



Roseanne Marie Sciortino

October 8, 1951 - September 4, 2026

Syracuse, New York

Roseanne Marie Sciortino died in Syracuse on September 4, 2026. She was seventy-four. Born there on October 8, 1951, she grew up above a diner her uncle still called the shop, and she learned a grill before she learned a campus. A plate, she believed, should arrive complete.

She spent thirty-one years behind that counter, then another decade running the same room after the uncle was gone. She would not let a widower be rushed toward a special he had not chosen. She would not let a vendor invent a discount that made the register a liar. After a bad afternoon she sat in the stairwell with the radio off until her hands were quiet. She kept extra coffee for the plow driver whose morning had already been too long.

She married Paul Sciortino in 1973. They raised a daughter in a two-family that needed storm windows and a son who needed a ride to CYO at hours no one should be awake. Paul drove a bread truck. Roseanne packed lunches and considered a Sunday gravy a civic obligation. After he died in 2017 she kept the garden of tomatoes against the porch and the habit of sending a plate next door.

Friends remember a woman who showed up with soup as if that were the natural use of a Tuesday, who could explain a price without making it a sermon, and who kept one good coat. She loved a quiet gallery at the university museum, a cup of coffee that was never quite hot enough, and the lake when it looked like pewter. She died in Syracuse, the brick city she refused to narrate as a punch line. The counter is closed. The fairness she practiced there is harder to replace than a recipe card.

Services

A funeral Mass in Syracuse. A gift to a parish pantry or a diner-workers' fund suits her.

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