



Andrew J. "Andy" O'Donnell

October 3, 1974 - October 25, 2017

UTICA - Andrew J. "Andy" O'Donnell, age 43, went to Heaven and was welcomed by his loved ones who have gone before him, when he passed away on Wednesday, October 25, 2017 in the comfort of his home with his loving family by his side.

Born in San Diego, California on October 3, 1974, Andrew was the son of Thomas H. O'Donnell and Susan M. (Chase) Rioscolon. He also knew the love of his step-father, Fausto "Pop" Rioscolon; Andy was blessed with two caring dads.

Andy attended Utica schools and subsequently received additional specialized and individualized educational love from the Vernon-Verona-Sherrill School District where he received his graduation certificate in cap and gown!

Andy was a happy-go-lucky guy, blessed with a great spirit. As a child, he was a bright, lively, happy young man with a vast interest in learning and an incredible memory. Unfortunately, Andy was struck by a car while sledding at the Parkway, and his life changed from that day forward. But with love and devotion, he learned a 'new normal' that consisted of a highly scheduled lifestyle which he abided by strictly. Each day, he got up at the same time, went to bed at the same time, and during the day he watched TV, music videos, old cartoons especially Woody Woodpecker, and his favorite movie, Grease. And all was good for Andy. He could make you laugh, he could make you cry, but above all, he was an irreplaceable part of his family, sometimes referred to as "the anchor". He would only eat peanut butter & jelly for lunch,

and also just began enjoying Chicken McNuggets. He attended the Cicero Auto Races and liked to listen to the sound of the drag racing engines, especially Car #1320 driven by "Pop", as Andy cheered him on.

He was at his best at his family camp at the Mountain View Campground where he loved to ride in the golf cart. Christmas decorations excited him and he loved tearing open the wrapping paper on the boxes more than seeing their contents. He was a character, and proudly, he always remained Andy, in the best form he could. He was beloved by his entire family and things will not be the same without him. He was affectionately called Little Brother, Buddy, Andy, and Andy John when he acted out.

Andrew is survived by his mom and step-dad, Susan M. and Fausto Rioscolon with whom he resided; his Dad, Thomas H. O'Donnell; his brothers, Michael O'Donnell, Stephen O'Donnell and Sheryl Delaney; his step-sister, Stacey Elmer; and step-brother, Norman Elmer, "Fudd" as Andy would refer to him. He will also be remembered by his nieces and nephews, Breanna O'Donnell, Albert Knapp, Roxanne Lloyd, Kristy O'Donnell, Stephen O'Donnell Jr., and their mother Billie Jo Bardo; his great-nephews, Liam, and Phoenix; cousins, aunts, uncles, and a host of friends in his life prior to the accident, and after. They were all family to him. He will be missed by Grandma Isabelle. He was predeceased by his maternal grandmother, Dorma Mathis who is now taking care of Andy until his mom joins him; and his uncle Victor Rios with whom he shared a close bond, on this earth and now in the heavens.

The family is grateful to Dr. Chris Clarke who assisted the family in making the best decisions they could for Andy; Kathy Sanger/Patient Advocate who was also a Nurse Practitioner who followed the journey of Andy and his family; she was a true blessing.

Visitation will be held Sunday from 2:00-4:00 at the Eannace Funeral Home, Inc., 932 South St., corner of Hammond Ave. Andy's funeral service and Celebration of Life will commence on Sunday afternoon at 4:00 at the funeral home upon conclusion of visitation with Sister Betty Giarrusso, CSJ, officiating. Interment will take place in Forest Hill Cemetery at the convenience

of the family.

Cemetery Details

Forest Hill Cemetery

2201 Oneida Street
Utica, NY

Tribute Wall

JR

“ I am so sorry for your loss Aunt Sue. Andy was one of those people that was extremely unique in that not only were you thankful to get to be around but he also knew how to make everybody smile just by being around him. You just knew you were in the presence of someone who loved life no matter what challenges it brings and is someone who we all can learn from. There is old saying that states that the best of God's children go home early because He is in need of another angel. And with Andy I believe that with every fiber in my body. He was one of kind and is up there with all of our loving family that are no longer with us, including my mother, who I know is putting her arms around him with all her heart, so I'm happy to know that he has good company to spend with and watch over you. He will be missed as much as he was always happy about everything, including having such a great mom and dad. Love you guys and am always here for you!

Jared

Jarad Ridsdale - October 30, 2017 at 12:35 PM

MR

“ This is for my sister Sue and my brother-in-law Fausto. Yesterday we lost one of the best spirits we ever knew when Andy passed away. My favorite memory of him is when he was a little boy, before the accident that changed his life. He was so bright and lively, always loving, laughing and interested in everything. Later that bright spirit still showed through the years of hardship. He was always trying to joke with us and show his loving nature. We will miss him terribly, but I think his young spirit is back now as he brightens up heaven. Love to you, Andy.

Aunt Marge

Marge Ridsdale - October 30, 2017 at 12:18 PM

UB

“ Andy brought many family and friends together. Though he struggled to communicate he was the reason for plenty of love and unity. He and mom Sue inspired all to be better than they were and to live a bit harder. His spirit lives in our hearts and fond memories of time with him and the extended family. The fun and laughter are what he loved most and what we must remember as we think of him. Run free and be at peace nephew!

Uncle Bob - October 28, 2017 at 08:42 AM

SC

“ Andy brought much joy to many people, family or not. Sue and Fausto, I am so sorry for your loss , its devastating. May God be with you and your family. Rest in peace, Andy.




Sandy Clark - October 28, 2017 at 08:39 AM

KR

“ Andy was a unique and very special person. So many memories and some very very funny ones that we cannot mention. We are very proud to have has the privilege to have been his Aunt and Uncle.



Kathy and Luis Rios - October 27, 2017 at 08:18 PM


Norman
Elmer

“ I remember us wrestling in the house as kids and getting yelled at because we were jumping from the dresser to the bed and using ketchup as blood lol



Norman Elmer - October 27, 2017 at 07:51 PM

CN

“ We are so sorry for your loss....Andy will be missed riding around on the golf cart stopping and saying hi to us!! Andy was a special part of our campground family! Andy and my Dad can talk about racing together! Love from your campground family...Dave, Candy, Bernice, Johnny and Ashley

Candy Nimey - October 27, 2017 at 06:36 PM



“ Peace, Prayers, & Blessings- Yellow and White was purchased for the family of Andrew J. "Andy" O'Donnell.



October 27, 2017 at 05:44 PM

SB

“ Sue And Bud Belcher lit a candle in memory of Andrew J. "Andy" O'Donnell



sue and bud belcher - October 27, 2017 at 07:48 AM



I only had the chance to met Andy a couple times. He was truly blessed with a wonderful loving family. He was a very happy man. Prayers and love to all of you

Kim Pylman - October 27, 2017 at 10:44 AM

LJ

“ *Andy was a fighter and a warrior. He was brave in so many ways. He was loved by so many. He has amazing parents who provided him the best care any person could have. His passing has left a huge hole in his family because he was loved and cherished by all. May he rest in peace.*

Luis Rios Jr - October 27, 2017 at 12:04 AM