



Mr. Serafino "Sam" DeBernardis Jr.

January 1, 1941 - May 12, 2022

UTICA/SYRACUSE – Mr. Serafino “Sam” DeBernardis, Jr., age 81, had closure come to his good life on Thursday, May 12, 2022, with the love of his family in his heart and by his side.

He was born in Utica on January 1, 1941, the son of the late Serafino, Sr., and Lucia (DeRisio) DeBernardis. Sam attended local schools and, notably, T.R. Proctor High School.

On July 12, 1969, Sam married the love of his life, Rosemary Fellone. The couple were best friends, with the key to their relationship being making each other laugh every single day! As the years matured, the pair diligently watched over each other, worrying about and caring for the other for nearly 53 years.

Sam was grateful to spend most of his career working for his one employer: Oneida County. He worked for 30 years in the Maintenance Department.

A funny, light-hearted, and comical man, Sam could lift anyone’s spirits. He was a master of one-liners who artfully delivered his comments and jokes. Moreover, he was a great dad, which, with the passing of the years, made him an even better “Poppy”—the best! His time with his granddaughters was precious to him, and he would save the best of himself for them. He made such a positive influence on their lives as he was so supportive. When all else failed, Sam believed humor and laughter could fix everything.

Known for being a prankster throughout his life, his siblings and in-laws eagerly awaited his arrival at events so that the memory making could begin! When he wasn’t lightening people’s days with humor, Sam enjoyed fishing and hunting, which were sports he shared with his nephews and his son-in-law Michael. He even taught his granddaughters the art and virtues needed when he took them fishing. An avid sports fan, Sam’s football team was the 49ers. He was a huge Joe Montana fan. Rooting for them was a family event. To this day, memorabilia of the team and of Montana adorn Sam’s home.

Sam was additionally a great cook. He could whip up anything from a short-order meal to Sunday sauce. He was creative in his cooking and would never measure any of the ingredients. Yet the tempting smells of his cuisine wafted from the kitchen, and tasting was done with his fresh Italian bread. Both of his children carry on his tradition making Sunday dinners with his famous sauce recipe.

The family was so important—a top priority—to Sam, which was reflected in his constant hosting of all types of get togethers, pool parties, dinners, and holiday celebrations, which were sacred. Though all of the exterior may indicate otherwise, he was truly sentimental and humble—a man loved by many for his outgoing personality. Sam's health problems and close calls made it clear that he was a fighter who would persevere to allow his family more time, which both he and they truly desired. He fought the good fight for as long as he could.

Sam is survived by his devoted wife, Ro; his son Serafino "Sam" DeBernardis; and his daughter and son-in-law, Denise and Michael DiGirolomo. Sam will live on in the hearts of his prized possessions, his granddaughters: Marissa Rose, Mia Lise, and Ava Lucia. He leaves behind his sisters, Lucy LeoGrande and her late husband Joseph, Elvira Williams and her late husband Clarence, and Rita Davis and her late husband James. Sam was predeceased by his sisters and brothers-in-law, Marie and John Carbone, Jr., Theresa and Albert Russo, Frances and Lucien Cicigline, Carmella Noti-Perkins and husband Herb Perkins, Jr., Linda Lowery; as well as by his brothers and sister-in-law, John DeBernardis, and Anthony and Amelia "Millie" DeBernardis. Sam will be fondly remembered by his many nieces and nephews, especially Franny LeoGrande, who shared such a close bond and admiration for each other; his great-nieces and great-nephews, and his cousins. Additionally, Sam was a great friend to many who will carry his legacy in their hearts. He was predeceased by his father-in-law and mother-in-law, John and Rose (Massago) Fellone, and by his brother-in-law, Angelo Fellone.

The family would like to extend their thanks to the staff at Bishop Rehabilitation and Nursing Center. Sam was blessed with a Respiratory Therapist, Jim Waters, who genuinely cared for his wellbeing and who came to his rescue whenever needed.

A Memorial Gathering will be held on Friday, May 20, 2022, from 4-6 p.m. at the Eannace Funeral Home, Inc., 932 South St., corner of Hammond Ave. Sam's Memorial Service and Celebration of Life will commence at the conclusion of Visitation.

Previous Events

Memorial Gathering

MAY 20. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Eannace Funeral Home, Inc.
932 South Street
corner of Hammond Ave.
Utica, NY 13501
eannacefh@roadrunner.com
<https://www.eannacefuneralhome.com>

Memorial Service

MAY 20. 6:00 PM (ET)

Eannace Funeral Home, Inc.
932 South Street
Utica, NY 13501
eannacefh@roadrunner.com

Tribute Wall



“ Aunt Ro, Denise, Sammy, Mike and the girls, heaven has gained a wonderful, funny, angel. I know he loved and treasured all of you so very much, you are all in our thoughts and hearts.

