



Mr. Alfonse J. "Al" DeSantis

April 24, 1935 - January 15, 2021

UTICA – Mr. Alfonse J. “Al” DeSantis, age 85, passed away on Friday, January 15, 2021, with his devoted, faithful wife and loved ones by his side. Born in Utica on April 24, 1935, Alfonse was the son of the late Giuseppe and Carmela (Buccolo) DeSantis. He attended Mary Street Grammar School and was a graduate of T.R. Proctor High School, Class of 1954. At the age of 12, Al helped his father build the family home on Leeds Street. By the age of 14, he worked at a lumber yard where he assembled window frames. Al also worked as a woodworking apprentice for a contractor at this very young age. He ran a contracting business, building homes for Howard Hoffman Realtor throughout his high school years. Astonishingly, Al built his first house for a customer at the age of 16! He then went on to build kitchen cabinets and countertops for spec homes.

Al was a veteran of the United States Army Reserve. He served his country with honor for six years, from 1957-1963 with the rank of Private-2. He went on active duty for six months stationed at Fort Leonard Wood in Missouri, where he taught carpentry in the Army Reserve Station Hospital.

On May 24, 1958, Al married the former Kathleen “Kay” Guido. They shared 62 years of marriage and were blessed with two daughters. Al continued his contractor business and built countertops for Sears & Roebuck throughout these years.

In 1969, Al founded DeSantis Door Company and operated the business out of his garage. By 1981, the company moved to 1227 Conkling Ave, where he

ran this successful business with his daughter and son-in-law, Carm and Joe Zutter. In 2018, Al retired from his career that spanned 71 years. Al and Kay moved to New Jersey to be closer to their daughter MaryRose and her family. Al was beloved by family, friends, and patrons for being a man of integrity. He was a “Master Craftsman” and a true perfectionist. Al was a hardworking and knowledgeable man who was always open to sharing his craft. He will always be remembered for helping others, pleasing his customers, and being as honest as the day is long.

Al was a faithful parishioner of St. Mary of Mt. Carmel/Blessed Sacrament Parish, where he and his wife Kay always attended Saturday afternoon Mass at 4:30 pm.

Al is survived by his devoted wife, Kay; the memories of his daughter, Carmelita A. “Carm” Zutter (June 1, 2018), and his son-in-law, Joseph A. Zutter (July 6, 2018); his daughter and son-in-law, MaryRose and Michael Cerminaro; his grandchildren, Joseph Jr. and Erin Zutter, Dr. Matthew and Dr. Morgan Zutter, David M. Zutter and Christina Meola, Alec, Russell, and Marcus Cerminaro; and his great-grandchildren, Isabella, Bryce, and Gianna Carmelita Zutter. He also leaves his sister-in-law, Janice Caravaglio, and several nieces, nephews, and cousins. He was predeceased by his father-in-law and mother-in-law, Salvatore and Mary Guido, and his in-laws, Marilyn and Pasquale “Pat” Leone, and Francis Caravaglio.

The family would like to thank Al’s caregiver, Apollonia “Anne Marie” Mack, for her devotion to Al. Anne Marie was compassionate, empathetic, and attentive to Al’s every need. She continues to be a true blessing to the DeSantis family. Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend Al’s funeral service and celebration of life. The funeral will commence on Saturday, January 30, 2021, at 11:00 am at St. Mary of Mt. Carmel/Blessed Sacrament Parish, where his Mass of Christian Burial will be offered. Social distancing, registration for contact tracing, and a mask covering your nose and mouth will be required. Expressions of sympathy in the form of donations in Al’s memory may be made to St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital online at <https://www.stjude.or>

g or by mail to 262 Danny Thomas Place, Memphis, TN 38105. Envelopes will be available at the service.

During this time of social distancing that we are all experiencing, please take a moment to connect with Al's family through the "Memories" section of his obituary. Our prayers go out to all as a sign of our continued support.

Previous Events

Funeral Service

JAN 30. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Mary of Mount Carmel / Blessed Sacrament Parish
648 Jay St
Utica, NY 13501
(315) 735-1482

Tribute Wall

CS

“ Dear Mrs. DeSantis & Family
We were so sorry to hear about Al. He was always such a gentleman and serviced our home for so many years .Always came when we called with that gentle manner he had . When our Lord calls our loved ones home he leaves a gift of memories in their place. May all your wonderful memories of this fine man help you thru these difficult days . Our thoughts and prayers are with you.
Carol & Phil Scampone

Carol Scampone - January 31, 2021 at 06:33 PM

JS

“ On this day we will bury another of the greatest generation. Al DeSantis was the embodiment of integrity. For Al there was faith, family, and vocation. I am fortunate enough to have gotten to know Al very well while growing up in East Utica. As teenagers we would spend a great deal of time at the DeSantis home. So many wonderful memories. Al was always a straight shooter and unexpectedly affable. Those who got a chance to know him well quickly became acquainted with a unique sense of humor. I was exposed to his wit often, both in a social and work setting. One of my first jobs was working with Al installing doors and garage openers. He taught me so much... thank you Al. You will be missed. God's speed my friend.

