

Born the third of four children, my parents, Maria and Giuseppe Casarona, were Italian immigrants. They came to the United States through Ellis Island and settled for a short period in Harlem. In 1920, they moved to the Pelham Bay section of the Bronx, a borough in which I was born. On September 16, 1951, I married Carmine Sclafani. He was a World War II veteran. We had two children, Phyllis and Maria.

In 1979, both me and my sister, Rose Gianfortune and our spouses joined AMVETS 38, Bronx. Our husbands were active members of the Post, Rose was an active member of the Auxiliary. Today, I am still an active member of the Auxiliary. I have served on both the local and state levels. On the State level, I served as Department President in 1998-99. On the local level, I served in many positions. I have been President, Americanism, Parliamentarian and currently the VAVS representative since 2005. In addition to being an active member of the Auxiliary, both my children, my grandchildren, my niece and great niece are members of the Auxiliary with my daughter Maria serving as Treasurer and my niece AnnMarie as President.

Today, I still reside in the Pelham Bay section of the Bronx. I am the grandmother of three wonderful girls. Nichole and Marie (Phyllis) and Alexandria (Maria). I am also the great grandmother of three, Jason, Nicholas, Angela with a fourth due to arrive the end of May.