



## Rosemary DiCorleto Zendan

February 14, 2016

Rosemary DiCorleto Zendan, 73, of Hartford, entered heaven on Valentine's Day 2016 after a courageous battle with cancer. Rosemary was part of an extended DiCorleto family that has given so much to the city of Hartford and the State of Connecticut—including a foreman on the original construction of the State Library and Supreme Court, an investor and developer of affordable inner-city property, a superior court clerk, a superintendent of elementary education, a finance director of a neighboring town, a general in the Army reserves, and a skilled engineering professional at a storied Connecticut manufacturer. Rosemary would follow her own path of service, educating multiple generations in the City of Hartford over almost 40 years. Education was the cornerstone of her life starting at Bloomfield High and as a graduate of the University of Hartford. The University of Hartford was a special place for Rosemary where she met her future husband of 52 years Michael ("Big Mike") and where their son Michael II attended her undergraduate convocation as a toddler in 1964. Their son Christopher soon joined the festivities and was able to attend Rosemary's Masters of Education ceremony in 1968. Rosemary's teaching career included decades at West Middle School and the Noah Webster School. She would take special pride in all her students, especially those students who would return to her years later to entrust their own children to her nurturing care. A curator of lasting friendships, Rosemary cherished relationships where she could lend her feisty spirit, her careful ear, her infectious laugh, and her twinkling eye. She was first to volunteer to help a

family member or friend in need, and if she had a fault, it was putting others before herself—but what a noble and generous fault. Family was always first. The daughter of Nick and Mary DiCorleto, Rosemary is survived by her three brothers, Francis (her twin and his three children Kim, Beth, and Matthew), Nicholas, and Anthony and their loving spouses. As a young mother still in college, Rosemary sacrificed much to enable Michael II and Christopher to grow-up knowing the powerful love of their extended family. She lived to see her boys marry strong and accomplished women in Michael II's JoAnn and Christopher's Jackie and cherished her granddaughter Gabrielle and her identical twin grandsons Andrew and Michael III. In later life, Rosemary's love continued to know no bounds, and friends of her and Big Mike became part of an ever growing "adopted" family that crossed generational, gender, ethnicity, cultural, personal orientation, and racial lines. She drew strength from this extended family as much as she leant her strength. Despite her diminutive size, Rosemary was a giant spirit who left her lasting mark on lives and her world with love, generosity, kindness, and compassion. Visitation at Molloy Funeral Home, 906 Farmington Ave., West Hartford will begin at 2 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 20, followed by a non-denominational service at 3 p.m. A Celebration of Rosemary's Life is being planned for the spring with opportunities to gather in brighter spirits, share stories of her impact, and enjoy her favorite foods. While Rosemary loved beautiful flowers, she would be pleased with a donation to the College of Education, Nursing, and Health Professions; c/o University of Hartford, Office of Institutional Advancement, 200 Bloomfield Avenue, West Hartford, CT 06117; and/or The American Cancer Society at 1-800-227-2345 or via the web at [www.cancer.org](http://www.cancer.org). She also would be overjoyed simply with a gift of a book to a youngster and some quality time spent reading together. Online expressions of sympathy may be made at [www.molloyfuneralhome.com](http://www.molloyfuneralhome.com)

Rosemary D. Zendan (nee DiCorleto), 73, of Hartford, freed herself from the terrible confines of cancer and passed away comfortably Feb. 14, 2016, at the

Medical Surgical Intensive Care Unit of St. Francis Hospital. She was surrounded by family and the loving prayers and wishes of so many friends. More recently known as “Grandmary” to three adored grandchildren, she began as “the sister” to three Italian brothers including her twin. From her childhood in Bloomfield, she followed the exceptional path of her aunt completing higher education at the University of Hartford and graduating more than fifty years ago with a husband Michael, a son Michael II, and a son Christopher on the way! A Master’s Degree in primary education immediately followed. As an elementary school teacher in Hartford for some four decades, she inspired, cared, nourished, and noticed the special gifts in hundreds of children. When not in the classroom, tutoring, or supporting the needs of colleagues and children through the Teachers Union, she enjoyed films, museums, Broadway shows, and international foods like pierogi, dim sum, and “lobsta.” Her city escapes were New York and Boston while her summer retreat was frequently Old Colony Beach. Her passions were holidays and shopping – but very rarely for herself. She loved nothing more than finding that perfect gift or must-have for someone dear that perfectly coalesced insight, thoughtfulness, and humor. With a driver’s license for identification only, she often relied on her feet, public bus, and the benevolent transportation of an ever expanding circle of friends. With those friends, she formed strong bonds and sisterhoods; learned to play a mean hand of Mexican Train; and shared the joys and sorrows of a full life. In the last decade, she contributed much of her time and talent to The Parish of the Divine where she volunteered as a lay deacon during weekly services; was a big part of church outreach; helped in the kitchen as the “Kitchen Bishop;” and, sought every opportunity to interact with children. Throughout her efforts and actions, and work and musings, she was at her core a teacher. Few could have stared her difficult diagnosis in the face and summoned the courage to fight with the grace and spirit she exemplified; it was a lesson to us all. Those who will miss her generous heart, her contagious laugh, and her indomitable