Jerry Stucchi - January 30, 2021 at 08:06 AM

RG

“ We are very sad to hear of the passing of Al, We always enjoyed seeing Al & Kay at the pizzeria on Friday Nights for Fish Dinner . He was always so kind to my daughter Alexandra who always appreciated his humor . Our condolences and Prayers to Kay and the Family.

Rocco, Lisa , Alexandra Grande .

rocco grande - January 28, 2021 at 02:36 PM

NJ

“ To kay and family my thoughts and prayers are with you. Nancy jones

Nancy jones - January 27, 2021 at 08:51 AM

FW

“ Kay and family, Believe me, these are not just words, but deep feelings. I am so sorry for your loss. Al was and is a great man, a loving son, husband, father, father-in-law, and above all a special grandfather. He was so loved by all. I remember him in church, sitting there and praying so hard, but always had a smile on his face for his fellow parishioners. And yes, I remember that smile every Saturday night, as I greeted him and gave him that special kiss on his forehead; he was that type of man, so proud and yet so humbled that many thought of him.. I remember the last time he was at the festival, when Maryrose and family came to Utica. We sat there and chatted, and I got to know Maryrose, Mike and the boys from New Jersey. And I remember you and I walking hand in hand for the procession, honoring Our Lady Of MT. Carmel. I was so honored to be with all of you. His grandsons from New Jersey were so proud of their Grandpa. Kay I could go on for hours on how wonderful Al was, but you and your family know that. You did the best you could do, now he is in Gods hands, and the hands of Our Blessed Mother. His pain is over. He is sitting there being so proud to be able to be with Carmelita and Joe, for we know that their loss was a heavy weight on his heart; and I can see that smile. So Kay as my dear friend, I want you to take a deep breath, and remember the good times. Remember that we all will follow the path to lead us to Gods doorway. Be strong, yet never lose the yearning to go further. I know that your faith and family will sustain you. May God bless all of you at this time. Your friend in faith and love Flo



FIORINDA B. WILSON - January 26, 2021 at 10:50 AM

FF

“ Frank & Debbie Femia lit a candle in memory of Mr. Alfonse J. "Al" DeSantis



Frank & Debbie Femia - January 25, 2021 at 01:01 PM

FF

*Kay & Family,
In life Al was motivated by high standards and values which emulated into his business.
He truly will be missed
Frank & Debbie Femia*

Frank & Debbie Femia - January 25, 2021 at 08:10 PM

DD

“ I only knew Al through my grandfather - Mike LoConti. Both he and Al conquered every job with precision and excellence. So very sorry for your loss.
Denise Di Giorgio

Denise DiGiorgio - January 24, 2021 at 08:27 PM

PL

“ To the Family of Mr. Al DeSantis: As customers of the DeSantis Door Co. for many years, the Longieretta Family has had the honor and even greater pleasure of knowing your husband and father. He was not only a gentleman and a fine craftsman, but also an amiable contractor who worked hard to make many neighborhood homes look and feel beautiful. He had a good work ethic, and , whenever he arrived to our family homestead, in his work van, my Mom's worry over a malfunctioning overhead door faded away. May he rest in peace, and may you be comforted by the certain knowledge that our Heavenly Father embraces him in His loving arms. P.S. I am willing to wager that the gates to Paradise will never look better.

Paul M. Longieretta - January 23, 2021 at 05:26 PM

AL

“ Kay and family so sorry to hear the passing of Al. He was such a great guy. When I had my garage door in he came over and we talked about the good old days and my mom. You had many blessed years with him. He will always be with you in spirit. He is now reunited with Carrmelita and Joe. Sending Prayers to you and your famiky. Mom always talked highly of Al

Angela LaForge - January 22, 2021 at 05:06 PM

ME

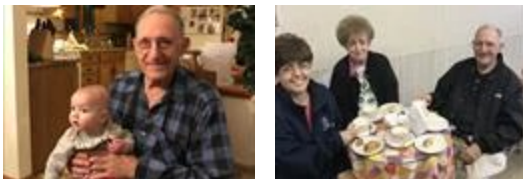
“ Dear Kay, Maryrose, and family
We are saddened by the loss of Al. How things change as I remember moving in next door has a teenager. Al was always there to lend a hand or give advice. It was a wonderful relationship between good neighbors. Time moves on and with that come change, I know you will miss Al. I have often thought about him, now he is at peace. Kay, Maryrose, and family, you will in our thoughts and prayers.

