



Ret. Chief of Police Benny D. Rotundo, UPD

July 22, 1931 - October 14, 2010

Retired Chief of Police Benny D. Rotundo, UPD, age 79, of Frankfort, passed away on Thursday, October 14, 2010 at the Albany Medical Center with the love and support of his family by his side.

Born in Utica on July 22, 1931, Benny was the son of the late Peter, Sr. and Jennie (Dietz) Rotundo. A veteran of the United States Army, he proudly served his country during active duty in the European Theater of Operations. He also served honorably and with much pride for 20 years at the Elihu Root U.S. Army Reserve Center in Utica as a member of the 331st General Hospital unit. At one time he was married to the former Marie Susso who has since passed away. On September 16, 1983 he married the former Rita-Ann Cucharale and through their love they knew much happiness because they were the best of friends and the love of each other's lives.

Benny joined the Utica Police Department at a young age. He was promoted to Chief in 1970 and oversaw the department with respected leadership for over 31 years. This was his passion and he bestows a legacy of old school philosophy and professional mannerisms to this greater Utica area, retiring in 2001 after 46 years of service. It will be remembered that he loved his country, family, and community with much dignity and honor. He was appointed to numerous New York State Chief of Police Associations and committees of which he dutifully shared his knowledge and commitment. An enthusiastic equestrian, he earned himself the epithet of the "Last American cowboy". He was a communicant of the Church of Our Lady of Lourdes.

Benny is survived by his cherished wife, Rita; his children and their families, Jennifer L. and Ray Curtis of Newport, Peter J. Rotundo of Frankfort and Pamela Rotundo of Clark Mills, Benny Jr. and Kelly J. Rotundo of Frankfort, twins Lorraine Rotundo of Newport and Lenore Rotundo of Frankfort, and Salvatore "Cy" and Anita L. Rotundo of Frankfort; his grandchildren, Crystal, Megan, Peter, Benny III, Mathew, Salvatore, and Nicole; and his great-grandchildren, Dominick, Ella, Grace, James, and Marianna; and his father-in-law and mother-in-law with whom he truly enjoyed sharing his life, Rocco and Lena Cuchiarale. Survivors also include brother, Joseph Convertino of Utica; his cousins; and several aunts. He was blessed to have the camaraderie and friendship of many of the men and women who served under his leadership and have story upon story of memorable times; and his loyal childhood friends, Nick LaBella, as well as Robert Simeski. He was predeceased by his brother, Peter Rotundo, Jr.; sister, Frances M. Convertino; and sister-in-law, Victoria Convertino.

Rita and her family wish to thank the entire staff of the St. Elizabeth Medical Center for their many years of care and professional guidance; his trusted physicians, Dr. Ramzi Nassif and Dr. Francis Constantine who shared a great concern and friendship with Benny; the Albany Medical Center staff for their outstanding compassion and affectionate care; and the Utica Police Department and Fr. Joe Salerno for their respect and kindness during these difficult and sad days.

Benny's family will honor his life in a private gathering. Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend Benny's Mass of Christian Burial and Celebration of Life which will commence on Monday at 12:00 noon at the Church of Our Lady of Lourdes with Police and Military Honors conferred. The Rev. Joseph Salerno, Chaplain of the Utica Police Department will officiate. The family will receive visitors at the conclusion of the Mass. Expressions of sympathy in the form of donations may be made to the family to establish a scholarship fund for local criminal justice students; envelopes will be available at the service. Entombment will take place in Calvary Cemetery Mausoleum at

the convenience of the family.

Arrangements have been entrusted to the Eannace Funeral Home, Inc., 932 South St., corner of Hammond Ave.

Tribute Wall



“ Eannace Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Ret. Chief of Police Benny D. Rotundo,UPD



Eannace Funeral Home, Inc. - October 14, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ Benny was a very special friend, I knew him very well and he was such a kind person. May he rest in peace and may God Bless him.
A. Mancuso, Kissimmee,Fl.

A. Mancuso - February 11, 2012 at 06:56 PM



“ To Jennifer, Peter, Benny, Lorraine, Lenore, and Cy: I was so sad to learn of your dad's passing. I spent so much time growing up at your house and I have so many fond memories of your dad -- and your mom, too. My thoughts and prayers are with all of you not only through this difficult time, but always as each one of you continue to remain in my heart. Tina Inserra Harris



Tina Harris - October 21, 2010 at 07:46 AM

CS

“ I am so very sorry to hear of Benny's passing. I enjoying getting to know him and working with him when I was on the Common Council. He was a good and caring man who was always available when needed. My sympathy to his family. Rest well, Benny.

