



Catherine "Joan" Gagliardi

September 16, 1937 - October 3, 2017

Catherine "Joan" Distin Gagliardi, 80, of New Britain, passed away Tuesday (October 3, 2017) at the Hospital of Central Connecticut. Joan was predeceased by her husband Louis O. Gagliardi. A lifelong New Britain resident, she attended St Mary's school, Mount Saint Joseph Academy, and was a graduate of New Britain High School, class of 1955. Following high school, Joan studied dance in New York City at the Jack Stanly School of Dance. She performed in many dance productions and had been fortunate to have danced with Gene Kelly, Merv Griffin, and the Step Sisters. She made the final selection for the New York City Rockettes, however opted to return to New Britain and open her own school. Joan was the owner/artistic director of Distin's Dancing School and later was the Director of the NB YWCA dance program until the early 80's. Joan's dance career never ended, teaching for over 60 years. She was preparing to teach a 12th season for Velocity Dance Works, her daughter's dance school in Wolcott, where she had proudly taught since its opening.

Joan also worked for the City of New Britain Finance Department for several years until her retirement in 2005. Her many activities included working with her good friends on the Miss Greater New Britain Scholarship Pageant Committee.

She was a dedicated and loving mother. Always supportive of her daughter's

dance career and of her son's coaching career in football, calling him on every game day to wish the team well. She was a loving grandmother, always supporting her "munchkins" in everything they did.

Surviving is her daughter C. Kelly Gagliardi-Diequez and her husband Alberto Diequez of New Britain; her son Louis "Rocky" Gagliardi and his wife Christine (Marinelli) of New Britain; her grandchildren (her "munchkins"), Cooper, Ty, and Jordan; a sister-in law Barbara Distin of Wethersfield, a sister-in-law Sue Mazzoni and her husband Lou of New Britain; several nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by a brother Gordon R. Distin II.

Funeral Services are Saturday 8:30 to 9:30 AM at Carlson Funeral Home, 45 Franklin Square, New Britain, followed by a Mass of Christian Burial 10 AM at St. Maurice Church, 100 Wightman Road, New Britain. Burial will be in St. Mary Cemetery. Calling hours are Friday 4 to 7 PM at the funeral home. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Joan Distin Gagliardi Scholarship Fund (for dance education) C/O Kelly Gagliardi Diequez, PO Box 1552, New Britain, CT 06050. Please share a memory or note of sympathy at www.carlsonfuneralhome.com

Cemetery Details

St. Mary Cemetery

1141 Stanley Street
New Britain, CT 06053

Previous Events

Calling Hours

OCT 6. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Carlson Funeral Home
45 Franklin Square
New Britain, CT 06051
(860) 225-6361
carlsonfh@aol.com
<https://www.carlsonfuneralhome.com/>

Calling Hours

OCT 7. 8:30 AM - 9:30 AM (ET)

Carlson Funeral Home
45 Franklin Square
New Britain, CT 06051
(860) 225-6361
carlsonfh@aol.com
<https://www.carlsonfuneralhome.com/>

Mass of Christian Burial

OCT 7. 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Maurice Church
100 Wightman Rd.
New Britain, CT

Tribute Wall

JO

“ So very sorry for the loss of "Miss Joan". It was indeed a shock. Sorry I missed the funeral; just got home tonight. Deepest Condolences, Rocky and Kelly. She will be missed greatly. Love, Joanne

Joanne - October 07, 2017 at 09:27 PM

TJ

“ So very, very sorry for your loss, you have all been in our prayers. May she continue to dance in heaven.... Terry and Russ Johnson, Vermont

Terry Johnson - October 06, 2017 at 06:30 PM

CB

“ Sending love and prayers to your family. Your mom was a loving and generous woman who enriched all of our lives. We will miss her.

*Kevin and Chris Bruemmer
Southington, CT*

Christine bruemmer - October 05, 2017 at 09:04 PM

RB

“ My condolences and prayers to Kelly and Rocky. Your mom was always delightful to be around and always treated me like one of the family.

*Ron Beatty
Omaha, NE*

Ron Beatty - October 05, 2017 at 01:45 PM

AP

“ We are so sorry to hear of the passing of "Mama" Joan. She was so supportive of all we did and was forever making sure all was well with us; so unselfish and caring! She adored her family, speaking of them with love and pride. Please accept our sincere condolences. Joan will remain in our hearts with fond memories. RIP Joannie and dance you way to the stars!

*Arlene & Dan Palmer
Burlington, Ct*

Arlene Palmer - October 05, 2017 at 11:50 AM

RP

“ I am so sorry to hear this sad news. My thoughts and prayers are with you. Love to Kelly, Alberto, Rocky & Christine.

Robin Pizzuto - October 05, 2017 at 07:42 AM

TL

“ Joan was class and strength personified. She was amazing and will be hugely missed.
Hugs, Love, and Prayers!

Toni-Lynn

TLMiles - October 03, 2017 at 10:05 PM