



## Mr. John Anthony Sigbieny, Jr.

July 30, 1978 - August 7, 2019

UTICA - Mr. John Anthony Sigbieny, Jr., age 41, passed away on Wednesday, August 7, 2019 and is now at peace in the presence of his Lord. His loving family was by his side during his time spent at MVHS.

Born in New Hartford on July 30, 1978, John was the son of John A. Sigbieny, Sr. and Mary Ellen (Trombetta) Sigbieny. Since the age of 6 months old, John spent most of his childhood in the hospital due to end-stage renal disease. Then at age 12, he had a kidney transplant through his dad's donation. He was able to resume a more normal life and he had a "Make-A-Wish" granted. Johnny was entranced by his idol, Richard Dean Anderson who plays the protagonist in the action adventure TV series "MacGyver", and his wish came true when he and his family traveled to the filming site of the episode "Good Knight MacGyver" and he met his hero on what Johnny described as the "greatest day, ever!" John attended Holy Trinity Elementary School and was a graduate of T.R. Proctor High School/Class of 1998. He had a self-taught talent at sketching in pencil and charcoal, and he enhanced his talents at MWPAI School of Art. John worked as a cashier at Price Chopper on Genesee Street where he made some great friends, especially his supervisor Greg Velez who remained a loyal friend to the end. He then worked as a cleaner for the Utica City School District for nearly 10 years, during which time he underwent his second kidney transplant in 2006. Being the resilient man that he is, he returned to the district and was a Lunch Monitor where he enjoyed working with children.

A jokester and perennial prankster, Johnny saw humor in adversity and wanted to make others laugh, ...not everyone has the distinction of being "Class Clown" in their yearbook! He was also a warrior, and he fought and defied the odds. He rarely did what was instructed, and he took his younger sister hostage on many missions. His sister defended him, no matter what the cause, when it came to his medical care. Johnny had many interests and pastimes. He was enthralled with Playstation, an avid comic book reader, was a movie aficionado and Sylvester Stallone was his idol. Rocky and Rambo were among his favorites. He also could endure any scary movie, was entertained by Highway to Heaven, Dr. Phil, and Impractical Jokers, where he found humor at its best. He had a love for basketball and Michael Jordan was his favorite athlete and the Chicago Bulls was his team. He drove cars fast, windows down, Eminem music on high volume. He was

considered one of the worst drivers, and his car, a dented Dodge Dart had a million miles! Johnny really tried to eat healthy, but he had a hankering for Chinese food and could be found eating at the wrong places just to hang with his friends. He had a fascination for Christmas lights and he trolled the street seeking the best decorations; very much like National Lampoon's "Christmas Vacation". When he wanted a new family canine, a Jack Russell Terrier named "Taz" rose to the challenge and became Johnny's pal and a constant source of companionship.

John received his Catholic sacraments and prayed in his own way. He knew the Lord, and the Lord knew he had angels watching over him.

John leaves his devoted parents, his mother Mary Ellen, and his father John; his sister, Merissa "Sissy" Sigbieny (also a great source of love and inspiration) and Billy Melendez; maternal grandmother, Micky (Sadowski) Trombetta; wonderful aunts and uncles who loved him unconditionally, Joni "Coco" Trombetta, Paula "Fete" Trombetta; George and Debbie Sigbieny, Cindy "Candy" Sigbieny; great-uncle, Richard DeFazio; cousins, especially Kari Macero; and his special lady friends the "plastics", Lindsay, Jeana, Emily, and Chrissy "Dolce Meadow" who were his coolest friends. He was predeceased by his maternal grandparents, Richard P. "Dick" and Marie (Perritano) Trombetta; maternal great-grandparents, Paul and Stella (Talento) Perritano; paternal grandparents, George and Maria (DeFazio) Sigbieny; and aunt Regina Sigbieny.

The family is grateful to John's go-to physicians, Dr. Anwar Wassel and Dr. Emile Wassel; the MVHS Dialysis Unit at the Faxton Campus who provided empathetic and exceptional care for John; the staff of MVHS at St. Elizabeth ICU and 3rd Floor, Renee, Ryan, Emily, and Courtney who went above and beyond; and the extraordinary personnel of 3C, Amanda, Mike, and Allie; they were extended family who advocated for Johnny with so much love.

Visitation will be held Wednesday from 4:00-7:00 at the Eannace Funeral Home, Inc., 932 South St., corner of Hammond Ave. His funeral service and Celebration of Life will be offered at 7:00. In lieu of flowers, please consider a memorial contribution to the Make-A-Wish Foundation of CNY online at <https://cny.wish.org>; envelopes will be available at the funeral home.

