



## Leonarda Maria Caruso

August 26, 1967 - September 5, 2021

Leonarda Maria Caruso, 54, of Ocala, Florida, passed away on September 5, 2021.

Born in Olean, NY to Pellegrino & Leonarda (Argento) Caruso on August 26, 1967. Lea graduated from Allegany High School in 1985, and went on to earn her Associates Degree from Jamestown Community College. She dutifully served others at Strive Rehabilitation Clinic for over 30 years in Ocala, Florida and recently began a second career in Real Estate with Keller Williams. She further served her community as an honorary ambassador for the Chamber & Economic Partnership (CEP) and portrayed Mrs. Clause for the children of the city for 18 years, she will always be remembered for how welcoming she made everyone feel at every event she attended. Her smile was contagious and her laugh was irreplaceable, her selfless love for others was her flawless attribute.

Lea is survived by her partner of 29 years, Derreck Webb, her Brothers, Vito (Judy) Caruso, Chuck (Phyllis) Caruso, Joseph (Bridget) Rivellino and Pellegrino (Nichole) Caruso, her Sisters, Carmella Heverly, Josephine (Thomas) Lippert and Anne-Marie Caruso, and all of her wonderful nephews and nieces. She is preceded in death by her Parents, Pellegrino & Leonarda Caruso, and Sister Louise Milliman.

Services will be held at 4047 NE 21st St, Ocala, FL 34470 on the 22nd of September at 1:00pm with Father Bill Zamborsky of Our Lady of the Springs, Catholic Church officiating. Reception to immediately follow the mass services at the Ocala V.F.W., 4805 N.E. 36th Ave, Ocala Florida.

Flowers or memorials for Lea may be sent to Our Lady of the Springs Catholic Church for her Mass.

# Tribute Wall

CK

“ *It was only 4 weeks ago that you helped me get my home. We were both so excited! We worked together at Strive and you were always there to answer my questions. My heart is broken. I will think of you always and know you are looking down on all of us and telling us its ok - your ok. All my love Lea!! You will be missed.*

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**Christine Koganovsky** - September 22, 2021 at 11:04 AM

DK

“ I met Lea at Strive, when Rick introduced me to her. She took me out for pizza and we got to know each other. She talked about Derrick, her niece and her family. We became fast friends because she was such a warm, easy going person that I found easy to talk. I had just moved to Ocala. I felt like a fish out of water in a new town, where everyone knew everyone. Lea being Lea knew everyone and everywhere to go for everything. I was looking for a community and she made it easy for me to feel comfortable and welcome in my new home. I felt like she was my older sister who wanted me to be happy and I felt like I didn't want to let her down. She was my manager in business, but my friend in life. I remember helping her clean out her office at Maricamp during the expansion of the clinic and was throwing away old pens, papers and odds-n-ends she had collected in her many years at Strive. She trusted me to go through her stuff to help her do something that was so personal. I helped her during the Christmas events, Halloween events and marketing events. My most cherished memory is going to a horse event and horse auction with her. We talked about my family and my relationship with my future wife. As we walked around the stables and grounds on that sunny beautiful day I opened up to her about my life and goals. I remember her being so supportive and happy for me. She was always honest and positive. I cherished her opinion so much that even when I move to NC to start my own career in my hometown we remained in touch and I called her on several occasions for her advice and check in on how she was doing. She will forever hold a piece of my heart.

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**Drew Kluger** - September 17, 2021 at 01:40 AM

JF

“ My deepest heartfelt thoughts and prayers are with the whole family



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**Jim Flanagan** - September 16, 2021 at 10:21 PM

JW

“ My Aunt Lea....my aunt lea...still cant believe you're gone. She helped me get on my feet more than once..welcomed me to stay with her more than once. Dont know what i wouldve done without her so many times in my life. She had so much patience..and the biggest heart...always went out of her way for others. She was taken to soon...im so lost without you aunt lea...i will always love you and keep your memory alive. My love and prayers go out to the rest of her family. Such a beautiful, kind, and loving person she was...this world needs more people like her...ily aunt lea fly high you beautiful angel!



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**Jaimie Webb** - September 16, 2021 at 05:40 PM

WN

“ So many memories over the 13 years I have known you. Road trips going to insurance seminars. Lea knew the words to every song that came on the radio! Once we ended up on the wrong lane of the freeway and our exit was coming up soon. Traffic was nearly bumper to bumper. Finally Lea said 'just lean back and close your eyes' and away we went across all those lanes of traffic! We had some crazy times at work and I think sometimes you took a little bit too much pleasure in tormenting me, LOL But seriously, one would be hard pressed to find a better friend. You truly were always willing to help in anyway you could. I will never forget you and your infectious laughter. Fly high my friend!