Michael and Lynne Elefante

Michael Elefante - January 22, 2021 at 01:01 PM

MC

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



mariangela coriale - January 21, 2021 at 08:27 PM

MC

“ 5 files added to the album Memories Album



mariangela coriale - January 21, 2021 at 08:24 PM

MC

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



mariangela coriale - January 21, 2021 at 05:36 PM

MC

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



mariangela coriale - January 21, 2021 at 02:30 PM

MC

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



mariangela coriale - January 21, 2021 at 02:08 PM

CG

“ *Dear Kay, I am so sorry for your loss. You and your family are in my thoughts and prayers. You were all so blessed*
Carm Guarnieri

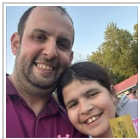
carmenann Guarnieri - January 21, 2021 at 01:53 PM

MC

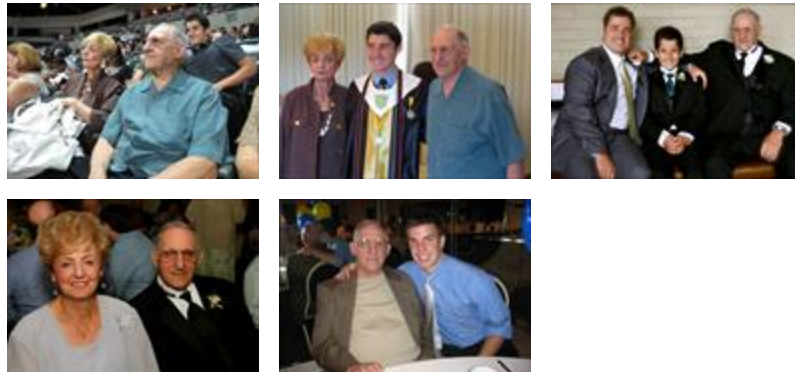
“ 3 files added to the album Memories Album



mariangela coriale - January 21, 2021 at 10:24 AM



“ 16 files added to the album Memories Album



Joe Zutter - January 21, 2021 at 10:01 AM

GB

“ So sorry to hear of Al's passing. Sincerely cousin George Buccolo .

George Buccolo - January 20, 2021 at 06:49 PM

EL

“ Dear Kay, Maryrose, Michael and family. We send our deepest sympathy for you loss. Al was always a delightful person to be around. May he rest in peace.

Elizabeth Leone-Normat - January 20, 2021 at 12:59 PM

FF

“ we want to convey our sincere condolences to Kay and the DeSantis Family for your loss. cousins Francis, Bonnie, Michael, and Madelyn Fragola...

Francis N Fragola - January 20, 2021 at 11:59 AM

JG

“ Dear Kay,
Please know that you are in my thoughts and prayers at this time.
Sending love to you and your family.
Love, Jody Guarnieri

Jody Guarnieri - January 20, 2021 at 10:25 AM

RF

“ Dear Kay, Maryrose, Michael and family,
Al was the joy of his parents life. Aunt Cora would tell me stories of when they built their house, he was a young boy right in there with his big boots helping. Al (we called him Funzi) was truly considered a very talented perfectionist, hardworking and dedicated man by his family. My father often said you can't find a spot of dirt underneath the hood of Al's car. Kay and family, we are so sorry for your loss of a great man. I do know there are many relatives in heaven happy to see him when those gates open. Hope they open correctly or he will fix them. Love John and Roseann Franco

Roseann Franco - January 20, 2021 at 08:14 AM

MC

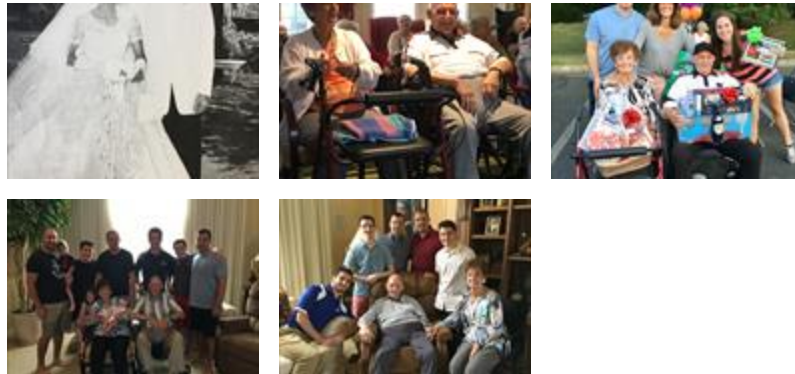
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mariangela coriale - January 19, 2021 at 09:48 PM

MC

“ 16 files added to the album Memories Album



mariangela coriale - January 19, 2021 at 09:18 PM

JC

“ *My deepest and heartfelt sympathy to Kay, MaryRose Michael and the entire DeSantis family for the loss of a truly fine gentleman. The finest husband, father Grandpa and hard working honest business man are all titles I wore with honor. You all were a completely devoted selfless unit in his care throughout his later years. May you find comfort for all your goodness. God Bless each and every one of you.*
Love and Prayers,
Jeanne Castronovo

Jeanne Castronovo - January 19, 2021 at 08:47 PM

FR

“ *Kay, my heart goes out to you at this time of your loss. I pray for your healing. Al was blessed to have you as his loving wife and partner. Fr. John Rose*

Fr. John Rose - January 19, 2021 at 07:28 PM

FS

“ *My thoughts and prayers to Al's family. May Al Rest In Peace.*

Francine A. Sansone - January 19, 2021 at 02:51 PM