# Comments

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“ So sorry for the loss of such a sweet and funny spirit! Not many people could go through the medical problems he went through and keep his humor and work ethic. You're finally out of pain and are at peace. Everyone will miss you!

**Palma** - August 20, 2019 at 12:38 PM

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“ Our deepest sympathy to the Sigbieny family. John was a very good friend to our son and will be missed. Thank you all for also being a family to our son as well as your own. Keep all your happy memories close to heart and he shall always be there. Our thoughts and prayers are with you. May god bless you all. Mr. and Mrs.Frank Williams.

**Frank and Linda Williams** - August 16, 2019 at 05:47 PM

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“ Karrie DiNigro lit a candle in memory of Mr. John Anthony Sigbieny, Jr.



**Karrie DiNigro** - August 16, 2019 at 02:35 PM

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“ My sympathy to the family of a friend and co-worker at Valeriano and Sons. Frank Valeriano

**Ellen Valeriano** - August 16, 2019 at 08:13 AM

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“ My deepest and sincere condolences, your cousin Ripper Macero

**Ripper Macero** - August 15, 2019 at 05:47 AM

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“ Gina Orsaio lit a candle in memory of Mr. John Anthony Sigbieny, Jr.



**Gina Orsaio** - August 14, 2019 at 06:25 PM

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“ John and Family,

I am so sorry to hear about the loss of your son. May you keep all of your happy memories close to your hearts. My thoughts and prayers are with you during this very difficult time.

Gina Orsaio

**Gina Orsaio** - August 14, 2019 at 06:25 PM

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“ John Sr, my condolences to you and your family. Sorry for your loss , I will add your son to my prayers.

Connie Cannistra

**Connie Cannistra** - August 14, 2019 at 04:07 PM

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“ John and Mary Ellen

We were so sorry to hear of your son John's passing. Our thoughts and prayers are with your family.

Guy and Bonnie DeIMastro

**bonnie delmastro** - August 14, 2019 at 01:21 PM

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“ I will miss John very much. He always made me laugh, and feel great. John would come to school in severe pain. But would give over 100 percent. The children at King School loved John.  
RIP my Dear Friend.

**Raymond Hickey** - August 14, 2019 at 01:04 PM

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“ I didn't know John nor his family. But reading his obit choked me up. I could tell he was a great guy and loved very much. God Bless him and his family.  
Patrick McCann Little Falls

**Patrick C McCann** - August 14, 2019 at 06:03 AM

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“ I will always remember John John's witty sense of humor and how I couldn't wait to see him so he could make me laugh. He will be dearly missed .....Love Aunt Pam

**Ronald Pamela Welker** - August 13, 2019 at 07:18 PM

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“ I'm going to miss you John all the fun times we had together gone but never forgot rest in paradise my friend until we meet again



**michael colon** - August 13, 2019 at 11:03 AM

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“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mr. John Anthony Sigbieny, Jr..



August 13, 2019 at 08:57 AM

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“ Debbie (Andrisani) Carcone lit a candle in memory of Mr. John Anthony Sigbieny, Jr.



Debbie (Andrisani) Carcone - August 13, 2019 at 12:18 AM

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“ John and Mary Ellen, I am so sorry to hear this sad news. You and all of your family are in my prayers.

Roseann (Guarniero) Petronella

Roseann Petronella - August 12, 2019 at 08:12 PM

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“ Jean Henninger lit a candle in memory of Mr. John Anthony Sigbieny, Jr.



Jean Henninger - August 12, 2019 at 04:57 PM

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“ MaryEllen, John and Marissa, I'm deeply saddened at the loss of your son and brother. I know how much you loved him and know you will always have a vacant space in your heart and life. My prayers are with you during your grieving time.

Tom Pirro



Tom - August 12, 2019 at 04:44 PM

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“ MaryEllen, John and Family my thoughts and prayers are with you all.

**Diane Broccoli** - August 12, 2019 at 09:58 PM

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“ Mary Ellen we're so very sorry to hear of your son John's passing. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

JoAnn and Ken Mariano

JoAnn Kennedy Mariano - August 12, 2019 at 04:34 PM

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“ To John and MaryEllen so sorry for the loss of your beautiful son . He had a amazing life, if was a short life but he made it the best of of it My thoughts and prayers go out to you Marissa also he loved you so. RIP John fly high with the Angels and watch over your familia



**Karen Mannino** - August 12, 2019 at 02:17 PM

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“ MaryEllen,  
I am so sad for your loss of your son. My love and big hugs are being sent to you.



**Nancy Cox Marafioti** - August 12, 2019 at 12:29 PM

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“ We are sending our condolences to you John and your family! May John Jr. Rest in Peace!