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**Wanda Nabbefeld** - September 15, 2021 at 11:22 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Leonarda Maria Caruso.*



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September 15, 2021 at 06:31 PM



“ *Lea Thank you for being a supportive light to my daughter, and your God Daughter. Though you are not physically here with us anymore, I know you will continue to watch over her. I know it ment alot to her that you came to Las Vegas for her graduation and just recently her 21st birthday. I know we both will miss you greatly in the coming years. But I believe deep down we will meet again. All my Love & Respect to you. Never Forgotten!*



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**Trista Caruso** - September 15, 2021 at 05:40 PM



“ *Lea was a beautiful person. Her infectious smile and laugh filled every room! She was the most welcoming person and had a genuine heart and soul. She made everyone feel like family, instantly! I'll never forget her playfulness and energy. She will be missed and I'll be forever holding her in my heart. Thinking about you all and sending love to you in your time of sorrow.*

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**Bridget Kelly** - September 15, 2021 at 05:35 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Leonarda Maria Caruso.*



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September 15, 2021 at 05:30 PM



“ *While I didn't know Leah, I know she had to be a wonderful soul if she was anything like her sister, Annie! I loved reading that she played Mrs. Claus for 18 years! I am so sorry for your loss! May she live on in your hearts in all your beautiful memories! Sending my love and hugs to all of you! With sincere sympathy, Tina Dewe*

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**Tina Dewe** - September 15, 2021 at 05:17 PM



“ *Lea you are my best friend and sister and I will miss you forever. I never will have a greater love. You are my sunshine! After all I gave you all your gray hair. My heart ❤️*

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**Anne Caruso** - September 15, 2021 at 05:03 PM



“ *The nicest person I've ever know.  
I'll think of you every time I go out to lunch. Missing you.  
Judy Luhrman*

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**Judith Luhrman** - September 15, 2021 at 08:36 AM

TJ

“ *Lea was such a sweet, selfless person, who always went out of her way for others. She was one of the early people I met as being part of the CEP Ambassador Program when I first moved back to Ocala - and she was so welcoming & made me feel part of the team. She was a good buddy even beyond that & I will miss her dearly. As with other entities & people that Lea was aligned with, the CEP's Ambassador Program will always be better for having had Lea as a strong contributing leader. The world needs more Leas!* ”

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**Tom James** - September 11, 2021 at 03:30 PM

HT

“ *Lea. Laughter. Light. And a lifelong friend since the day I met her. That beautiful smile, quick wit, and kindness was infectious. I will miss your bright beautiful light. Your kindness, the uniqueness that was you. The world lost a bright light too soon, but heaven gained a beautiful angel for sure. Until we meet again my dear friend. Keep the lights on for me.* ”

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**hope tarnaski** - September 10, 2021 at 09:41 PM

PB

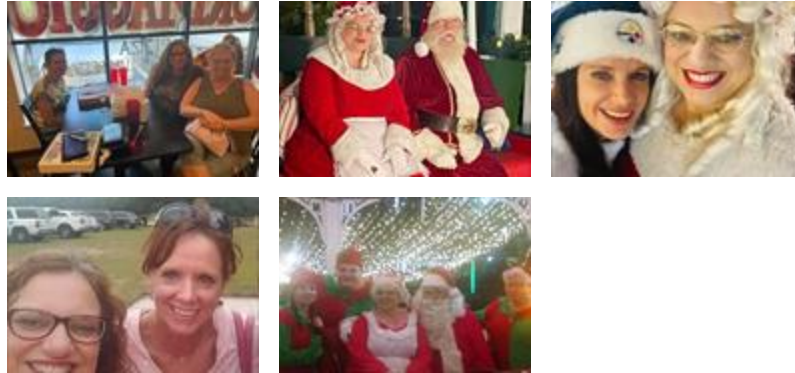
“ *I met Lea working at Strive 2013-14, taking Karen's place. Her current best friend Nancy, took my place. Lea was always so helpful to me. She went above and beyond. I ran into her a couple times after that and she was either doing something to educate herself or help somebody else. Mostly helping somebody else. I will never forget her and her Infectious smile! 🙌❤️* ”

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**Patty Bye** - September 10, 2021 at 12:16 PM

MP

“ 9 files added to the tribute wall



Melissa Pacconi - September 10, 2021 at 12:09 PM

MP

*Lea,  
Heaven will forever shine bright with your beautiful smile as you gain your wings and become an Angel, as you were when you were here with us on Earth. I will forever miss your selfless, sincere, kind, happy soul and gorgeous smile. Fly high Girl 🍀💖*

Melissa Pacconi - September 10, 2021 at 06:28 PM

ND

“ *Lea, my special friend. Not sure how I'll do this life without you. The best I can do, is to be the best person I can be in your honor. You were the bright light of my life. The one I couldn't wait to share things with, eat with, travel with, talk to and just be around. No matter what was going on in my life, I could count on you to make it better. I hope I was just half the friend to you, as you were to me. I will love and remember you always❤️ Hugs and prayers to your beautiful family that you adored. Thank you for always being there for me, my kids and my family. I am a better person for just knowing you.*



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**Nancy Davis** - September 10, 2021 at 11:50 AM