



Mr. Alfonzo J. "AJ" "Al" DiCesare Sr.

December 8, 1920 - February 4, 2021

UTICA – Mr. Alfonzo J. “AJ” “Al” DiCesare, Sr., age 100, of North Utica, passed away comfortably and peacefully with his loved ones at his side on Thursday, February 4, 2021 at The Pines at Utica Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation.

Born in Utica on October 8, 1920, Al was the son of the late Pasquale and Theresa (Cecci) DiCesare. He was raised and educated locally. A veteran of the U.S. Army, he served stateside with the Medical Corps in the 1247th Hospital Train Unit. On April 14, 1945 he was joined in marriage with the former Mary M. DiStefano. Al and Mary shared a relationship filled with good humor, great love, and constant devotion for 70 years prior to her passing on August 11, 2015.

At one time, Al served as a company clerk with the Civilian Conservation Corps. He then accepted a position with the railroad, first working for the NY Central Railroad, later for Penn Central and after the merger, Conrail. He retired in 1980. He was a communicant of St. Mark’s Church in North Utica and was a devoted usher for the parish.

Al was both socially inclined and socially skilled. He was gifted with a wonderful sense of humor and admirable leadership qualities. He was active with various local groups, especially the American Legion, Post #1290 where at various times he served in a number of different offices, including Past Oneida County Commander for two terms, Past Dept. of NY Sergeant-at-Arms, and Past National Distinguished Guest Committeeman. He also

belonged to the Fraternal Order of Eagles #97 on Cosby Manor Road where he once held the position of Treasurer. He loved golfing and socializing with his buddies at the Post where he often enjoyed another of his favorite pastimes, playing cards.

Al held close to his heart the memory of his daughter, Theresa R. "Terri" DiCesare-McDowell who passed away on September 16, 2009. He is survived by his son, Al J. "Sonny Dee" DiCesare, Jr.; his former daughters-in-law, Elaine, Cheryl, and Carol; grandchildren, Christopher J. DiCesare and spouse Thierry Gablin, Tanessa "Tane" Spann, Paul W. McDowell Jr., and Joshua D. McDowell. He will also be remembered by his many nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, cousins; in-laws, Armando "Arfe" and Pauline DiStefano; and his friends. He was predeceased by his brothers and sisters-in-law, Joseph and Mary Jane "Jenny" Cardone, Carl and Amelia "Millie" DiCesare, and Peter and Frances "Dolly" DiCesare; sisters and brother-in-law, Lorenza "Larrie" and Thomas Cappozella Giangolini, and Natalie DiCesare who passed in her infancy; in-laws, Linda and Frank Luciano, and Albert Giangolini; nephew, Luke Cardone; and friends, Jack and Elvira Getti.

The family extends their thanks to family friend Frank for his many acts of kindness in assisting Al during his times of need. They also wish to thank Bonnie, for the many rides to church, also all of the friends Al had made throughout his lifetime. They also wish to express gratitude to Carol who, while battling COVID herself, found the time to call Al and together they lifted each other's spirits. The family also extends thanks to the staff at Pounder Hall in Oriskany at the Eastern Star for their care and concern; and the personnel of The Pines at Utica for their compassion in tending to Al during his stay.

Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend Al's Prayer of Committal and Final Commendation with Military Honors conferred which will be held on Wednesday afternoon, April 14, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. at St. Agnes Cemetery Chapel, 601 Arthur St., Utica, followed by Inurnment in St. Agnes Cemetery. Face masks are required and social distancing and contact tracing

will be implemented.

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.

Cemetery Details

St. Agnes Cemetery

601 Arthur Street
Utica, NY 13501
(315) 732-8588

Previous Events

Committal Prayers

APR 14. 1:00 PM (ET)

St. Agnes Cemetery Chapel
601 Arthur Street
Utica, NY

Tribute Wall

SS

“ Sue Slabe lit a candle in memory of Mr. Alfonzo J. "AJ" "AI" DiCesare Sr.