**Mr Steven S Russo** - August 12, 2019 at 11:34 AM

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“ I went to middle school and part of high school with John, and I can see him in class and the hallways like it was yesterday. He always had a mischievous grin on his face, always seemed to be happy and having fun, and he was kind, no matter what he was going through. He made an impression on everyone he met, and I think we all considered him a friend. I'm so sorry for your loss. John was one of a kind, and I have no doubt that he will be with you in spirit from now on. Sending prayers, strength, and peace to you.

**Christine Potaczala** - August 12, 2019 at 09:44 AM

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“ So very sorry for your loss. Thinking of all of you during this sad time.

**Jeanna M Marraffa** - August 12, 2019 at 09:24 AM

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“ I am so sorry for your loss may God be with you and your family I will be praying for you  
hey man this is Kathy Baker mom

**mary Legawiec** - August 12, 2019 at 12:04 PM



“ I'm sorry it went in Wrong this is Kathy's mom

**mary Legawiec** - August 12, 2019 at 12:05 PM

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“ Andrea Meredith lit a candle in memory of Mr. John Anthony Sigbieny, Jr.



**Andrea Meredith** - August 12, 2019 at 09:18 AM

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“ Please accept our sincere condolences.



**Tim & Colleen Moylan Family** - August 12, 2019 at 09:16 AM

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“ Levon Jackson, Jr & Family lit a candle in memory of Mr. John Anthony Sigbieny, Jr.



**Levon Jackson, Jr & Family** - August 11, 2019 at 09:05 PM



“ I loved John. He would beam when I walked into Price Chopper and literally scream .....  
SIGGIEEEE..... He was a  
battler and he is now at peace!  
God Speed..... Tom Giruzzi

**Tom Giruzzi** - August 12, 2019 at 09:31 PM

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“ John so sorry to hear about johnnys passing he is at peace now we had a lot of  
laughs at work such a great kid god bless Tom Arcuri

**tom arcuri** - August 11, 2019 at 09:04 PM

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“ I met John through his sister, Merrissa.. He was a shining star. I facilitated a course  
on dealing with a chronic illness. He brightened the class and made everyone smile.  
He never complained about his own challenges. John was an inspiration. He showed  
us all how to look at the glass as half full. God bless you. Mart Ellen and Merrissa, I  
am so sorry. I am sure John is watching down on you. Love Sally

**sally nelson** - August 11, 2019 at 08:34 PM

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“ So very very sorry to hear of John's passing. My thoughts and prayers are with you

**Norma Fava** - August 11, 2019 at 08:32 PM

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“ My thoughts and prayers go out to your family, I am very sorry for your loss



**Mena Testa-LoMedico** - August 11, 2019 at 07:21 PM

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“ Dana Plado Zito lit a candle in memory of Mr. John Anthony Sigbieny, Jr.



**Dana Plado Zito** - August 11, 2019 at 06:55 PM

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“ Rosemary Chambrone Brown lit a candle in memory of Mr. John Anthony Sigbieny, Jr.



**Rosemary Chambrone Brown** - August 11, 2019 at 06:42 PM

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“ Becky Schnettler lit a candle in memory of Mr. John Anthony Sigbieny, Jr.



**Becky Schnettler** - August 11, 2019 at 05:43 PM

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“ My most sincere and deepest regrets for yor loss. John was someone with whom I shared a special friendship with. I will truly miss him.

**Phil Squillace** - August 11, 2019 at 04:26 PM



“ My deepest sympathy to all of you...My heart goes out to your family..John is at peace now..

**Denise Giruzzi** - August 11, 2019 at 04:52 PM



“ My deepest condolences to all of you, John was such a great person, he will never be forgotten. May he rest in peace

**Jennifer** - August 11, 2019 at 05:26 PM



“ Please accept my heartfelt sympathy as you say good-bye to John. I remember, years ago, when John worked at Price Chopper, I was always thrilled to see him. He was such a natural born comedian; always made me laugh. He was so quick witted and spunky. I know your heart is broken but I hope you will find some comfort knowing that everyone enjoyed being around John, during his short time on this earth.

**Laurice Wilkinson** - August 11, 2019 at 06:16 PM



“ Our sympathy to the family ....  
Linda and Jerry Ryen.... former next door neighbor to Cindy Sigbieney

**Linda Ryen** - August 12, 2019 at 01:53 AM



“ Cindy, please accept my sympathies for the loss of your nephew John. If he was anything like you the world was a better place because of him. Please know that you are in my prayers.

**Jean** - August 12, 2019 at 08:52 AM



“ My deepest sympathy John, Mar and Marissa. Loved Johnny. He used to beam when I would see him in Price Chopper and scream..... SIGGIEEEE..... he's at rest now and so well deserved

God speed

Tom Giruzzi

**Tom Giruzzi** - August 13, 2019 at 08:41 AM