



Mr. Anthony Guy "Tony" Rinaldi

June 17, 1952 - May 24, 2026

UTICA – Mr. Anthony Guy “Tony” Rinaldi, age 73, peacefully transitioned into eternity free of pain surrounded by his family on Sunday, May 24, 2026, at 3:16 p.m., beautifully coinciding with his favorite Bible verse, John 3:16.

Born in Utica on June 17, 1952, Anthony was the son of the late Guy J. and Vita (Dacquino) Rinaldi. He was a proud graduate of T. R. Proctor High School, Class of 1971.

Tony dedicated many years to masonry work for the City of Utica Department of Public Works (DPW). He later found a passion for working with children as a teacher’s assistant with Upstate Cerebral Palsy and Onieda-Herkimer-Madison BOCES. He formed close bonds with the children he encountered there and was especially talented at helping children having the most difficulties, often working as a one to one aide with such children. Anthony often included the children in his own family adventures, creating meaningful memories and experiences they would always treasure. He genuinely loved his work and the relationships he built through it.

For 36 years, Anthony shared a loving relationship with the former Debra Jackson, and together they were blessed with four daughters.

Tony was truly one of a kind, known for his colorful vocabulary and unforgettable “Tonyisms,” often passionately delivered while talking with his

hands. He was unapologetically honest and never afraid to tell it like it was, yet beneath his tough exterior was a man with an enormous heart. Tony felt everything deeply, loved hard, and had a special soft spot for those who were struggling, as well as for animals and nature. He was overly generous, always willing to help others, and had a wonderful sense of humor, even if his family lovingly joked that he was not quite as funny as he thought he was. He maintained a wide circle of cherished friends from all walks of life.

Tony found his greatest peace outdoors. He was an avid fisherman, a skilled hunter, and enjoyed creating his own inventions related to these treasured pastimes. He also had a talent for taxidermy and woodworking, always keeping his hands and mind busy. One of his favorite places to be and daily hang out was at his nephew Steve's shop where he would chat with the guys, help out, and mow the grass. Whether picking flowers and mushrooms, spending time at the family camp and beach at White Lake, cooking for family, friends, and members of his church, or feeling the freedom of the open road on his motorcycle, Tony embraced life's simple pleasures and the people he loved most.

A man of deep faith, Tony was a devoted member of Three Steeples United Parish in Sauquoit, where he was always willing to lend a helping hand. He took great pride in cooking for the church's pancake breakfasts and Thursday hot dog meals, and lovingly picked flowers to decorate the church facilities for these events.

One of Tony's favorite phrases was, "Are you listening?" which was usually followed by, "Watch this," and then showed the person how to do something without needing to use words at all.

Anthony is survived by his daughters and sons-in-law, Kristen Matthews, Lisa and Mark Smithling, Tammy and Chad DeMedico, and Michele and Larry

Snow; grandchildren, Veronica Matthews, Elijah and Arianna Matthews, Nathaniel Matthews, Miranda and Chad Calhoun, Jacob Smithling, Stephanie Smithling, Anthony DelMedico, Jonathan DelMedico, Kaylee DelMedico, Isaiah Snow, Lydia Snow, and Adriana Snow; and great-grandchildren, Jin, and Ari Calhoun. His loss is also felt by his sisters and brother-in-law, Antoinette and Mark Seeberg, Vita Hale, and Rose Jackson; many nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews; cousins, with a special relationship with nephews John Dreimiller and Stephen Hale; and a multitude of special friends, especially Rob Comenale, Kristen Carpenter, and the entire Coffin family.

The family would like to recognize the ICU Third Floor West nursing staff at Wynn Hospital, who took loving care of Tony as if he was their own family member. Special thanks to Stephanie Mathais, who stayed by the family's side through his hospital stay and passing, ensuring that Tony was comfortable and cared for.

Visitation will be held on Wednesday, June 3, 2026, from 5:00-7:00 p.m. at the Eannace Funeral Home, Inc., 932 South St., Utica, corner of Hammond Ave. For those unable to attend, you may be present virtually at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81301165386>. Memorial contributions in Anthony's honor may be made to Rover's Do Over rescue at www.roversdoover.com/donate; envelopes will also be available at the funeral home. Anthony's funeral service and Celebration of Life will commence on Thursday, June 4, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. at Three Steeples United Parish, 2817 Old State Route 12, Paris, NY. Interment will follow in Calvary Cemetery.

Cemetery Details

Calvary Cemetery

2407 Oneida Street
Utica, NY

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 3. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Eannace Funeral Home, Inc.
932 South Street
corner of Hammond Ave.
Utica, NY 13501
(315) 724-6714
eannacefh@roadrunner.com
<https://www.eannacefuneralhome.com>

Funeral Service

JUN 4. 10:00 AM (ET)

Three Steeples United Parish
2817 Old State Route 12
Paris, NY 13456

Tribute Wall

MW

“ My heartfelt sympathy to Tony's family at this time of great loss. I worked with "Mr. Tony" at BOCES for many years. He made a difference in the lives of children and they adored him. I will never forget his pasta making lesson. Rest Easy Tony.

