



## Mr. Albert D. "Al" Castano

October 9, 1930 - September 22, 2016

Mr. Albert "Al" D. Castano, age 85, a winter resident of Florida, passed away on Thursday, September 22, 2016 in the comfort of his home.

Born in Utica on October 9, 1930, Albert was the son of the late Thomas and Rosella (Santinello) Castano. He was a graduate of T.R. Proctor High School/Class of 1949 and a graduate of Cortland College. He continued his education receiving a Masters in Public Health from the University of Michigan. Pursuing higher education was paramount to Al, an ideology he instilled in his children and grandchildren. A proud veteran of the United States Army, Al honorably served his country as an Army Physical Therapist during the Korean Conflict. At one time, he was married to the former Marjorie Gelatt and to that relationship came the blessing of three children. In 2000, he entered into a second union when he married the former Shirley (Trowbridge) Meola; they were a compatible couple who shared common interests and brought out the best in one another.

Al was employed as a Health Planner for Humana Corporation. In another capacity he was an advocate for those who were challenged both physically and mentally, working tirelessly to accomplish his goal to better their lives and ease their daily burdens. He learned sign language to communicate with the deaf and hard of hearing as well. Al subsequently traveled throughout the country always looking to find the best job opportunities which made for an accomplished career. In 1995 he returned to Utica where he found a fulfilling job as a physical therapist at the Sitrin Health Care Center, the position from

which he retired.

Al was a humble, yet well-accomplished man. Although much of his time was devoted to his education, vocation, and job transition, his heart belonged to his family. He was a supportive dad and grandpa, and he held his kids in admiration and love. He also held them to high standards and expectations. They were very proud of their dad and valued the life lessons he passed on to them. Al enjoyed and excelled in conversation on a variety of subjects. With his animated, outgoing personality and his prowess in performing magical acts, he was a hit as a host. He would unwind a joke with a perfect punchline. He really was the life of the party. He was an accomplished gymnast and his athletic abilities were exceptional. He was a staunch supporter of Ohio State Buckeyes football and followed the team with enthusiasm. During his retirement, Al and Shirley set out to travel the world. Italy was his favorite destination and he journeyed there 5 times. It was the home of his ancestors and he was captivated by its history and culture. A Catholic by faith, Al opened his heart to the will of the Lord. He loved his family and above all, they could not have been more proud of this man they call "Dad".

Albert is survived by his wife, Shirley; his daughters, Rosella Castano, and Christina "Tina" and son-in-law Bill Miley, his son Alberto T. "Little Al" and daughter-in-law, Marylouise Castano; his grandchildren, Christianna; Jesse, and Juliana; and Garrett; and his great-granddaughter, Gabriella. Al also knew the love of Shirley's children, Warren and Tosca Meola, Gary and Karin Meola, as well as their children. He also leaves his sister and brother-in-law, Lucy and Thomas Talerico; his brother, Thomas Castano; his nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, cousins, and a host of friends that enriched his life. He was predeceased by his brothers, Pat and Stella Castano, Sylvester "Cy" and Antoinette "Tee" Castano, and Dominick Castano; his sisters and brothers-in-law, Domenica "Toni" and Ned Roberts, Patricia and Gill Pavan, Eugenia "Joan" Curtis; and his sisters-in-law, Mary Castano, and Florence Castano. The family is grateful to Dr. Naji El Khoury, and the staff of Hospice & Palliative Care, Inc., for their compassionate care; and Shirley's

granddaughter, Kelly Meola, for her outstanding devotion in tending to his needs.

In keeping with Al's wishes, there will be no public visitation. Family and friends are respectfully invited to attend Albert's Memorial Service which will commence on Monday afternoon at 1:00 at the Utica College Newman Center, 1600 Burrstone Road, Utica where his Mass of Remembrance will be offered by Fr. Paul Drobin. In lieu of floral offerings memorial contributions may be considered to the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital or Hospice & Palliative Care, Inc.; envelopes will be available at the service.

# Previous Events

## Funeral Service

SEP **26.** 1:00 PM (ET)

Newman Center at Utica College  
1600 Burrstone Rd.  
Utica, NY 13502

# Tribute Wall

DD

“ Uncle Al was always the life of the party! He always entertain us with his fabulous magic tricks. He was always so much fun to be around. So kind and loving. He was a very special Uncle and will be missed dearly. Rest n peace Uncle Al. Love you always Debbie <3

Debbie Dowd - September 24, 2016 at 09:24 PM

KC

My sympathy, condolences. Al was cousin of my late mother, Anna (Luggiero)Cerminaro, later changed to Cimmy. He and Shirley visited us, in 1990's and always sent beautiful Christmas cards to us. Al, RIP. Kristine Cimmy

Kristine Cimmy - September 24, 2016 at 10:22 PM

CM

We will miss your kind spirit and loving ways Uncle Al. I always remember the good times and fun our family always had and you being a part of it. You always saw the good in everyone. Love your niece Camille

Camille Mariani - September 25, 2016 at 08:50 AM

JS

Al was indeed a good friend of mine and my late wife, Dolores. I will surely miss him. A school buddy no one can replace. We shared many piano playing tapes of Al and yours truly. I also did a lot of printing for his wife Shirley and Al on their vacation sites. Joe Soldano - San Diego, CA

Joe Soldano - September 25, 2016 at 02:34 PM

DM

My condolences to the Castano family...I remember Al as our great gymnastics coach at Proctor during the early 60's.

Don Marino - September 26, 2016 at 06:36 PM

SS

*Shirley, so very sorry for your loss. I didn't know Al, having met him only once or twice, but I know he made you happy, and my heart goes out to you and your family at this difficult time.*

Sharon H Sobolewski - September 27, 2016 at 09:37 AM



*Dad, It's Father's Day 2025. Every day I ache knowing that you are gone. Reaching for your voice... Silence. This world lost the greatest love I've ever experienced. You were my hero, my teacher, my mentor, and most importantly, my friend. Life has never been the same since you left. I miss you too much. You were the only connection I had with our family. Now alone, I long for the day I walk with you in God's Garden. I was truly blessed to have the most amazing father ever. I love you Dad. You were a hero for many, never taking credit for more than people know. I am honored to be your daughter. Rest in peace Dad. My love knows no bounds for your intelligence and heart. You could double flip off of a diving board. You saw special importance in normal things others could not. You saved me from the insanity of my mother's house and directed my life in the right direction. Forever I am grateful for your love and guidance. As you were obedient and pleasing to God, I'm sure you are in God's Hands. I long to see you again. Sending you love 🥰 Your loving daughter  
Rosella Castano McAuley*

Rosella Castano - June 16, 2025 at 10:19 AM