



Mr. Albert C. Grimaldi Jr.

April 2, 1935 - June 3, 2020

NORTH UTICA - Mr. Albert C. Grimaldi of North Utica passed away on June 3, 2020 with his loving family by his side. He was 85.

Born on April 2, 1935 and raised in Utica, Al was the son of Albert and Mabel (Olite) Grimaldi. He was educated locally and graduated from Thomas R. Proctor High School in 1953. He had many friends in school, and it was there he met and fell in love with his childhood sweetheart, the late Diane "Dixie" Martelli. Al and Dixie were married in 1955, a loving marriage of 52 years until Dixie's passing in August of 2007.

Al was a route salesman for Hameline Dairies from 1956-1969, a job he enjoyed and through which he made many lifelong friends. In 1969, he was appointed a Road Test License Examiner with the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles. Working his way up to become the Principal Examiner, Al's philosophy was to help as many people as he could, and because of this attitude he was remembered favorably by many. He retired in 1996 after 27 years. His last job was helping out his son-in-law, Joe, and his daughter, Lori, at Desserts Beyond the Ordinary on Bank Place in Utica.

His greatest pleasure in life was his wife and three wonderful children, eight grandchildren, and four great grandchildren. As many of you may know, he wore his Dallas Cowboys hat almost everywhere he went, and he absolutely loved the comments he received, good and bad, just about every time he wore it!

Al is survived by his son and daughter-in-law, Al "Aldo" and Carolyn Grimaldi

of Johns Creek, GA, daughters, Diana “Dee Dee” Grimaldi of Tampa, FL, and Lori and Joseph Leone of Utica. He leaves grandchildren Niki Stoller and her husband Mike of Corona Del Mar, CA, Ali Wright of Cumming, GA, Roman Grimaldi, and Marcus Grimaldi of Johns Creek, GA, Jeffery Heriot and his wife, Janet, of Slidell, LA, Courtney Heriot of Tampa, FL, and Joseph Leone and Daniele Leone of Utica. Al is also survived by great-granddaughters Baylor, and Parker Wright, Presley Stoller, and great-grandson, Meyer Stoller. He also leaves behind a brother and sister-in-law, Vincent and Esther Grimaldi of New Hartford, a sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Patty and Joseph Caramato of Tampa, FL, and many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Al was predeceased by his loving wife, Dixie, his parents, Albert and Mabel Grimaldi, in-laws, Raymond and Theresa Martelli, sister, Connie Mannella and her husband, Peter Mannella, and sister-in-law, Joan Critelli.

The family would also like to recognize some of the many friends Al leaves behind: Pete and Delores Giordano, Ricky Caruso, Philly Gulla, Joe and Cathy Sparks, Joe Lapaglia, Pasquale Ianno, Al Altieri, Steve Flint, Greg and Christy Marotz (and all the Caffe Caruso regulars), and his “southern friend” Bill Cook.

Special thanks also go out to private caregivers Lori Lane and Bonnie Ferrone for the kind and compassionate home care they provided during Al’s final days. Notably touching was Lori’s gentle, caring manner during Al’s final moments, surrounded by his family.

The family would like to apologize in advance to Al’s many friends who will be unable to pay final respects to him because of the current COVID-19 restrictions. The time he shared with you through the years was something he treasured.

The family will honor Al’s life privately and funeral services will be held with immediate family only. Donations may be made in Al’s name to the Prostate Cancer Research Institute at pcri.org, or the Ovarian Cancer Research Alliance at ocrahope.org. Interment will take place in Calvary Cemetery.

Please take a moment to connect with Al's family through the "Memories" section of his obituary on our website.

Our prayers continue to go out to all as a sign of our community support.

Tribute Wall

DH

“ Al was not only a kind man he was a man of great integrity. He watched over his mother in law after Dixie passed and stopped by daily to see to her well being and comfort. He did this not only because he had promised his wife he would do so but also because he was a caring and compassionate individual. His family never doubted his dedication and love because he demonstrated his commitment to them in all that he did. Al never passed up an opportunity to tell you about his children's and grandchildren's accomplishments and to let you know how proud he was of each and everyone of them. He carried Dixie in his heart in everything he did. Al was a practitioner in the art of love. He was old school in all the best ways. Al showed an interest in everyone he met. He always had a smile on his face and a word of encouragement. I was so pleased to have become reacquainted with Al and my cousin Dixie during the years when my husband and I would stop at Desserts Beyond The Ordinary for our morning coffee and a chat. As often happens in extended families when life gets busy and you go your separate ways I had not seen Dixie or Al except at funeral and the like in several years. My husband Jay who passed in February and Al hit it off in that special way some people do from the first time they met. Al will be missed by many. My condolences to his family.