Melissa Whitehead

Melissa Whitehead - June 04 at 12:37 PM

VP

“ Vafiades P. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mr. Anthony Guy "Tony" Rinaldi.

Vafiades P. - June 04 at 10:47 AM

DL

“ You will be missed by our big beautiful family Tony☐☐☐Love Dana, Kelly, Maddox, Michael, and Miriam Lonis

Dana Lonis - June 03 at 04:47 PM

GF

“ Gail & Philip Collins and Family purchased the E nchanted Cottage for the family of Mr. Anthony Guy "Tony" Rinaldi.



Gail & Philip Collins and Family - May 31 at 03:41 PM

RS

“ *Rinaldi Family,*

Veronica and I were very sorry to hear about the passing of your beloved father, father-in-law, grandfather, great grandfather, brother, brother-in-law, uncle, cousin and a special friend, Tony.

We have added you and your family to our daily prayer list. And, when we attend mass tomorrow, we will add you and your family to our parish book of prayers.

I will always cherish my fond memories of trading hunting and fishing stories (of which there might've been a few whoppers in there) with Tony. We will always remember him as a kind, gentle, caring, compassionate, generous, and humorous individual. He had a heart of gold.

May our good Lord watch over, bless, protect, comfort and console you and your family as you endure this difficult, trying and sad time in your lives.

Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to you and your family in your time of loss and sorrow.

Rob & Veronica Sherman

Robert Sherman - May 30 at 12:59 PM

SC

“ *Anthony May you RIP! I'm so very to hear of your passing! You will be greatly missed! I remember as a little girl how you would come and take me for a ride on the Harley and so many great memories of camp at white lake with you and my godparents at the family camp! RIP give my parents and my son a hug for me! ! I will always remember the times we all had! Thank you for the memories!*

Sabrina Scalzo Cozza - May 29 at 06:03 PM

LP

“ Too many smiles, laughs. Had a ball hunting and fishing on the White Tail Express bus with Tony. May he rest in God kingdom. Peace my friend.

Louie Piazza - May 29 at 01:48 PM

JF

“ I worked with Tony many years at Boces. He was always fun to be around, and the children adored him! I have many fond memories of him, that I will cherish forever!
My condolences to the family, and may he rest in peace. 🙏
Judy Franz

Judy Franz - May 29 at 11:03 AM

SG

“ I work with Tony many years at BOCES. He was a very sweet, thoughtful and considerate man. You would never know like they said under that rough looking man. He had a heart of gold. We tried to get him to wear different color shirts, but he loved his black. He calmed the kids down and they listened to him. I still cherish and think about him even when he was alive, he made Three Wooden pumpkins for me and I still have them. May he rest in peace, condolences to the families 🙏😞

Sue C Giruzzi - May 29 at 09:06 AM

PS

“ Will always remember fishing and hunting with you Tony

PHIL SQUILLACE - May 28 at 07:27 PM

SH

“ Rest easy and fly high “Uncle Tony”. Even though we were not blood related, Tony treated my family as his own. I learned a lot from him. See you again Tony.

scott Hastings - May 28 at 06:29 PM

HS

“ Helen and Larry Snow purchased the Angel's Embrace Bouquet for the family of Mr. Anthony Guy "Tony" Rinaldi.



Helen and Larry Snow - May 28 at 05:00 PM

HS

“ Helen and Larry Snow planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mr. Anthony Guy "Tony" Rinaldi.

Helen and Larry Snow - May 28 at 05:00 PM

DM

“ Vita, Rosie, and family,

So very sorry about Anthony's passing. He was a wonderful man, true to his beliefs , just a caring person. My memories of White Lake stayed with me til this day and always made me and everyone feel welcomed no matter if we were there or just meeting for coffee. So very sorry Vita and Rosie . He is at peace and will always stay by your side.

*My love, RIP Anthony
Donna Meola*

Donna meola - May 28 at 04:13 PM

MD

“ Tony always appreciated the hug and kiss whenever we met meant alot. I also would like to thank you for being my brother Mikes best friend. You meant the world to him wether it be fishing or hunting or just visiting him at the house, You always had a way to put a smile on his face and that also meant alot. RIP cuz.Loved and will be missed

Maryann Deveans - May 28 at 03:21 PM

RA

“ So sorry to read about your brother Vita & Rosie. Mention of White Lake brought me right back to the 1960s. RIP Anthony

Rosemary Anguish - May 28 at 02:59 PM



“ In Heaven's Arms Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mr. Anthony Guy "Tony" Rinaldi.



May 28 at 01:15 PM