MY heart broke when my Mom told me then news. It doesn't get easier at any age when someone you love passes. His memory will live on in our hearts, always.

What to say about my Uncle Sammy.

To know him was to love him, I really loved him.

As a child I spent a lot of time with Uncle Sammy and the family. Parties, BD's, Holidays and when we lived on Blindina I have memories of basically being a fixture in their house. Hehe . It is so hard to focus on just 1 thing, 1 memory, 1 time, especially when I have hundreds. I'll just list some stuff. He always blew up my tube for me when I wanted to go swimming and wouldn't let me swim without it till I learned how! He made the best sauce in the universe (sorry Mom ;)), and gave me a bowl with bread to eat while doing it. The main reason why his lasagna was my favorite!!! He taught me that doing a headstand against a wall was easier then without the wall. He taught me that Uncle is spelled with a C and not a G, I sucked at spelling but loved writing. He had a Piranha tank in the front room, if memory serves me right, of the Blindina st house and he used to tease me that he was gonna put my hands in the tank and I'd get scared even though i knew he was joking but then I'd play a little toughie like i wasn't scared. He also, use to pretend the piranha's were eating his fingers when feeding them. I realize now that he would bust on me cause I was a stinker who'd clap back and I think he got a kick out of it. Ohh he really could remove his thumb, I totally saw it lol. I always laughed when he would intentionally annoy aunt Linda to lighten her up or get her going. Every BBQ and Party - Him and I would argue over who was gonna get the last piece of Aunt Marie's eggplant parm. We both had great taste! No matter what or how loud his stories were, they were so funny and engaging, even if i didn't understand them because of my age, I'd still laugh and laugh. When ever he was doing something for me, fixing a doll, un-knotting something he'd always tell me a little story while he was doing it, like it was our little moment. He always called me Dolly, it made me feel so special, I am going to miss that. :(

The last time I saw uncle Sam was at my wedding. He was happy, joking and funny. Smiles ear to ear! That is how I will forever remember him. That is who he was!

Keep them laughing up there, say hi to the family, I miss you tons and love you more!

I love you Uncle Sam!

BG

“ I will always remember you as one of the funniest sob's I've ever met. Whether it was working at DanDee Donuts or making clams casino or spending time at Franny's camp, you always had that gift of easing a situation with your wit and humor. I love you, Sammy and will surely miss you. 'Till we meet again. Butch Guarno

Butch Guarno - May 20 at 08:48 AM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mr. Serafino "Sam" DeBernardis Jr..



May 19 at 10:08 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mr. Serafino "Sam" DeBernardis Jr..



May 19 at 02:26 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mr. Serafino "Sam" DeBernardis Jr..



May 18 at 03:47 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Mr. Serafino "Sam" DeBernardis Jr..



May 18 at 08:12 AM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mr. Serafino "Sam" DeBernardis Jr..*



May 17 at 11:54 PM

AO

“ *My sincerest condolences to his immediate family, and all of those related and not who loved Sam. I have fond memories of his lighthearted side. One in particular stands out in my mind; when he taught me to use his blow-dart. If memory serves, I believe we used Denise's bedroom door as the stopping point for the darts. May he Rest In Peace, and those who loved him, in the time to come find peace. God Bless. Love, Adam Orłowski*

Adam Orłowski - May 17 at 08:49 AM

JC

“ *I am so sorry to hear about the loss of a Great Man Uncle Sammy. He could and would make you laugh so hard your sides hurt. Uncle Sammy will be missed. May the family find comfort in all the wonderful memories. Love you all , Jackie Carbone*

jacqueline Carbone - May 16 at 09:53 PM

PL

“ *VERY sorry for your lose. As kids Sam would come to West Winfield for a week and we would go fishig and catch forgs. Will never forget these years.*

Peter Leogrande

Peter Leogrande - May 16 at 07:29 PM



“ *Be My Love Bouquet with Red Roses was purchased for the family of Mr. Serafino "Sam" DeBernardis Jr..*



May 16 at 05:52 PM

DB

“ *Sam and family So very sorry for your loss. My thoughts and prayers are with you all. RIP*



Dana (Putrelo) Boliver - May 16 at 04:13 PM

LC

“ *So sorry to hear of the passing of our great Uncle Sammy. A Man who was always fun to be around. Wish I could be there to share our grief with the Family but unable to make the trip. So Sorry;(Love you all!*
Lucien and family

L. Cicigline - May 16 at 12:28 PM