



Mr. Anthony G. "Tony" Gelfuso

July 8, 1921 - July 11, 2018

NORTH UTICA - Mr. Anthony G. "Tony" Gelfuso, age 97, passed away on Wednesday, July 11, 2018 at Crouse Hospital in Syracuse with his loving family by his side.

Born in Pontecorvo, Province of Frosinone, Italy on July 8, 1921, Anthony was the son of the late Benedetto and Maria "Mary" Civita (Servizio) Gelfuso. At the age of nine he immigrated to the United States and settled in Utica where he attended local schools. A proud patriot, Tony had the soul of a true soldier. A veteran of World War II, he honorably and heroically served his country in the United States Army from 1942-1946 in the European Theater of Operations with the 75th Infantry Division under General George S. Patton. He participated in and survived several offensive campaigns including the Battle of the Ruhr, the Colmar Pocket Battle, and the Battle of the Bulge which thrust through the frozen forest of Ardennes. On July 31, 1955 he wed the former Laura E. McCann at St. Mary of Mount Carmel Church. Music graced their marriage and they moved to the measures of each other's lives. They were of one mind in achieving happiness in their marriage and harmony in their family life.

Tony was employed by the Oneita Knitting Mills, and then he accepted a position at the Parachute Shop in the Strategic Air Command Base at Griffiss Air Force Base. The "Fly Boys" who were the pilots at the base included Tony and Laura in their life events and the couple knew lifelong care and camaraderie from this "family". In 1986, after several attempts, Tony finally

retired!

Tony was the most kindhearted man you could ever hope to meet. He was always generous, and what was his, was yours. He loved an array of foods, never wasted any portion of a meal, and never gained a pound! He had an appreciation for red wine, espresso coffee with Italian Anisette liqueur, and a little beaker of beer now and then. Tony was a gardener who tended to his plants and grapevines with love, and many meals were prepared from his annual harvest. Back in the day, Thursdays were Pasta Day, and Sundays were days to gather with family. Christmas Eve was sacred and featured traditional Italian foods and customs. Tony honored his mother and after his father's passing, they became one family living together, and his mom looked upon her daughter-in-law as her own. Extended family was so very important to Tony, right down to the newest baby. He loved children, and his devotion ran deep for his family. As patriarch, he was a protective and loving husband, and a wonderful father. He encouraged his daughter and grandchildren in all their endeavors and was proud of their vast academic accomplishments. He valued education and was a voracious reader. He viewed programs about history, World War II, and Turner Classic movies. He and Laura were exercise buffs, and Tony hit the treadmill and crushed push-ups daily until recent months. An affable man, he met on many occasions with friends for coffee and conversation. Tony was always ready to go out with friends and family, and loved to travel on vacations to Orlando and the Berkshires with his family. He also loved the Adirondacks as a nexus for connecting to nature, and he enjoyed the serenity of hunting, fishing, and family camping. Tony was one of the last members of the Local Utica Chapter of the Battle of the Bulge, DAV Stars and Stripes, Oriental-Faxton Lodge #224, 32nd Degree Mason, and the Utica Chapter of the Eastern Star. He socialized through his affiliation with the former Sons of Italy Lodge and the Loyal Order of Moose, and he sang with the Il Coro Italiano "The Italian Chorus". He always had a tune in his heart and could often be heard humming a song. A longtime parishioner of St. Peter's Church, Tony was faithful and reverent when he attended Mass. When

unable, he participated by viewing Holy Mass on the Eternal World Television Network every Sunday.

Anthony is survived by his beloved wife, Laura; his daughter, Catherine “Cathy” Vernon/MD, PhD who serves as the Associate Chief of Staff for Graduate Medical Education and Research Compliance Officer, and a practicing Internal Medicine Hospitalist at the Syracuse VA Medical Center and her husband Jeffrey Vernon; and his grandchildren, triplets Dr. Lauren D. Vernon/PharmD, Brenton J. Vernon/B.S. in Biology, and Ian William Anthony “Billy” Vernon/B.S. in Accounting. He will also be remembered by his nieces and nephews whom he loved dearly, John and Emmy Gelfuso, Linda and Dr. Charles Burns, Mary Ann and William Knapp, Janie Gelfuso, and Carol and Mark Sterling; great-nieces, great-nephews; cousins, including the Servizio families; and in-laws, Maxine Gelfuso, Ronald McCann, Thomas and Nancy McCann, and Richard McCann. He was a good friend to many, especially Beverly Piechowicz, the Pagliaro families, and Dr. Theresa Gentile and husband John Femia. He was predeceased by his brother, John G. Gelfuso; father-in-law and mother-in-law, Frank and Catherine McCann; in-laws, Frank and Rose “Ruby” McCann, Theresa McCann, Diane and Harry McCann; and his best friends, Eddie Kagan, and Fred Piechowicz.