panache, include: her husband Michael; her sons Michael F. Zendan II and his wife JoAnn of Charlotte, N.C., and Christopher N. Zendan and his wife Jacqueline of Madison, Conn.; her grandchildren Gabrielle, Andrew and Michael III; her brothers Nicholas J. DiCorleto of Old Lyme, Conn., Anthony DiCorleto and his wife Carol of Madison, Conn., and Francis DiCorleto and his wife Paula of Enfield, Conn.; the plentiful cousins, nieces, and nephews of the DiCorleto and Mobilia families; and, the extensive sphere of extended family and friends who held Rosemary so dear.

# Previous Events

## Calling Hours

FEB **20**. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

Molloy Funeral Home  
906 Farmington Ave  
West Hartford, CT 06119  
(860) 232-1322

## Mem'l Celebration

FEB **20**. 3:00 PM (ET)

Molloy Funeral Home  
906 Farmington Ave  
West Hartford, CT 06119  
(860) 232-1322

# Tribute Wall

JM

“ *Dear Mike and family*

*Rosemary was a special cousin and a constant ray of joy and kindness. Growing up nearby in Bloomfield and at Old Colony Beach leaves so many wonderful memories. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.*

*Jim and Nancy Montano*

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**Jim Montano** - February 27, 2016 at 11:34 AM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Rosemary DiCorleto Zendan.*



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February 23, 2016 at 06:11 PM

FA

“ *To Mr. Michael Zendan, Children, & Grandchildren,  
To that Beautiful Family, please accept our heartfelt and deepest condolences for the very sad death of our Dearest Rosemary. She was a light in our path, one that will always be in our hearts, thoughts, and prayers. Believe that we will miss her life forever.  
With love from Fifi & Domingo Astiasaran & Family*



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**Fifi & Domingo Astiasaran** - February 22, 2016 at 06:53 PM

XS

“ Dear Mike and Zendan family,  
We will remember Rosemary's lively sense of humor and will forever be grateful for the friendship, comfort, and support she always provided to us. You both were always present for our birthdays, graduations, and milestones. Thank you for your constant support. We will miss Rosemary dearly. Mike, we love you!  
Love, Xiara, Alex, FJ, and Vincent Correa

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**Xiara Correa Stringer** - February 21, 2016 at 04:10 PM

RK

“ Dear Mike and family,  
  
A colleague at the College said yesterday, "My heart is broken." That sums it up. Rosemary was such a beautiful, intelligent, dedicated, caring, colorful and feisty woman! We are all the better for knowing Rosemary. And how Rosemary adored children! My sincere condolences to family and friends.

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**Ruth S. Krems** - February 20, 2016 at 12:12 PM

CA

“ Nicholas, in reading these many tributes to your sister, Rosemary, it is clear that she was a wonderful woman and an inspiration to many- a beautiful person, full of love and giving of herself. She will be missed very much by all who knew her. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family today. Peace and comfort to you, Nick.  
Carol and Allan

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**Carol and Allan** - February 20, 2016 at 12:11 PM

MR

“ *Mr. Zendan, Michael, and Chris*  
*I am so sorry to hear the passing of Rosemary or while growing up my second mom. Growing up on Ardmore Road with you brings back so many memories and so many laughs. From setting up your Christmas tree , playing in your front yard, and all the fun we had at the beach. Rose and Big Mike always made me feel like one of the family. She brought so much joy and love to so many people. My thoughts and prayers are with you all.*  
*Marc Reno*

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**marc reno** - February 20, 2016 at 10:28 AM

CR

“ *Big Mike, Michael and Chris,*  
*We are so sorry to hear about Rosemary. We have been friends since we all grew up on Ardmore Rd. She was loved and will be missed.*  
*Much love, Sybil, Lauren, Caryn and Marc Reno*

