



Mr. Armando V. "Arfe" DiStefano

September 1, 1928 - April 27, 2022

UTICA/CLINTON - Mr. Armando V. "Arfe" DiStefano, age 93, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, April 27, 2022 with his loving family by his side. Born in Utica on September 1, 1928, Armando was the son of the late Alfred and Rose (Sattarelli) DiStefano. He received his primary education at Wetmore Elementary School. At a young age, he began his admiration and affinity for automobiles, working at the gas station at the corner of John Street and Oriskany Boulevard. He later opened his first service station at Bleecker Street and Kossuth Avenue. One day, through an introduction by a family member, Arfe met his future wife, Pauline Morgia, under an apple tree and extended an invitation to take her on a date. He knew she was his "one and only", so he courted her, and on September 27, 1948 they were wed in a blessed union filled with mutual love and respect. From their humble beginnings they supported each other's ventures, dreams, and visions. Theirs truly was a traditional marriage of their era, the Greatest Generation, who lived by the adage "It's the hardships of life that form our true character". Arfe was a self-taught mechanic by trade, and the Cadillac his father bought him was the first automobile he disassembled and re-assembled, leaving behind a few stray nuts and bolts. He never did actually find out where the nuts and bolts belonged. He loved Cadillacs and always wanted the newest model, and with his eye for detail, his 1962 pink 4-door Caddy was his favorite! A sharp entrepreneur, his business savvy led him to purchase his first gas station on the corner of Lansing Street and Jefferson Avenue which he

owned and operated until 1966. He then relocated to Court Street and Sunset Avenue where his reputation and patrons followed him as he once again provided a premier full-service station. In November of 1977, during the economic gas crisis, he persevered and saw an opportunity to establish himself at a new location at the corner of Oxford Road and Genesee Street in the town of New Hartford. He was so proud of all his endeavors, but this location was ideal and one of his greatest accomplishments. It was a highly successful venture, and his hard work ethic and expertise were evident in all his service station locations. Although Arfe retired in 1999, he concurrently drove a school bus for the New Hartford School District, a job that spanned 42 years! It was a rewarding endeavor ~ he loved the kids, and they loved him. In 2011, he really retired to spend time with his wife. He found a new home that he loved on Center Road in Frankfort, and he knew that this would be the time that he could now start to enjoy years with his grandchildren that gave him the greatest pleasure that any man could ask for. It was here that he also meticulously tended to mowing the lawn on his riding mower. To Arfe's credit, all these enterprises, efforts, and endeavors were accomplished through self-motivation, well-calculated thoughts, and determination. He was a powerhouse, a source of strength, and a foundation for his children and grandchildren, ...emotionally and physically. His generosity reached great destinations, always done in a quiet and unassuming way. He found gratitude in his heart when he helped others. He managed to put family first, no matter what. Their Hinckley Lake family camp was such a wonderful source of summer memories and the best times of their lives. He traveled with Evel Knievel and was the driver of his Rolling Museum. When the Woodstock anniversary was held in Rome, NY, he was asked to be the transport person for the celebrities who performed. His personality and confidence stood out in working in these venues, yet he was private and very humble at the same time. Arfe enjoyed constructing model cars, and he was an accomplished bowler at the popular mid-century Madison Bowling Lanes on Kossuth Ave. He loved listening to music, from country tunes to Frank Sinatra and Dean

Martin croons. Arfe was a huge history buff with a special interest in World War II, and also the history of Utica including the people and events involved in it. Christmas Eve was always special, as family and friends filled the house to the brim with cheer, conversation, and celebration. Although bountiful, traditional Italian food filled the menu, it was the company that made it the best of times. This past Christmas Eve was a blessing because everyone was together and the old holiday traditions prevailed. The common denomination was the love of family.

