

[Back to regular view](#) • [Print this page](#)

Barrington resident to honor late husband at Parade of Roses

(<http://www.pioneerlocal.com/barrington/news/1965186,barrington-roseparade-123109-s1.article>)

December 29, 2009

By [TONY A. SOLANO](#) tsolano@pioneerlocal.com

Barrington resident Anne Gulotta will be aboard a float in Friday's Parade of Roses in Pasadena, Calif., in support of her late husband, Jay, who was an organ donor.

Gulotta will be aboard the Gift of Hope Organ and Tissue Donor Network float that will feature a florigraph image of Jay, who committed suicide in 2002.

Gulotta said she remembers Jay as giving life to others, not as someone who took his own life. Since his death, she has been working with Gift of Hope and other organizations to promote the importance of organ donation.

"This Donate Life float is important to bring national attention to organ and tissue donation," she said.

In addition to volunteering, Gulotta speaks publicly to deliver the message of how precious organ donation can be. Jay's heart, kidneys and eyes were successfully transplanted into others who needed those organs.

Due to her dedication to the Gift of Hope organization, Gulotta was asked to ride on the Donate Life float and display Jay's image.

"I was very flattered and honored that the volunteer work I've done warranted this," she said.

The 55-foot float's theme is "New Life Rises" and it features a giant phoenix rising from the ashes symbolizing the giving of new life. Jay's florigraph will be on the float along with florigraphs of other donors.

"Anne has worked tirelessly for more than seven years to do just that -- inspire people -- so we are delighted to have her represent Gift of Hope," said David Bosch, director of communications for Gift of Hope.

Gulotta sent photos of Jay to artists in California, who could only use natural materials when creating the florigraph. Therefore Jay's image was created using a combination of flowers, cocoa, sand, coffee grounds, seeds and other objects.

Gulotta saw Jay's florigraph for the first time in early December when she helped put on the finishing touches. She said she was brought to tears when she first saw it.

"It was beyond my expectations," she said. "It was funny because before I saw it I didn't know whether I was going to laugh or cry. But I was very touched by it."

Anne will be on the float during the parade and her children Elizabeth, 24, and Jay Jr., 23, will watch from the grandstand. The family will also attend the Rose Bowl game Friday afternoon pitting the Ohio State Buckeyes against the Oregon Ducks.

Gulotta said she is blessed to have this unique opportunity to honor Jay and share his story of organ donation.

IN TRIBUTE

"Thank You" was written by Jay Gulotta Jr. in honor of his late father and produced by Michael Schultz. [Click here to listen to the MP3.](#)

Pioneer.com: [Blogs](#) | [Send feedback](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [About Us](#) | [Advertise With Us](#) | [Media Kit](#) | [Make Us Your Home Page](#)
Pioneer Local: [Subscribe](#) | [Renewals](#) | [Customer Service](#) | [Online Photo Store](#) | [News](#)

[Archives](#)

Affiliates: [YourSeason.com](#) | [RogerEbert.com](#) | [SearchChicago - Autos](#) | [SearchChicago - Homes](#) | [Local Area Jobs](#) | [Public Record Search](#) | [Centerstage](#) | [North Shore Magazine](#)
Express Links: [TV Listings](#) | [Video](#) | [Yellow Pages](#) | [Buy Photos](#) | [Communities](#) | [School Report Cards](#) | [Eating In](#) | [Restaurant Reviews](#)
Partner: [BlockShopper.com](#)



© Copyright 2010 Sun-Times Media, LLC | [Terms of Use](#) • [Privacy Policy](#) • [Submission Guidelines](#) • [Advertise With Us](#) • [About Our Ads](#)