



Alfred J. Rocci

October 14, 1923 - January 11, 2008

Mr. Alfred J. Rocci, age 84, of Utica, passed away unexpectedly on Friday, January 11, 2008 in the comfort of his home.

Born in Utica on October 14, 1923, Alfred was the son of the late Peter and Madelina (Sgambata) Rocci. Raised and educated locally, he was a 1941 graduate of T. R. Proctor High School. He continued his collegiate studies at Oswego State Teacher's College, and earned his Master's Degree from Temple University. On September 2, 1950 he was joined in the sacrament of marriage to the former Orietta M. "Orrie" Ciacci with whom he shared 57 blessed years.

Alfred's teaching career began in Pennsylvania, prior to relocating back to Utica, where he accepted a position with the Utica City School District as a Driver Education instructor at Utica Free Academy. The highlight of his academic achievements was his appointment as Assistant Principal at T. R. Proctor High School. He loved his role as educator, coach, and will be remembered for his fairness and concern for his students, and his intuitive mentoring abilities. He retired in 1983, and he was humbly touched by those students who recalled his precious time in education. Gregarious in nature and steadfast in friendship, he truly believed in the precept that he had "brothers who were his best friends, and friends who were like brothers". A sportsman at heart, he was an avid golfer, and at one time enjoyed bowling. His civic affiliations included the Knights of St. John, Commandery #385 and he was a communicant of St. Anthony of Padua Church.

Alfred is survived by his wife, Orrie; his children and their spouses, Madelyne and Jay MacDonald of Florida, Alfred K. and Lisa Rocci of Utica, Natalie and Richard Kielar of Colorado, and Ana Burke of New York City; and his grandchildren, Austen MacDonald, Dr. Patrick Rossi; Marissa Rocci and fiancé David Armstrong , and Matthew Rocci; Michael Kielar and Britany Kielar; and Tyne Burke. Survivors also include his brother and sister-in-law, Mario and Marie Rocci of Utica; his nieces and nephews, Peter and Vinnie Rocci, James and Gloria Rocci, Mario and Donna Rocci, David and Marie Rocci, Steven & Carla Rocci; several great-nieces and great-nephews, Peter, Chuck and Gina; Nicole and Kathy; Marc; Philip and Elaine; Samantha and Savanna; cousins, and his in-laws residing in Italy. Alfred was also blessed with wonderful friends and neighbors. He was predeceased by his brother and sister-in-law, Alphonse and Mary Rocci.

The family extends gratitude to Dr. Fred L. Talarico, the members of the Utica Fire Department EMS, and the St. Elizabeth Medical Center Emergency Room staff, especially Dr. Timothy E. Page, for their professional and compassionate care.

Visitation will be held Monday from 4:00-8:00 at the Eannace Funeral Home, Inc., 932 South St., corner of Hammond Ave. The members of the Knights of St. John's Commandery #385 will assemble at the funeral home at 7:30 for ritualistic services. Alfred's funeral service will commence on Tuesday morning at 9:30 from the funeral home and at 10:30 at St. Anthony of Padua Church where his Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated. Interment will take place in Forest Hill Cemetery at the convenience of the family.

Tribute Wall



“ *My deepest sympathy to Mr. Rocci's family.*

I attended Proctor 1977-1981. I had the highest respect for Mr. Rocci during my four years at Proctor. He was one of the most nicest and sincerest persons I have ever met. He always expressed how proud he was of each and every one of us on all of our achievements! I know he will be missed by all who knew him and who were blessed to have been in his company.

May you rest in peace, Mr. Rocci.

Fondly,

Waiyee (Szeto) Kennedy##imported-begin##Waiyee (Szeto) Kennedy##imported-end##

January 18, 2008 at 02:39 PM



“ *In memory of one of my dearest friends. Mr. Rocci was one of the kindest people I've had the opportunity to meet. He was always encouraging and had a gentle spirit. He will be greatly missed.##imported-begin##Peggy Robertson##imported-end##*

January 18, 2008 at 01:00 PM



“ *Grandpa,*
Thank you for every memory and gift that you have given me in the past. It was hard to let you go but at least we will see each other again someday. I will try to make more of an effort in school for you and in all i do.##imported-begin##Michael Kielar##imported-end##

January 16, 2008 at 05:24 PM



“ Grandpa,
I just wanted to say thanks!! You always were so proud of everything I did. We had lots of great times together and I was telling my mom I bet you're playing golf with God. You have inspired me to always do my best in school and sports. It will be hard to go on without you, but I know you are looking down on me and smiling on what I have done and what you have done for me!! I love you so much Grandpa and always will!!!###imported-begin###Britany Kielar###imported-end###

January 16, 2008 at 04:25 PM



“ *I had the privilege of working with Al in Utica Summer School Driver Ed. back in the 80's. I'll never forget his sense of humor and common sense way of dealing with students and staff. I learned a great deal from him. My condolences to his family.*###imported-begin###Joe White###imported-end###

January 14, 2008 at 10:26 PM



“ *Pete, Vlnnie and family:*

Sorry to hear of your loss. May you seek comfort in the arms of the Lord.

God bless

Lorena###imported-begin###Lorena###imported-end###

January 14, 2008 at 05:41 PM



“ We have lost one of the sincerest gentleman I have ever had the pleasure of knowing. Mr Rocci was not only a high school mentor but a man who always made you feel as though you were talking to someone who truly cared about what happened in your life as a student and as an adult . Whenever i saw him he would always ask about my family, my career or something that meant more than a simple hello. My deepest sympathy to the Rocci family as you have lost a great man , father and friend. May god welcome him with open arms and a pass for all of heaven's golf courses. Rest in peace Mr Rocci . Tony Amodio###imported-begin###Tony Amodio###imported-end##

January 14, 2008 at 05:06 PM



“ "Truly a fine gentleman in every sense of the word". Sincerely missed.###imported-begin###Michael & Tony Filipelli###imported-end##

January 14, 2008 at 03:42 PM



“ Ana,
I'm saddened to hear of your Dad's passing. I enjoy the memory of a beautiful Summer Day in your backyard with your family and friends. That is the first time I met your family. In the short time I knew Big Al he created a lasting memory that puts a smile on my face. He was gregarious and quick-witted. He knew how to stir up a room. He will be missed. Orrie, you are a treasure - we're very sorry for the loss of Big Al...sending hugs from NJ.
Love, Shari and Steve##imported-begin##Shari Grant##imported-end##

January 14, 2008 at 10:15 AM



“ *What can I say to people that were like a second family to me growing up, but that I am deeply sorry for your loss. Ana, the memories we share from Bacon St., between your parent's house and my father's store are memories I will forever hold close to my heart. My fondest memorie of your Dad is him teaching me to drive in Driver's Ed. He would slam on the brake on his side of the car and yell "PULEO"!!!! I could never mention all the times we have shared in this space, but I will say that like our Dad's, so much time has passed but nothing could ever take away those memories. At this trying time please know that I love you and share your sorrow.*
Terri##imported-begin##Terri Puleo-Donato##imported-end##

January 13, 2008 at 09:12 PM



“ *Dearest Orrie and family*

We go back so far, I don't even know if you would remember me, but I just had to express my sympathy of the loss of your beloved "Al"

Please know that my prayers are with you at this difficult time.

Sincerely Maria Pellegrino

Coulombe

January 13, 2008 at 04:22 PM