



Jenny Proto

March 15, 1945 - January 16, 2026

Jenny (Valle) Proto of Crown Point, Indiana left an indelible mark on the lives she touched before passing away on January 16, 2026, following a brave battle with cancer. Jenny's love for life never wavered.

Jenny was born on March 15, 1945, from Calumet City, IL. To Domenico & Giovonnina Valle who ventured from Italy to America in pursuit of their dreams. As the youngest of 16 children, life was filled with the aroma of her family's restaurant where her parents built a legacy of love, hard work and togetherness.

After 15 years of selfless dedication to her home daycare, she retired, leaving a lasting legacy of love. Her laughter was a precious gift to others, and she approached life with unbridled enthusiasm. Surrounded by loved ones, she felt most radiant. Engaging in dice games, cards, bingo, crosswords and jigsaw puzzles was her happy haven. She also was passionate about crocheting, drawing, scrapbooking, baking and enjoying her favorite half hour shows and garage sale adventures.

She is preceded in death by her husband, Bobby F. Proto Sr; with whom she shared 41 years of marriage, her son Lawrence R. Zitt Jr. And her daughter Sheri R. Ventrice, as well as her parents and numerous siblings.

Leaving behind a legacy, her devoted daughter Roxanne (Roberto)Villanueva of Schererville, IN; her son Bobby F Proto Jr (Shannon) of Lake Station, IN; 8 grandchildren who loved her dearly, 4 great-grandchildren. Her two brothers Nicholas Valle and Dominick Valle; and one sister Victoria Gloza are a testament to her legacy.

Jenny will be remembered for her remarkable strength, contagious laughter and sharp sense of humor. Burns Funeral Home entrusted with arrangements. www.burnsfuneral.com

Tribute Wall

PM

“ You will be missed ❤️



pam Buckner Mosele - February 07 at 12:52 PM

DP

“ I remember when staying with Grandma and Grandpa as a little girl, Aunt Jenny was still in school. She was taking ballet lessons and telling me how her toes would be so sore and bleeding after practice. She was determined to master the art of ballet. Then not to many years ago Aunt Jenny was posting her drawings. I asked her why she never pursued the path of a book illustrator as her drawings were a masterpiece. She told me she always thought of drawing for a profession, but life takes you on a different journey. I always enjoyed going to see Aunt Jenny with my mother Marie and sister Tina. She was always nice and full of stories and laughter. She will be missed by so many. With Love, Debbie (Jennings) Payne

Deborah Payne - January 27 at 10:41 PM



I have so many good memories with Aunt Jenny. We were pregnant at the same time. I use to go visit her all the time. We played cards with Emily, Barbara Mutusick, Judy at Mary Rose's House. I would pick her up every week to go okay bingo. I remember back in the day when she and Aunt Emily had there own bingo halls in Hammond. We always had a good time together, and talk for hours on the phone! When she got sick and I'm so much pain, I works get her to laugh so she works forget about all her pain! I lived Aunt Jenny so much! I am gonna miss her so much! 😭❤️

Toni Valle Kifer - January 28 at 02:50 PM

NW

I loved Aunt Jenny so much. I remember playing bingo with her and my mom and Aunt Carrie. We would play cards at Aunt Jenny's house or she would come to our house to play or we would go to other Aunt's and Uncle' s houses to. I remember Aunt Jenny's laugh, it was so infectious. You couldn't help but laugh when she laughed. She always brighten every room she was in. Aunt Jenny will definitely be missed

Nina Wiseman - January 30 at 12:13 AM