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**Caryn Reno** - February 20, 2016 at 10:04 AM

JP

“ *rose you were an amazing person with a beautiful heart my condolences goes to your family from mines God has gained an angel in heaven you will forever be in our hearts wish you could've seen my daughter the gift was beautiful I really appreciate it and you will be greatly missed until we meet again love Jennifer Brandon and family from meriden ct*

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**Jennifer pagan** - February 20, 2016 at 09:28 AM

ER

“ *ENEIDA RODRIGUEZ lit a candle in memory of Rosemary DiCorleto Zendan*



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**ENEIDA RODRIGUEZ** - February 20, 2016 at 08:09 AM

ER

*My condolences to my friend family. she was a Beautiful Lady .friendly some one special to me and y daughter & granddaughter. Jeanette & jayla. god bless my friend Rosemary. ❤️❤️❤️*

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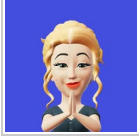
**ENEIDA RODRIGUEZ** - February 20, 2016 at 08:14 AM

JJ

“ *My life has totally changed since God decided to bring you to heaven... We were so bless to have you in our life. I constantly told you how much we love you and how grateful I was for everything you have done for us. Since the birth of jayla, you have always been there. Helping me with her upbringing. I am so happy to have tons of pictures, videos, stories of us... We will always miss you. Rose, you will 4ever be in our heart. It's so hard for me to cope with your departure. But I know, I just gained another guardian angel.. Love Jayla (DIT) and Jeanette.*

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**jeanette & jayla** - February 20, 2016 at 07:33 AM



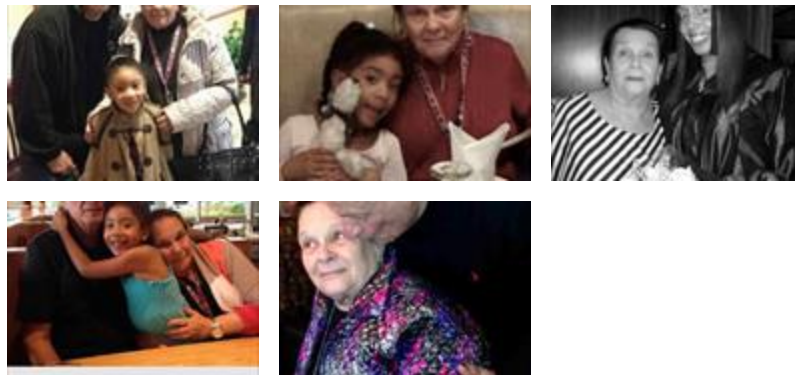
“ For the brife moment in time that we are here, we are touched by people in our lives.  
For one person...Rosemary, to have touched so very many people both young and old with knowledge, kindness, laughter, love and so much more, is a miraculous accomplishment to be cherished. To say she will be missed is an understatement. She will be remembered in so many small and hugh ways by all of us that she's touched.  
She was a luminous star brightening all the lives around her.  
Rosemary, thank you for being my friend....my cousin, for being by my side every day during the scariest time of my life, lending me your shoulder to cry on , your voice of encouragement ...you helped me though and I will forever be grateful.  
Deborah

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Deva Childs - February 20, 2016 at 12:08 AM



“ 10 files added to the tribute wall

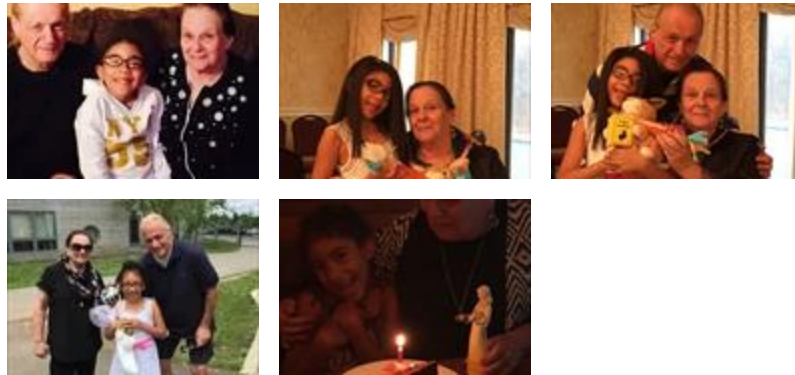


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jeanette & jayla - February 19, 2016 at 11:21 PM