The family is grateful to Dr. Timothy Damron, Dr. Joseph Battaglia, the Crouse Hospital/4th Floor and ICU staffs who were professional, attentive, and compassionate in caring for Tony; the Chaplains for their prayers and spiritual solace; “Molly” the therapy dog; and the personnel of the Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic in Rome for the medical expertise and empathy rendered to Tony.

Visitation will be held Monday from 4:00-7:00 at the Eannace Funeral Home, Inc., 932 South St., corner of Hammond Ave. Anthony’s funeral service and Celebration of Life will commence on Tuesday morning at 11:00 from the funeral home and at 12:00 noon at St. Mary of Mt. Carmel/Blessed Sacrament Parish where his Mass of Christian Burial will be offered by Rev. James Cesta.

Military honors will be conferred by the US Army and TAPS Our Duty in Calvary Cemetery Mausoleum Chapel followed by entombment in Calvary Mausoleum.

Expressions of sympathy in Tony's honor may be made to the American Cancer Society, 100 Lomond Court, Utica, NY 13502 online at <https://www.cancer.org> or the American Heart Association, 125 Business Park Drive, Suite 106, Utica, NY 13501 online at http://www.heart.org/HEARTORG/Affiliate/UticaMohawk-Valley-Region-Home-Page_UCM_FDA107_AffiliatePage.jsp; envelopes will also be available at the funeral home.

Whatever the job, steeped in their tradition — “Always Get There Somehow” — men of the 75th are determined to report as before: Mission Accomplished!
...Major General Ray E. Porter

Cemetery Details

Calvary Mausoleum

2407 Oneida Street
Utica, Ny

Tribute Wall

SE

“ My late husband (Richard Eldredge) and I, always enjoyed Tony's visits to the Bronx Household at Masonic Care when John Gelfuso would bring him to see Maxine. Tony's visits always brought smiles to all.

My Sincere Sympathy to the family. May Tony Rest In Peace.

I am sorry I was not able to attend the calling hours.

Love to All, Sandy Eldredge

sandra eldredge - July 17, 2018 at 07:53 AM

CV

Thank you, Sandra.

Catherine Vernon - July 18, 2018 at 03:58 PM

LY

“ R.I.P. you will be miss never forgetting you are angel he and his wife was in Yesterday Ensemble senior band we did play at his birthday we all will see you again bob Shirley Lynda



lynda - July 14, 2018 at 10:34 AM

DA

Now that you've enter Gods Kingdom, never forget how much you are loved here on earth.

You're beautiful smile and kindness will live in my heart forever. I have such fond memories of my Utica family. Uncle Tony and Uncle John were two of my favorite characters. Listening and Learning about their history of coming to America was fascinating. Whenever the Melvin Allen children were in Utica, we always had such fun. SUNDAYS were always the highlight of the week. With Grandma Gelfuso cooking and the whole family surrounded by the aromatic delights of the day.

Love last forever ❤️

Debbie Allen-Baker

Debbie Allen-Baker - July 16, 2018 at 12:01 PM

CV

Thank you, Debbie.

Catherine Vernon - July 18, 2018 at 03:58 PM

AG

“ I had the pleasure of knowing Tony for the past 40 years by way of his daughter, Cathy. He was a kind and loving husband, father, father-in-law and grandfather. I had the pleasure of sharing many family events with him. He was an honorable and gentle man. My condolences to Laura, Cathy, Jeff, Lauren, Billie and Brenton along with the extended Gefuso family.

Alan Goodman

Alan Goodman - July 12, 2018 at 10:41 PM

CV

Thank you

Catherine Vernon - July 18, 2018 at 03:57 PM