty Glen Unit at Cortland Regional Rehabilitation and Nursing Facility 134 Homer Ave., Cortland, N.Y. 13045. Arrangements are under the direction of Riccardi Funeral Home 69 N. Main St., Cortland, N.Y. Condolences may be sent to the family by visiting us at [www.riccardifuneralhome.com](http://www.riccardifuneralhome.com)

# Tribute Wall

EP

“ Aunt Carmen will all ways be in my heart. I can still hear her unique laugh when you needed a little lift. The Hiawatha was a place where we would visit on Sunday and Aunt Carmen would make us a ham sandwich. Her famous saying when it was to noisy was. Hark Your Noise. This was never in a angry way but it was unique and it worked. Aunt Carmen was all ways hard at work in the kitchen fixing great meals. Hunting season we would stop in for a hot bowl of chili to get the cold out of our body. Great deer hunting at the Hiawatha Hilton...We will miss her like Uncle Nick, hard workers and great parents. God be with you as I know he is now! Keep the laughter going and Jesus will be blessed with your presents. Jeanne will miss speaking to you on the phone but I know someway she is still in contact with you..Love You -Ed

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**Ed Passalugo** - May 18, 2018 at 11:30 AM

NF

“ i am so sorry for your loss.your family is in my thoughts and prayers. carmen was a remarkable woman, she will be dearly missed

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**Nancy Funk** - May 18, 2018 at 11:30 AM

RA

“ My grandma was such an intelligent, unique, kind hearted person. She would never pass a judgment, and when something was wrong she was the first one I would go to. She always had a kind thing to say, and some words of wisdom. Even when she knew I was in the wrong, she still understood everything from my point of view. She was an angel on earth, anyone who had the privilege of knowing her is a better person because of my grandma. I love her so much.

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**Rachael** - May 18, 2018 at 11:30 AM

DW

“ Our sympathies to all of you. We have many memories of Carm and Nick at the Hiawatha so many years ago. They were wonderful people.

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**don and sue white** - May 18, 2018 at 11:30 AM

LI

“ Growing up, I always enjoyed our roadtrips to Grandma's house in the summer. She and I were able to celebrate our birthdays together, since we were both born in July. She even had one of her church friends make a Barbie birthday cake for me on my 6th birthday, complete with an actual Barbie! Sharing my birthday month with her over the years has been precious. This upcoming July won't be the same without her.

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**Lisa** - May 18, 2018 at 11:30 AM

NP

“ Grandma was always such a joy to be around. She could brighten up a room with her smile. One summer, we took her back to her home town in Canada. She was so excited as she showed us her childhood home and school and introduced us to some of her family and friends still living in the area. This was also the first time I ever heard her speak French. She spoke French so beautifully, and my sisters and I had a lot of fun when Grandma took it upon herself to teach her Texan grandchildren a few French words. After all, we were part French-Canadian as well.

*I will miss her, but I know she is resting peacefully with Jesus. I will never forget the wonderful times we shared together and look forward to seeing her again.*

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**Nick Passalugo** - May 18, 2018 at 11:30 AM

OS

“ Our sympathy in the passing of your wonderful mother and grandmother. We feel fortunate to have known her at St. Anthony's and will miss her.

Our love,  
Carl & Olga Savino

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**Olga Savino** - May 18, 2018 at 11:30 AM

AM

“ As we worked together in the kitchen making Pizzelles, Grandma and I were not simply family, but rather close friends. While others looked on and saw us hard at work, Grandma and I spent the time in laughter and happiness. That is the woman my Grandma was, and will forever be a fun, kind, loving woman. Though she left me with her secret recipe for Pizzelles, she left me so much more. She left me with an understanding of what it is to be a truly benevolent, beautiful woman.

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**Amy** - May 18, 2018 at 11:30 AM

“ This was read at the memorial mass: I would like to thank everyone for attending this memorial service for my mom, Carmen Marie Danis Passalugo. Mom lived 91 plus years and touched the hearts of many that knew her. Standing at an impressive height of 4 feet 11 inches, she could command a kitchen and comfort a friend. She was the rock of our family, little but mighty. Just a little background, Mom was born in Canada and proud of it. No one spoke French as beautifully as she did, or was more proud of her heritage. My sisters and I grew up with an Italian last name but also proud of our Canadian heritage as well. My mom was a devout Catholic attending convent schooling and even having the opportunity to shake the hand of a local brother who would become Saint Andre Besset. Mom was extremely proud of that and he was Canadian! My mom immigrated to the US with her family shortly before World War II. Most of you that know her, are aware of her gift with music. She sang and played the piano like an angel, not that I was partial. Her gift was such that a scholarship was offered to her to attend Syracuse University for music. But times were tough, and she stayed in Truxton. During this time, she met my dad at a USO dance. Dad swept her off her feet as he sang in her ear off-key, as she liked to say. They had a war-time romance that carried through a lifetime. The Hiawatha Inn will always be a place I cherish for my memories with my parents and sisters growing up in Truxton. My dad came back with honors from the war. But my mom's badge of honor came later with my father's Alzheimer's. In the early 1980's, there were few treatments and no medicine for Alzheimer's. But Mom never wavered. She stuck by Dad and helped us cope with his debilitating illness. She also helped keep his memory alive with her grandkids by telling funny stories about Pappa like his stint as a volunteer fireman. My dad's doctors were amazed that Mom kept a daily journal detailing his traits, medicines, episodes, etc, in short-hand no less. No one was more faithful or patient as my dad's personality and memory was lost to the disease. She even played the piano at the nursing home, as it calmed my dad during his confused spells. She cared for him, solely for 13 years, as he deteriorated to such a degree that he didn't know any of us children

*or even his own name. However, he always looked for Mom, even towards the end when he was in the nursing home. If Mom was not there, he used to ask the nurses To go home. To him, sick as he was, my mom was home. After his passing, she continued to play the piano for the hospital residents until her own health interfered. As I look back on her life, I believe three words that best describe her legacy to us are: faith, family, and friends. Thank you for coming today to celebrate her life.*

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**Paul Passalugo** - May 18, 2018 at 11:30 AM

JV

“ *I met Carmen in the winter of 1990, and ever since then, she has been like a mother who prays for me and others! I looked forward to seeing her every time she'd visit Paul and Nancy in Cleburne. She shared & lived her faith. She taught me about Blessed now St. Andre Bessette of Montreal, and so it was even more meaningful when I visited his St. Joseph Oratory during World Youth Day Toronto 2002.*

*Carmen sent me precious pictures of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary, and they are prominent above the fireplace in our living room.*

*The point is, even though she lived in New York, her faith touched us here in Cleburne, Texas, and I think of her every time I pray before Jesus and Mary.*

*We praise and thank for her life, and for the gift of friends like her son Paul and Nancy, who are also our neighbors!*

*Carmen Passalugo, pray for us!*

*Joel & Elizabeth Victory, Cleburne, Texas*

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**Joel and Elizabeth Victory** - May 18, 2018 at 11:30 AM