Sue Slabe - December 04, 2024 at 01:08 AM

BB

“ Sonny Dee and family- sorry for your loss. Your Dad lived a wonderful life and had a great family during his journey. My thoughts and prayers are with you at this time. God bless- Bill Britt

Bill Britt - April 11, 2021 at 08:25 AM

JH

“ Jeremy Hayes lit a candle in memory of Mr. Alfonzo J. "AJ" "AI" DiCesare Sr.



Jeremy Hayes - March 23, 2021 at 09:57 AM

MA

“ With sincere sympathy for the loss of a wonderful man with with a beautiful heart. Your parents were very special people Sonny especially to me over the years. I got to see them when I worked at Marion Medical Imaging of St E's. They made me smile. May your Dad rest in the arms of Our Heavenly Father till we all meet again in Glory.



With Love,
Frank&Mary Guzzardo Annese
Venice, FL

Mary Guzzardo Annese - February 18, 2021 at 05:52 PM

EP

“ Please accept our sincere sympathy during this time!
Emil and Janet Paparella

Emil Paparella - February 18, 2021 at 02:05 PM

CD

“ Hi Sonny I was so shocked to hear about your Dads passing. I tried calling you a few times but I couldn't get through. May your dad rest in peace with his beautiful wife.

Cheryl Dicesare - February 10, 2021 at 12:23 PM

CH

“ Camille Hanzalik lit a candle in memory of Mr. Alfonzo J. "AJ" "AI" DiCesare Sr.



Camille Hanzalik - February 10, 2021 at 09:14 AM

DT

“ Uncle Al, my heart is breaking knowing that I can never hear you call me honey whenever I spoke to you on the phone or your laughter that was so contagious. It brings me such comfort knowing that you are finally reunited with Aunt Mary that has been waiting patiently for you I'm sure.

Sonny, Tanessa and family, my deepest condolences go out to all of you during this very difficult time! We have so many memories stored in our heart's that guarantees he lives on in spirit and in those memories. Remember that although he may be gone in body, he will always walk besides you all in spirit. Sending my love, thoughts and prayers to all of you! ❤️❤️🙏🙏

Donna Toussaint - February 10, 2021 at 12:18 AM

DR

“ I knew Al when he was at Pounder Hall. He was a wonderful and considerate man. My deepest sympathy to Al's whole family. RIP Al !!!! Diane Rice

Diane Rice - February 09, 2021 at 07:38 PM

C(

“ Al and Mary DiCesare (or as I know them mom and dad) accepted me into their family in September 1966 when I arrived from Germany
From day one they treated me like their own child and I love them for that
We will all be reunited someday and our life will continue with lots of love and laughter
miss you all so much and mom I always told you your sauce was better than mine!
Love forever Carol

Carol (DiCesare)Kellams - February 09, 2021 at 10:44 AM

DD

“ Sonny,

We talked about our dads often...how fortunate you were to have had yours until age 100. I know from your words through the years that you were a good son...my deepest sympathy to you and your family. May God bless you.

Dave Dudajek

Dave Dudajek - February 09, 2021 at 07:06 AM

RC

“ Sonny so sorry to hear about your Dad's passing . With sympathy
Robert & RoseMary Comenale

Rose Mary Comenale - February 08, 2021 at 10:31 PM

JS

“ *I remember Al from the pro shop at the Eagles Club. I always enjoyed conversing with him and listening to his stories. Condolences to family...*

John Simmons - February 08, 2021 at 07:48 PM



“ *Sonny, and family, my condolences on your loss. We were neighbors years ago and we also worked together.*

Arthur Rapp - February 08, 2021 at 05:44 PM



“ *Sonny, sorry for the loss of your father. We go way back to Tilden Ave.*

Arthur Rapp - February 08, 2021 at 05:41 PM

RA

Sonny and family. I will always remember the fun times growing up with both your parents. Swimming ,cards, and great food. God bless. Ray Malachowski Jr.

Ray - February 10, 2021 at 10:43 AM