Armando is survived by the love of his life, his wife Pauline; his children and their spouses, Roseanne and Mert Wood, Susan and Raymond Testa, Donna Toussaint and his son-in-law, Tim Toussaint, Alfred "Fred" and Lisa DiStefano, David and Marie Bialek, and Michael Bialek, Sr.; grandchildren, Jennifer and Chuck Ellixson, and René and Sean Carone; Amanda and Dominick Cittadino, Tommy Artessa, and Ray Testa; Jessica and Michael Brower, and Derek Toussaint; Shane DiStefano, and Nathan DiStefano; Alexandra Bialek and Lauren Bialek; and Michael Bialek, Jr.; great-grandchildren, Sophia; Gabriella; John, Michael, and Luca; Giavanna, Isabella, Angelina, Ava Grace, Natalia; Bianca, and Tianna; and great-great-grandchildren, Anakin, Gianni, and the anticipation in June of his third great-great-grandchild. He was preceded by his siblings, Lena "Linda" and Frank Luciano, Mary and Al DiCesare, Sr., and his infant brother Joseph Antonio, who passed shortly after birth. He also leaves many nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews; in-laws, Agnes Natali, and John and Rosalind Morgia. He was preceded by his father-in-law and mother-in-law, Dominick and Assunta Morgia; and numerous in-laws.

The family would like to acknowledge Nancy Ellinwood, a lifelong friend who became family. The family will always cherish Nancy's love, support and dedication to Arfie and his family.

The family extends their sincere gratitude to primary physicians, Dr. Hugh Macisaac, Dr. Karishna Circelli; and the doctors, nurses, and staff of MVHS at

St. Elizabeth Campus, 4th Floor Immediate Care Unit, especially acknowledging Nurse Abby; all were so attentive and devoted to Arfe's needs. Visitation will be held on Sunday, May 1, 2022 from 4:00-6:00 at the Eannace Funeral Home, Inc., 932 South St., corner of Hammond Ave. Armando's funeral service and Mass of Christian Burial will commence on Monday, May 2, 2022 at 9:45 am from the funeral home and at 11:00 am at St. Anthony & St. Agnes Church. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions in Arfe's honor may be made to the Michael J. Fox Parkinson's Association online at <https://www.michaeljfox.org> or the Frankfort Center Fire Department online at <https://www.frankfortcenterfire.com/donate>. Envelopes will also be available at the funeral home. The family will escort him to his place of rest in Calvary Cemetery.

Cemetery Details

Calvary Cemetery at the convenience of the family

2407 Oneida Street
Utica, NY

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 1. 4:00 PM - 6:00 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

MAY 2. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Anthony & St. Agnes Church
422 Tilden Ave.
Utica, NY 13501
(315) 732-1177
<https://www.stanthonystagnes.com/>

Tribute Wall



“ Garden Accent Stone - *"I thought of you"* was purchased for the family of Mr. Armando V. "Arfe" DiStefano.



May 12, 2022 at 12:14 PM



“ Donna Lella lit a candle in memory of Mr. Armando V. "Arfe" DiStefano



Donna Lella - May 11, 2022 at 05:10 PM



“ I was fortunate to have Arfe as my bus driver! He was the best!!! He will be missed by all!!!

Fly high Arfe!

Phil Styc - May 08, 2022 at 10:00 AM



Thank you Phil! He loved his time driving the bus and the kids as well! I am happy that he left an impression on you!

Donna Toussaint

Donna Toussaint - August 22, 2022 at 01:17 PM

CS

“ I will always remember Uncle Arfe’s big laugh and loving way. He will always have a place in my heart. My thoughts and prayers are with you during this time.

Cindy Sprouse - May 07, 2022 at 08:13 PM

DT

Thank you Cindy for remembering dad and for your kind words. He truly loved his family and all his extended family as well. He is truly missed. Love you!

Donna

Donna Toussaint - August 22, 2022 at 01:15 PM

RW

“ Remember him well from the gas station.

Ruth Ward - May 03, 2022 at 10:31 PM

CO

“ Fred -

We are very sorry for your loss.