Debra Hagenbuch

Debra Hagenbuch - June 11, 2020 at 01:03 PM

AD

“ Lori, we are very sorry for the loss of your father. He was always a gentleman, friendly and pleasant to be around when we visited Desserts. My son enjoyed working with Al very much and feels extremely sad for you and your family. Our prayers and thoughts are with you.

The DeCicco Family.

anthony decicco - June 11, 2020 at 09:25 AM

JP

“ To Al's family - our family (Uncle John & Aunt Vic Spaziani's family) is truly sorry for your loss. We remember Al, as kids and adults, as being a witty and very kind cousin who always showed so much respect to all. He never failed to visit our grandparents, which they loved, and informed them of family events. In later years whenever we ran into him we would catch up on family issues or worldly events. Meeting him at Top of the Morning or Marlogg was always a pleasure! He will be remembered and missed by many - RIP!

*Condolences
Jeanette & Mariano Penge*

Jeanette Penge - June 10, 2020 at 12:41 PM

SS

“ I remember "Big Al" as always having a smile and having a welcome feeling in his presence as he made friendly conversation. He was nice to be around and will be missed by many!
To all the Grimaldi family, please accept my sincere condolences.
May you be comforted by your many memories.
Love, Sandra Siewert

Sandra Siewert - June 09, 2020 at 05:24 PM

PA

“ June 8, 2020

With Al's passing I recall his love and passion for youth sports. From the gymnasium at General Herkimer School to the North Utica Pony League baseball field Al was there for his players. He taught sportsmanship in competition bringing out the very best in his players – win or lose...! The New York Yankees missed and opportunity of a lifetime not recruiting Al to manage. No one would ever have heard of Joe Torre OR Derek Jeter if they knew how good Al was as coach with his son Aldo on shortstop...! I can't say good-bye without first recognizing what you meant and the grace in which you did it....Rest in Peace.

*Paul Rabbia
Second Base*

Paul - June 08, 2020 at 07:10 PM

GN

“ *We are so sorry to hear about Al. He was a wonderful man. Whenever we saw him, either at Top Of The Morning Restaurant or just at a local store. Our deepest condolences and may God be with you during this difficult time. Alfonse (Fonze) and Trudy Nitti.*

GERTRUDE NITTI - June 07, 2020 at 10:03 PM

MB

“ *Al, Dee Dee, Lori and family,
So sorry for your loss, your Dad was a great guy. I will always remember his smile, his laugh and personality, he was truly a special man,
May God Bless and comfort you,*

Mike Beck

Mike Beck - June 07, 2020 at 08:25 PM



“ *Grimaldi family, Please accept our deepest condolences. I have many warm memories of Al and Dixie with my family including my bridal shower! Ann (Elmer) Russell and Phil Russell*

Ann Russell - June 07, 2020 at 06:42 PM

CF

“ *Aldo and Carolyn,
I'm sorry to hear of Dad's passing. May many happy memories of times spent together carry you through this difficult time.
God Bless You.
Carlo Fanelli*

Carlo Fanelli - June 07, 2020 at 06:14 PM

AF

“ *Dear Family
So sorry for your loss. He was a glant guy. I knew him as Connie's brother, and Dixie' husaband. We lived near or around each other in and out of East Utica and shared many greetings over the years. I will miss his our little walks to and from the elevator on our third floor wing of Schuyler Commons. rest in peace Al. Adelaide Foresti
1304 Centennial Circle*

Adelaide A Foresti - June 07, 2020 at 05:49 PM

SS

“ *I will always remember Al as a true gentleman. God bless and rest in peace*

scott spaziani - June 07, 2020 at 02:32 PM

NP

“ *Al was a true gentleman, he will be missed, God rest his soul.*

Nick Parrotta

Naples, Florida

Nick Parrotta - June 07, 2020 at 11:32 AM

SH

“ *Al was truly a wonderful man. Always with a smile and never had a bad word to say. He hired me and was my supervisor at DMV, for which I will be forever grateful. He was more than a great supervisor to me, he was a friend. All that had worked for him at DMV thought the world of him, he was that type of person. Rest in peace my friend, heavens gain is our loss.*