Cynthia S'Doia - October 19, 2010 at 07:45 PM

JR

“ Benny was a great man and will be sadly missed by his family and friends. It was always so nice to see Rita, Benny and the kids for clams and pizza or Chief with the guys on the horses. After 38 years, we will miss him at the Lanterns. Jake Rasbach

Jake Rasbach - October 19, 2010 at 06:05 PM

BZ

“ Dear Cy, Anita, children and family. I am so sorry to hear of your Dad's passing. I will always keep him in my prayers and remember him for his dedicated service of 46 years as a cop in keeping the citizens of Utica safe. Please take comfort and smile as I will in knowing that he and TR are together raising all kinds of havov up there and heaven will never be the same.
Love to all,
Barbara



Barbara Ziezio - October 19, 2010 at 10:27 AM

KT

“ Rita and family,
We are devastated at the loss of the Chief...he was a great leader and a wonderful man. We will always remember him with that beautiful smile on his face. He did alot of great things for my mother through the years especially when my sister and I were young and for that he will always be appreciated. If you need anything Rita just let us know we are all here for you. We love you.
Anthony and Keri Tartaglia



Keri Tartaglia - October 19, 2010 at 08:37 AM

JB

“ Benny, Kelly, Benny & Matt, We are deeply sorry to hear about the loss of your father. You are all in our thoughts and prayers.

Joe Tammy Butera - October 18, 2010 at 12:14 PM

MB

“ Lenore and Lorraine: My mother and I were sorry to read about your father's death. We will remember you and your family in our prayers.

Mary Bauer - October 18, 2010 at 10:32 AM

BJ

“ Correction : Amelia & Bob Lived together in same neighborhood as Benny & Marie

Bob Amelia Johnson - October 17, 2010 at 06:55 PM

BJ

“ I have Benny for many years,going back to a teenager. Later on my wife Amelia lived in the same neighborhood as Benny and Marie. Their children grew up alongside our own family. Many years have gone by. We now reside in Florida as year round residents. 4156 Mayo St. Brooksville,Fl. 34601

Bob Amelia Johnson - October 17, 2010 at 06:48 PM

SK

“ To the Rotundo family: you were blessed to have Ben as a father, husband, grandfather, etc. and share your life and we were all fortunate to have known him. Please know that our family shares your loss and sends our love. The Knapp family, Sharon, Mike, Christy & Bob McGibeny

Sharon Knapp - October 17, 2010 at 05:44 PM

TF

“ Dear Lorraine, Lenore, and all of Mr. Rotundo's family, my deepest condolences go out to you; please know that you're in my prayers at this difficult time. Having recently lost my own father, I can relate to the pain that you are feeling. Take comfort in all of the good memories that you have of your loved one...



Terri Foster - October 17, 2010 at 10:00 AM

LH

“ *Lauren Hendrix lit a candle in memory of Ret. Chief of Police Benny D. Rotundo,UPD*



Lauren Hendrix - October 16, 2010 at 12:25 PM

TB

“ *Dear Rita and Family
Please receive my most sincere condolences. I considered Chief Benny to be the best boss I ever had or will have. May God bless you*

Tom Bogaert - October 16, 2010 at 11:27 AM

BB

“ *Our thoughts & prayers are with Benny's family. He will be missed.*



Bill & Carol Bramer - October 16, 2010 at 10:36 AM

MH

“ *Mary Haynes lit a candle in memory of Ret. Chief of Police Benny D. Rotundo,UPD*



Mary Haynes - October 16, 2010 at 10:25 AM

NS

“ *Nicole Servatius lit a candle in memory of Ret. Chief of Police Benny D. Rotundo,UPD*



Nicole Servatius - October 16, 2010 at 08:28 AM



“ *Mark DeLia lit a candle in memory of Ret. Chief of Police Benny D. Rotundo,UPD*



Mark DeLia - October 16, 2010 at 07:49 AM

NB

“ *My deepest condolences to the rotundo family . May god comfort you during this most difficult time and bless everyone ,*



Norman Bommarito - October 16, 2010 at 06:25 AM

DE

“ *Don Tammy Entwistle lit a candle in memory of Ret. Chief of Police Benny D. Rotundo,UPD*



Don Tammy Entwistle - October 16, 2010 at 06:20 AM

JJ

“ *Justina Jones-Seelow lit a candle in memory of Ret. Chief of Police Benny D. Rotundo,UPD*



Justina Jones-Seelow - October 16, 2010 at 06:17 AM

LS

“ *Leslie Squadrito lit a candle in memory of Ret. Chief of Police Benny D. Rotundo,UPD*



Leslie Squadrito - October 15, 2010 at 07:51 PM