

Mr. Antonio "Tony" Nistico

August 3, 1945 - June 11, 2024

UTICA – Mr. Antonio “Tony” Nistico, age 78, passed away on Tuesday, June 11, 2024, in the comfort and dignity of his home. While he battled cancer, his family cared for him, and were by his side to the very end of his journey.

Born in Cropani, Province of Catanzaro, Italy on August 3, 1945, Tony was the son of the late Vincenzo and Maria (Marchio) Nistico. His family immigrated to the United States in 1958, where Tony attended Brandegee Grammar School and Utica Free Academy.

In 1966 he enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps, serving in Vietnam. Due to his great dedication, he was awarded the National Defense Service Medal, the Vietnamese Service Medal, the Combat Action Ribbon, and the Good Conduct Ribbon. Tony was honorably discharged as a corporal on June 28, 1972.

Upon returning home to Utica, Tony began working for various construction companies. His main vocation had been his position with the New York State Canal System.

Tony wed the love of his life, the former Carmela “Lena” Mercurio on August 5, 1978, a blessed union of 46 years. As a couple they cared for one another with great concern, and they were each other’s confidants.

As a dad, Tony provided for his family with great pride. He was a hard worker and instilled that same work ethic in his children. He always wanted them to understand the need to prepare for those “rainy days.” His personality was one that allowed him to always be concerned about the needs of his entire family. He was the go-to man for any loved one or friend in need. Some of the best family memories were made on trips returning to Tony and Lena’s native towns in Italy. In true Italian fashion, they were always welcomed with great hospitality. Tony extended this same warm reception to anyone who came to visit him. Family and friends alike were always met with a cup of espresso and a lively conversation. In Tony and Lena’s house, stories were told, and memories were made.

One of Tony’s favorite pastimes was horse racing. He was a good handicapper but a conservative spender! He also enjoyed playing cards at the joint and the camaraderie of the gang.

A member of St. Mary of Mt. Carmel/Blessed Sacrament Parish, he was of the generation who gave of their time and talent to physically build this sacred dwelling.

Tony is survived by his beloved wife, Lena; his two daughters and sons-in-law who so blessed his life, Maria and Daniel Post (Daniel and Tony shared a true father and son relationship), and Filomena and Joshua Blystone; and cherished grandchildren, Ava Post (who was his number one), Talia Post; and Nora Blystone. He also leaves his memory to his sister, Ada Loprete (the late Giuseppe “Joe” Loprete); and his brother and sister-in-law, Frank and Cynthia Nistico. He fondly remembered his siblings and sister-in-law who preceded him, Alfredo “Freddy” Nistico, Giuseppe “Joseph” and Caterina Nistico, and Margherita Manoiero and her husband. His loss is also felt by a host of nieces and nephews; he always remembered his nephew, Joseph Loprete, Jr., who

preceded him; great-nieces, great-nephews, cousins, in-laws, and many friends who reside locally as well as in Italy.

Tony loved his dogs – they were a part of the family. First was his miniature poodle, Rusty, who passed last year. He also truly appreciated the companionship of Gio, his German shepherd mix, who is going to miss Tony greatly.

Carmela and her loved ones would like to extend their gratitude for the outpouring of love and support from his family and friends, especially acknowledging his niece, Sara Stewart, his nephews, Vincent Nistico, and Luigi Mercurio, his dear friend, John Pedulla, and his caretaker, Steve Richards. It was through the dedication of his oncologist, Dr. Alicia DeTraglia, the nurses and staff of the Regional Cancer Center, the caregivers of the Lutheran Home and the Charles T. Sitrin Health Care Center, as well the staff of 7 West at Wynn Hospital, that Tony's medical needs were tended to with great care and sincerity. In reflection of Tony's true personality, when he was being treated during his illness, he would often shout out "what are all these words?!" He was then graciously comforted by his daughter Maria, who took the time to explain the information being presented to him.

The family will honor and commemorate his life at a private time. Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend Antonio's Mass of Christian Burial and Celebration of Life, which will commence on Monday, June 17, 2024, at 12:00 p.m. at St. Mary of Mt. Carmel/Blessed Sacrament Parish, 648 Jay St. Military honors will be conferred by the U.S. Marine Corps and there will be an opportunity to greet the family at the conclusion of the service. In lieu of floral offerings, memorial contributions in Tony's honor may be made to Feed Our Vets online at www.feedourvets.org/donate, or to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital online at www.stjude.org/donate; envelopes will also be

available at the service. Entombment will follow in Calvary Mausoleum at Calvary Cemetery.

“Semper Fidelis, for I was, and will forever be, a United States Marine.”

Cemetery Details

Calvary Mausoleum

2407 Oneida Street
Utica, NY 13501
(315) 735-2727

Previous Events

Funeral Service

JUN 17. 12:00 PM (ET)

St. Mary of Mt. Carmel/Blessed Sacrament Parish
648 Jay Street
Utica, NY 13501
(315) 735-1482
<https://www.mountcarmelblessedsacrament.com/>

Tribute Wall

DD

“ So sorry for your loss Lena and family. Just seen this. Loved the conversations he would always share about his life and family. He was s great man and will be missed.