JJ

“ 7 files added to the tribute wall



jeanette & jayla - February 19, 2016 at 10:42 PM

JJ

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



jeanette & jayla - February 19, 2016 at 10:37 PM

JJ

“ Jeanette & Jayla lit a candle in memory of Rosemary DiCorleto Zendan



jeanette & jayla - February 19, 2016 at 10:36 PM

JJ

*My life has totally changed since God decided to bring you to heaven... We were so bless to have you in our life. I constantly told you how much we love you and how grateful I was for everything you have done for us. Since the birth of jayla, you have always been there. Helping me with her upbringing. I am so happy to have tons of pictures, videos, stories of us... We will always miss you. Rose, you will 4ever be in our heart. It's so hard for me to cope with your departure. But I know, I just gained another guardian angel.. Love Jayla (DIT) and Jeanette.*

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**jeanette & jayla** - February 19, 2016 at 10:55 PM

JA

“*Rosemary was such a CARING and LOVELY educator, sister, aunt, wife, mother and grandmother. Memories of her come flooding back at this time, reminding us of what a loving, giving person she was. She brought joy to so many in her world! It was a pleasure knowing her because she was an amazing person. Remember, God is the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort. We will miss her and May her soul rest in perfect peace.*

*Jare & Foye Adeyemo.*

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**Jare Adeyemo** - February 19, 2016 at 07:36 PM

JJ

“*Mrs. Zendan was a gift to all who knew her. She unselfishly dedicated her life to make the lives of others better. In the process, she touched so many people. She will live on in the hearts and memories of those who she touched, and those who she touched will strive to improve the lives of those who they love. Thank you, Rosemary Zendan. The world is a better place because of you!*

*Tina and Joe Jaconetta and Family*

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**Joe Jaconetta** - February 19, 2016 at 03:23 PM

JG

“ *Dear Zendan Family  
We are so sorry to hear about the passing of Rosemary. She was a bright light and wonderful wife, mother, grandmother and friend and she told me! We will all miss her smile and warmth. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all during these difficult days.*  
*Norma & John Green*

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**John Green** - February 19, 2016 at 02:35 PM

FW

“ *Our deepest condolences to your family in the loss of such a beautiful sole. Her spirit will last forever in our heart . The Wiggins Family*

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**Frances Wiggins** - February 19, 2016 at 01:30 PM

TG

“ *Sending condolences from the Gale Family. Mrs. Zendan was one of our daughters' 3rd grade teacher at Noah Webster. She always encouraged Callie's flair for life and dress! We hope all the beautiful memories you made as a family help softened her loss.*

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**Tracy Gale** - February 19, 2016 at 12:55 PM

LD

“ *My most sincere sympathy in the loss of Rosemary. Remembering her smile and great laugh.  
The (late) Thomas F. DiCorleto family.  
Linda, Kristen and Meghan*

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**linda DiCorleto** - February 19, 2016 at 12:25 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Rosemary DiCorleto Zendan.*



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February 19, 2016 at 12:12 PM



“ *Although we have not known Rosemary and Michael for very long, you have made an impact on our lives. May you, Rosemary, fly on the wings of the angels to our Lord. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all. Margaret and Norman Cavoli*

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**Margaret Cavoli** - February 19, 2016 at 09:55 AM



“ *Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to the Zendan family. You will all be in our thoughts and prayers.  
The Messana and Walker families*

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**Frank Messana** - February 19, 2016 at 08:40 AM



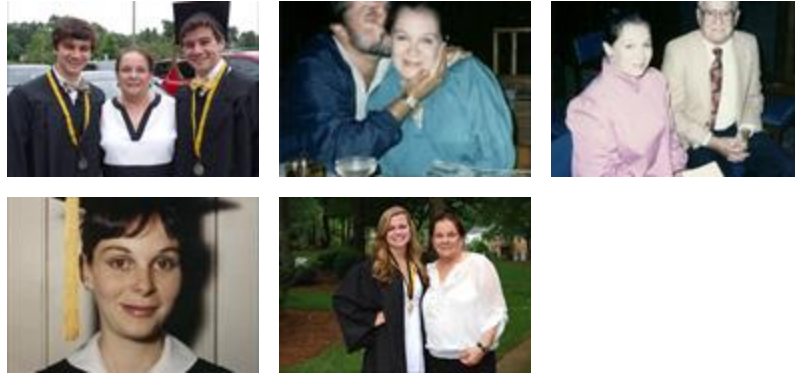
“ *You live on in the hearts of the children who had the pleasure of knowing you. You are loved by so many. I know that you have all ready started your work helping us who are still here on this earth. By crossing over does not mean your helping ways are over but they have just begun in a different way. Thank you Rosemary for all the help and friendship you so freely gave. I love you. J. G.*

