



## Denise R. Yanelli

January 6, 2026

Denise R. Yanelli, aka Sunshine, age 69, of Philadelphia, PA, peacefully passed away at home surrounded by her family on January 6, 2026, after battling cancer.

She was preceded in death by her parents, John Vannicola and Angelina Vannicola (Scuderi)

Denise was a devoted mother to her beloved son, Eugene J. Yanelli III, her daughter Maria Deza, son-in-law Manuel Deza, and son Jason Arrigo. She was a loving grandmother to the late Brianna Marie Yanelli, Adreanna Arrigo, Alex Arroyo, and Manuel A. Deza III, and a cherished great-grandmother to Adrian Arroyo.

She also leaves behind her sisters, Angela and Janet, along with many nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, cousins, and a long list of people she considered family.

Denise was full of life—fun-loving, warm-hearted, and comical. A true South Philly Italian, she was a real character with a way with words. She could curse you out and make you laugh at the same time. One of a kind, she devoted her life to her children and family. She hustled hard and made sure her loved ones never went without. She was a protector, a provider, and the glue that held everyone and everything together. She was loved fiercely—a true legend.

We take comfort in knowing she is now reunited with her son Eugene, whom she missed dearly.

Relatives and friends are invited to her Visitation and Funeral Service on

Wednesday, January 14, 2026 after 6 PM from the Rogers Funeral Home, Inc., 1426-30 South 3rd Street, Philadelphia, PA 19147 followed by her Religious Service at 7:30 PM

Please no flowers, but donations are welcome.

Share Online Condolences at [www.rachubinskiandrogers.com](http://www.rachubinskiandrogers.com)

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN 14. 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM (ET)

Rogers Funeral Home  
1426-30 South 3rd Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19147  
(215) 468-4632  
<https://www.rachubinskiandrogersfh.com/>

# Tribute Wall

MI

“ *Very sorry for your loss! Denise was a funny, loving person who loved her family dearly. I'll truly miss her.*  
*Michele M.*

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**Michele** - January 19 at 05:28 PM

SR

“ *Denise, I am so sad to just hear about your passing on to eternal peace. I was wondering why you stopped texting with me and now I know. Our close friendship goes way back to our younger teen days when we spent many a night on your front porch just talking into the night with your Mom Angie. The times we spent babysitting for your sister Angel and Tommy and just so many other cherished moments will remain with me forever. You were one of my closest female friends back in the day. Rest in peace now in the loving arms of our Lord and Savior Jesus and dance among the clouds with all of our friends and family who left us all too soon.*



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**Sal Rosania** - January 17 at 11:45 AM

MD

“ *I miss you so much, my heart hurts. I wasn't ready! I love you*



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**Maria Deza** - January 17 at 12:18 AM

DA

“ Denise was one of the most amazing women I have ever met in my whole life. She has taken care of my son Alex and my grandson Adrian since 2020. She is the only woman I can give grace to raising my son even into adulthood as her own. She was so fun, strong and loving I will appreciate her til the end of my days. Love you Sunshine and Heaven has gained an angel like never before. Blessings on you always my love and thank you for everything you've done for my whole family. Sleep in peace and we love you til eternity. 🧡



Dani Arroyo - January 14 at 10:58 PM

JD

“ Janet DeSimone lit a candle in memory of Denise R. Yanelli



Janet DeSimone - January 11 at 07:22 PM

JD

“ Denise you was a wonderful neighbor and friend she was always there for who ever needed her help I can't say enough about her a Beautiful soul may she rest in peace Janet and Cathy

Janet DeSimone - January 10 at 08:47 PM