The Coco Family

Coco - May 02, 2022 at 10:40 AM



DF

“ Mr. DiStefano was such a kind hearted, compassionate and humble soul. I remember at family functions how happy he was to be around his family and friends. He will be missed. ❤️ My condolences to his family.

DePalma Family - May 01, 2022 at 01:05 PM

DT

Thank you to the DePalma Family.

Dad was a wonderful father and he is greatly missed. Thank you for you kind words!

Donna Toussaint - August 22, 2022 at 01:13 PM

NI

“ *Northern Safety & Industrial purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Mr. Armando V. "Arfe" DiStefano.*



Northern Safety & Industrial - April 30, 2022 at 10:19 PM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Mr. Armando V. "Arfe" DiStefano.*



April 30, 2022 at 02:59 PM

NE

“ *Arfe was the strongest person I ever knew. Full of ideas and advice. He will be missed very much. The sense of humor when things were down. Rest in peace my friend. You will make an awesome angel.*

Nancy Ellinwood - April 30, 2022 at 09:28 AM

DT

Thank you Nan for all your kind words. He was the strongest man I have ever known and I miss him very much! He definitely had that sense of humor until the day he died...he told you and I that in the hospital. He is looking down on all of us and someday we will all be reunited again. Love you!

Donna Toussaint

Donna Toussaint - August 22, 2022 at 01:12 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mr. Armando V. "Arfe" DiStefano.*



April 29, 2022 at 03:50 PM

ME

“ *I will never forget the kindness he and Pauline showed my sister. Sending love and hugs to the family and he will never be forgotten.*

Marilyn Ellinwood/Patterson - April 29, 2022 at 02:29 PM

DT

Thank you so much Marilyn! Nancy is and will forever be part of our family and we love her very much!

Donna Toussaint

Donna Toussaint - August 22, 2022 at 01:10 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of Mr. Armando V. "Arfe" DiStefano.



April 29, 2022 at 12:36 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms* was purchased for the family of Mr. Armando V. "Arfe" DiStefano.



April 29, 2022 at 10:40 AM



“ *Camille Hanzalik lit a candle in memory of Mr. Armando V. "Arfe" DiStefano*



Camille Hanzalik - April 29, 2022 at 10:02 AM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray* was purchased for the family of Mr. Armando V. "Arfe" DiStefano.



April 29, 2022 at 05:49 AM

AL

“ Arfe I always rembered. He would fill our tires on our bikes. He watched out for all of us kids. One day I was screaming and jumping around he can out of the garage trying to calm me down. Well I had a caterpillar in my hair. He took it out and said ok your all set lol. He was so kind and respectful. I am now 73 and remember the great memories of the garage and Lansing Street. He will be sadly missed. My sincere sympathy to the family. May he RIP

Angela LaForge - April 29, 2022 at 05:45 AM

DT

Thank you so much Angela for sharing your memory of my dad and for your condolences. That definitely put a smile on my face reading that he helped you and of your memories of the Lansing St. garage. He definitely was a very special man!

Donna Toussaint

Donna Toussaint - August 22, 2022 at 01:05 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mr. Armando V. "Arfe" DiStefano.



April 28, 2022 at 09:21 PM

CB

“ I loved him He was a great father, husband and a family man. He will be dearly missed by so many. Especially his family. I will never forget him as my friend was his daughter and I respected him so much.
My sincere condolences.

Catherine Mootz Bilal - April 28, 2022 at 09:00 PM

DT

Thank you Cathy for posting your memories of him and all your kind words. Dad truly was a special man who loved his family unconditionally. He will forever live on in our hearts until the day we are reunited. Love you, my dear friend!

Donna Toussaint

Donna Toussaint - August 22, 2022 at 01:08 PM



“ *Sweet Tenderness was purchased for the family of Mr. Armando V. "Arfe" DiStefano.*



April 28, 2022 at 04:32 PM