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**Jean Gilberte** - February 19, 2016 at 06:10 AM

CZ

“ 13 files added to the album *New Album Name*



**Christopher Zendan** - February 19, 2016 at 05:58 AM

KS

“ *Chris & Jackie, so sorry for your loss, you and the family will be in our thoughts and prayers. Kurt and Janet Stronach*

**kurt stronach** - February 18, 2016 at 06:56 PM

EB

“ *Mommy Z, you taught me the true meaning of friendship. You taught me that friends are kind and are a positive influence in one's life. I love you not only for who and what you were, but for what I was when I was with you. I love you not only for what you made of yourself but for what you made of me. I love you not for closing your ears to the discords in me but for adding to the music in me by patiently listening. I will always miss you but I know that you are just around the corner waiting. Etsu.*



**Etsu Bradshaw-Caines** - February 18, 2016 at 05:16 PM

AD

“ *Mr. Zenden, Michael and Chris,*

*Sorry for your loss. I will never forget Mrs. Zenden's laughter growing up at the Old Colony Beach.*

*Anthony DelMastro*

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**Anthony DelMastro** - February 18, 2016 at 02:07 PM

WF

“ *With love, Kimberlee, Elizabeth, Matthew and families purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Rosemary DiCorleto Zendan.*



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**With love, Kimberlee, Elizabeth, Matthew and families** -  
February 18, 2016 at 01:00 PM

LM

“ *With tremendous sadness, I am sending my condolences to the family. Micheal you and your family are in my prayers and thoughts. Rosemary was an amazing person and she will truly be missed on this earth. Her spirit lives on in those she touched in her life and will forever be remembered. This world will be a sadder place with the loss of Rosemary, but was certainly blessed with her presence.*

*Lilliam Martinez*

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**Lilliam Martinez** - February 18, 2016 at 12:15 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Rosemary DiCorleto Zendan.*



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February 18, 2016 at 11:17 AM



“ *Aunt Ginny & Rick Sheldon purchased the Sweet est Sunrise Bouquet for the family of Rosemary DiCorleto Zendan.*



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**Aunt Ginny & Rick Sheldon** - February 18, 2016 at 10:05 AM



“ *Rosemary was a very special lady in my life . Always so thoughtful and giving. Even this Christmas when she was so ill she came to visit with her courageous spirit and as usual always bearing gifts. Always with a smile and a family story to share along with her generous heart is how I will remember her. I will cherish the memories of pushing baby carriages along Woodland Street and all the fun and sometimes crazy times at Old Colony Beach, especially when it was time for our morning Beach Donuts..I love you Rosemary and you will always remain in my heart.*

*Ginny DiCorleto*

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**ginny dicorleto`** - February 18, 2016 at 08:50 AM

CC

“ How saddened I was to learn of Rosemary's death. She was a cherished colleague and friend in both West Middle and Noah Webster. Her dedication to her craft was awesome; as a teacher, she was tireless, creative and loving. Rosemary instilled such a level of excitement and joy of learning in her students that few other teachers achieve. A child was truly blessed to be in her classroom. With her colleagues, she was always giving of herself both professionally and personally. No one could make a school celebration more fun than Rosie who was the go-to person for gift giving and presentation ideas. She did it with such zest and inventiveness that made each event unique, quirky and special. A Doctor Seuss quote is an apt comment on Rosemary's life: "Don't cry because it's over. Smile because it happened.

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**Claire O'Toole Cashman** - February 18, 2016 at 07:43 AM

MI

“ Momma Rose--I hope you realize that I can't look at a picture of you without breaking out in a smile--you spirit is in my heart forever and will never leave me. Thank you for the most special gifts in the world. Michael II

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**Michael Zendan II** - February 18, 2016 at 06:56 AM

FA

“ Francis, Nicholas, Anthony purchased the Rose Garden Heart for the family of Rosemary DiCorleto Zendan.



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**Francis, Nicholas, Anthony** - February 17, 2016 at 03:57 PM

FN

“ *From The Yale New Haven Health System CDI Nurses purchased the Pink Tribute Spray for the family of Rosemary DiCorleto Zendan.*



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**From The Yale New Haven Health System CDI Nurses -**  
February 17, 2016 at 11:02 AM