Debbie DiNitto - August 12, 2025 at 01:37 PM

BR

“ Lena & family my deepest sympathy to you and your family. May Tony be at peace. The photo I attached was from 2018 The carnival at Albany Elementary School. Sending you my prayers and friendship
Brenda Castelli.



Brenda - June 20, 2024 at 09:11 AM

JR

“ Sorry to see you leave.
Toto you are my friend.
When you came to America we work together at the bakery. You were always respectful. The last time we had coffee together.
You will never leave my mind.
Johnny Raspante

Johnny Raspante - June 19, 2024 at 07:16 PM

KM

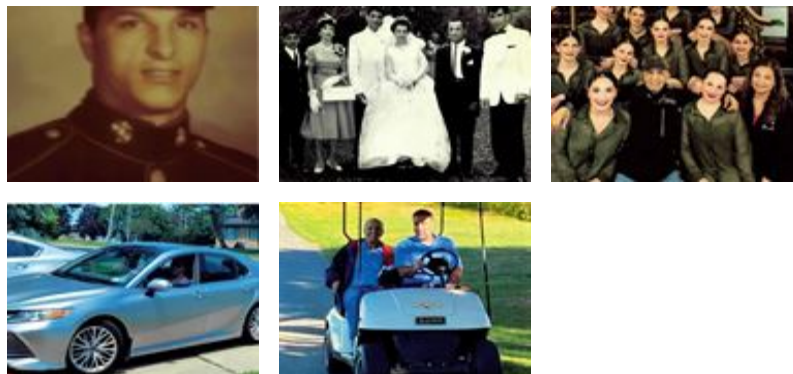
“ To Lena and the Nistico family
I am so sorry for your loss I have many fond memories of him and John having coffee and talking for hours at the Florentine back in the day. Lol he always told me I never made his espresso strong enough. May eternal rest be granted unto him and perpetual light shine on him.



Kelly Mercurio - June 17, 2024 at 05:17 PM



“ 151 files added to the album LifeTributes



Eannace Funeral Home, Inc. - June 16, 2024 at 09:30 PM

FP

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Francine M Papa - June 16, 2024 at 07:56 PM

LM

“ *Lena and family, I am so sorry to learn of Tony's passing. He was such a nice man. I used to enjoy seeing him when he would come to pick you up at Elections when we worked them together. He is no longer suffering or in pain. Please accept my deepest condolences. R.I.P. Tony
With Deepest Sympathy
Lorrie Moyer*

Lorrie Moyer - June 16, 2024 at 11:26 AM



“ *2 files added to the album Life Tributes*



Eannace Funeral Home, Inc. - June 14, 2024 at 04:53 PM

JK

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Julie A Kiss - June 14, 2024 at 10:00 AM

JK

Uncle Tony you were very special to me. Our strong US Marine Forever! RIP. Love you.

Julie A Kiss - June 14, 2024 at 10:04 AM

PF

“ *Semper fidelis (Always Faithful) Heaven's streets are truly guarded by United States Marines! Sadly James passed on October 5, 2023..*

Family of James E. Payne

Payne Family - June 13, 2024 at 08:57 AM

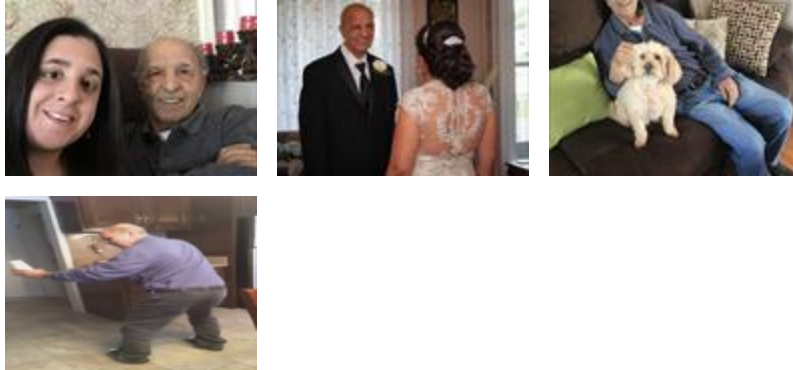
BO

“ *My condolences and prayers for the entire Nistico family. Sorry to hear about Tony, he was a good man. May he RIP.*

Bob Ollerenshaw - June 13, 2024 at 07:31 AM

FI

“ *A few of my favorite photos and great video. Love you daddy.*



Filomena - June 12, 2024 at 11:17 PM

FI

“ Love you so much daddy. I will keep all the memories in my heart. I will always make sure to be early at the airport. I will feed the birds. I will remember that gargling salt water and eating bananas are a magic cure. I will miss the best espresso. Some of things you always said that were funny: “ What we’ve got here is failure to communicate” - Cool hand Luke-
“I got troubles troubles troubles . I got so many troubles. I’m about to lose my mind”.
Love you daddy.
Nora says papa went to rainbow to be with Rusty. 💕🌈☕



Filomena - June 12, 2024 at 11:07 PM