



## Nellie A. Agostino

March 7, 2017

Nellie A. Agostino, 89, a longtime resident of West Hartford, passed away into the arms of the Lord Tuesday at St. Mary Home, after a long battle with Parkinson's Disease. Nellie was born in Hartford to Paul and Lucy (Uccello) Agostino, she was a graduate of Weaver High in 1945, received a B.A. from St. Joseph College in 1949, and would be awarded her M.A. in Education from Trinity in Hartford in 1952, then a second M.A. in Latin Literature and Classical Civilization in 1966. Nellie taught at East Hartford High School from 1950-1984. During her tenure there she taught four years of Latin including AP Latin, four years of Italian, four years of Spanish, English, Algebra and Civics; she was coordinator of the Advanced Placement and Cooperative courses in conjunction with the University of Connecticut; she taught English as a second language in the community program at St. Joseph College; she was a team teacher of an Advanced Placement for junior and senior East Hartford High School students entitled Comparative Literature a course devised by the English Dept. Chairman and Nellie as the Chairwoman of the Foreign Language Department. During her long teaching career, she held many offices. General Chairman of the State Junior Classical Language and organization of 2000 students interested in the promotion of Latin and Greek; advisor to the "Pilot" which was the high school newspaper, Publicity Chairman for all High School releases; advisor to the Class of 1955 of EHHS; East Hartford Education Association Secretary; Connecticut Italian Teachers' VP, Connecticut Language Teachers Secretary, Delta Kappa Gamma secretary and Co-Publicity Chairwoman, St. Joseph College Alumnae, Hartford Chapter Publicity Chairwoman, member of editorial staff of the St. Joseph College booklet entitled Founding Sisters; President St. Joseph College Alumnae Association 1978-1982; wrote a Procedures manual, initiated a committee to write the alumnae section of the history of St. Joseph College for the fiftieth anniversary; set up legislative Committee to keep abreast of current legislation and along with the third vice-president has been instrumental in incorporating the alumnae news in the college publication "Outlook"; she reactivated participation on the council and served as a member of the Board of Trustees. This would lead St. Joseph College to awarded her a Distinguished Alumna Award in 1983. She served as a reader, Eucharistic Minister, and sacristan at the Church of St. Timothy, and would receive a Maximas Gratias Award for her work at the Church. She is survived by

her brother Sam S. Agostino and his wife Barbara (Mastrandrea), two nephews Paul F. and his wife Angela Agostino, and Thomas J. Agostino, and a niece Ann Marie Agostino Schumsky; as well as many grandnieces, nephews, great grandnieces and nephews. Funeral services will be Friday, departing the funeral home at 10:30 a.m. with the Celebration of her Mass of Christian Burial at 11:00 a.m. in the Church of St. Timothy, 1116 N. Main St. West Hartford. Burial will follow in Mt. St. Benedict Cemetery, Bloomfield. Friends and family may call Thursday, from 4-7 p.m. at Molloy Funeral Home, 906 Farmington Ave. West Hartford, CT. In Lieu of Flowers donations in her memory may be made to the Church of St. Timothy, 1116 N. Main St. West Hartford, CT 06117, or University of St. Joseph, 1678 Asylum Ave. West Hartford, CT 06117

# Cemetery

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## Mt. St. Benedict Cemetery

1 Cottage Grove Rd.  
Bloomfield, CT,

# Events

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**MAR** **Calling Hours** 04:00PM - 07:00PM

**9**

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Molloy Funeral Home

906 Farmington Avenue, West Hartford, CT, US,  
06119

**MAR** **Mass of Christian Burial** 11:00AM

**10**

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Church of St. Timothy

1116 North Main St, West Hartford, CT, US

# Comments

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“ Legions were guided, some kicking and screaming in silence, to language by this most dedicated magistra, Nellie Agostino. Both teacher and advisor, she set the bar high in her classroom. Those willing to dedicate themselves to the hard work of learning were rewarded and encouraged. Although Latin and Italian are no longer taught at EHHS, for some of us, lifelong memories remain - even for those of us who barely made it through first year Latin. All knew how close she was to her cousin, Hartford's first female mayor, Ann Uccello. Later on in life we may have learned of the trailblazing steps it must have been to embrace education, and learning, as an Italian American woman, devoted to her church, her alma mater and making our society better as a result. Like the stone monuments in Canicattini Bagni, Nelli's life was itself a tribute to education, communication, language, poetry and, of course, religion. Better students than I should not hesitate to offer a far better praise than this, done with a reluctant reliance on website translation: "Magna luminaria sunt non extinguuntur." Hers is a great light which is never extinguished.

**Bill Doak** - March 22, 2017 at 08:34 PM

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“ We were freshmen at East Hartford High just after Nellie came to begin her teaching career; an inspiration to the many, many students she influenced over the years with her dedication and knowledge. We grew to appreciate her wisdom more and more as we continued on past graduation into our later education and careers. Both of us continue to be enriched through that never-failing commitment to all she nurtured at that most important time in our lives. She was an outstanding educator and an unforgettable person.  
Rita (Donovan - Pilot Editor 1955) & Don Vigneau  
EHHS Class of 1956

**Don & Rita Vigneau** - March 10, 2017 at 09:18 AM

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“ A wonderful friend for many many years - so sorry to hear of her passing. My heart goes out to the family. RIP Nellie.  
Jean Lombardo Zito

**Jean Lombardo Zito** - March 09, 2017 at 11:52 AM

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“ Tom, T. Jay, & Brad Agostino purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Nellie A. Agostino.



**Tom, T. Jay, & Brad Agostino** - March 07, 2017 at 04:46 PM