Steve O. Hnatiw

Steve O. Hnatiw - June 07, 2020 at 11:28 AM

LF

“ *Dear Lori, Joe & Family...we are so very sorry to hear of your Dad's (Grandfather's) passing. Keeping you all in our thoughts and prayers 🙏*

Lynette Franco & Family

Lynette Franco - June 07, 2020 at 09:58 AM

LF

“ *Lynette Franco lit a candle in memory of Mr. Albert C. Grimaldi Jr.*



Lynette Franco - June 07, 2020 at 09:51 AM



“ *So sorry to hear about your father. I remember him, my dad and Pete at our baseball games growing up. He was always smiling and a pleasure to talk to. All our love and sympathy. The Morreale family.*

Russ Morreale - June 07, 2020 at 08:43 AM

PW

“ *Dear Al and Carolyn, so very sorry for your loss. Our deepest sympathies to you and yours.*

Patty & Rusty Williams

Patty & Rusty Williams - June 07, 2020 at 08:39 AM

DD

“ *Often we do not notice the beauty and kindness of the people in our lives until they are gone. As the saying goes “it’s not what you take with you that counts, it’s what you leave behind”. At his best Al was a kind, generous, humorous, friendly man who has left the legacy of a beautiful and loving family and a legion of friends. Heartfelt condolences to the Grimaldi family. Dale DeStefanis*

Dale DeStefanis - June 07, 2020 at 01:05 AM

KF

“ Happy memories- love you Uncle Al. ❤️



Kim Fortier - June 06, 2020 at 06:37 PM



Richard
Beck

“ Many memories of your Dad/Mr. Grimaldi. When I took my drivers test, I waited anxiously for results. Friends said small envelope you pass...big envelope you fail. I got the big one! Disappointed I opened it and my test said
-5 points for not parking close enough to curb. 95% ??
I walked down the street and took it to your Dad and he said somebody made a mistake. Next day he stops by our home and handed me my license... as a teenager it was the best day ever!!!
Enjoyed seeing him at the pastry shop not long ago and having a chance to catch up.
Love to you Aldo, Dee Dee & Lori and your families.
Rich Beck

Richard Beck - June 06, 2020 at 06:32 PM

TS

“ He enjoyed karaoke at the 40&8 and the VFW. He was a joy to be around

Tom Stoio - June 06, 2020 at 03:20 PM



“ *Some Photo's of Al at the Family Reunions*



Dennis Grimaldi Sr. - June 06, 2020 at 03:11 PM

GC

“ *He was such a wonderful man and I will always treasure the times I spent working with him at Desserts Beyond the Ordinary! He will truly be missed 🙏❤️*

gina carccone - June 06, 2020 at 02:35 PM

JD

“ *So very sorry to hear this! Barry loved giving him the business about his Cowboys and listening to your dad's comebacks about the Giants! Such a very nice man...Sending our love...
Barry and Jeanne*

Jeanne and Barry Donalty - June 06, 2020 at 01:50 PM

LM

“ I am so devastated the world has lost a genuinely amazing man. I have gone to *Deserts Beyond the Ordinary* for the last 13 years and the best part of it would be seeing him when I came through the door. Always a big smile on his face, we would hug and chat (if it was football season it would be about that past Sunday as I am a Bill's fan therefore I hate Dallas, but we would always joke with each other about our dislike for the other team). At the time I worked very close to the restaurant and every month he would bring a box of mini cannolis to our office. He was just a loving and kind person and I am so happy I got to know him. We will be so missed by I'm sure so many! My prayers go out to Lori and Joe and the whole Grimaldi family. Xoxo

Leanne Mundrill - June 06, 2020 at 01:44 PM

GD

“ Remembering Al working at *Desserts Beyond* for many years. He was a gentleman always pleasant and friendly. Prayers to his family

Gracelyn DiNitto - June 06, 2020 at 01:09 PM

AE

My parents, Stan and Sally Barney, knew Al and family when I was growing up on Wetmore st. He will be remembered as a kind man and loving father to his kids that he adored. May he RIP.

Amy Barney Elinskas - June 06, 2020 at 01:18 PM

MA

“ To the Grimaldi Families,

Gentleman, respectful, kind, good, golden personality, handsome and a delight to be in his company. To have known Al was truly a gift from heaven. So happy to have crossed paths with him so long ago. Being so long ago, to see his obituary, only brought back these fond memories that have stayed with me over the years and gifted me even more!

Heaven is rejoicing at his arrival!!!

With Love,

Mary Guzzardo Annese

Venice, FL



Mary Guzzardo Annese - June 06, 2020 at 12:56 PM