



Mr. Carmen A. Russo Jr.

December 10, 1930 - August 28, 2015

Carmen A. Russo, Jr., age 84, went home to the Lord after a brief, yet valiant, battle with Glioblastoma Multiforme brain cancer. The world has lost a dear, kind, loving man who was truly one in a million. His passing occurred on Friday, August 28, 2015 with those who loved him most by his side in the comfort of the Abraham House.

Carmen was born on December 10, 1930, in Utica, the son of the late Carmen and Vivian (DeRosa) Russo. He was educated in local schools and graduated from T.R. Proctor High School in 1950. Carmen served in the army from 1952-1954 during the Korean War, earning a Battle Star, as well as the Syngman Rhee Citation. After his honorable discharge, he returned home to marry his high school sweetheart, Congetta "Connie" Coria, on May 22, 1954, a 61-year union marked by genuine love, respect, and friendship. They were the very definition of soul mates.

Carmen was a gifted auto mechanic and worked most of his career in the family business, C. Russo and Sons, alongside his father and brother from the time he was a young boy. The last several years of his working career, Carmen was employed by Utica Corporation as a blade polisher, retiring in 1994. Carmen also taught small engine repair at MVCC. He continued to repair cars and small engines for family and friends throughout his retirement up to the time of his illness.

Carmen was an adventurous sportsman, enjoying a lifetime of small game hunting, fishing, and walks in the woods foraging for edible, wild mushrooms.

He shared his love of these sports with his children and grandchildren, and taught them to appreciate nature. Carmen also golfed with friends and family, always marveling at his golf ball's ability to locate and dunk into any body of water after a hopeful swing. He enjoyed card games of Pitch with his family for decades, was a Boilermaker volunteer at Mile 9, and a devoted NY Yankees fan. He freely gave his time, energy, support, and numerous talents to anyone in need, running at the drop of a hat, and he was the consummate gentleman. His personality was larger than life, the finest example of a man, with kindness, generosity, humor, and forgiveness. Carmen managed to add fun to everything in which he participated, always focused on the pure pleasure of time spent with others. He could easily laugh at himself and relished the good-natured teasing he received, especially from his children. Carmen was a remarkable man in every way and his family is quite certain that heaven has a new "Mr. Mayor."

He leaves the grieving hearts of his beloved wife, Congetta; sons and daughter-in-law, David Russo of CA, and Frank and Sue Russo; daughter, Marybeth Russo, all of Clinton; grandchildren, Ann Marie Russo, Susan Russo and her husband Chris Garcia; Alex Russo, and Audrey Russo; and four great-grandchildren, Isabella, Adam, Jonah, and Maia Garcia. He is also survived by his sisters and brother-in-law, Marie Russo, Elizabeth and Angelo Scarafile, and Linda Russo and Frank Fuccillo. He also leaves his brother-in-law, Al Joseph; former daughter-in-law, Roseann Watson; as well as a host of nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, and cousins. Carmen also leaves many close and cherished friends, especially Phil and Geri Restifo, "Greek" and Lucy Kousouros, Tony and Marie Cucinotta, as well as countless other dear friends, previous co-workers, and wonderful neighbors. Carmen was preceded in death by his sister and brother-in-law, Eleanor and Sam Russo; brother and sister-in-law, Salvatore and Mary Russo; his in-laws, Frank and Antoinette Coria; sister-in-law, Josephine Joseph; and niece, Laurie Riffle.

Carmen and his family are very grateful for the exceptional medical care and

compassion of Dr. Yannick Grenier, Dr. Manzurul Sikder, Dr. Thomas John, and all of their staffs; as well as the medical team at Faxton Regional Cancer Center. The family is so appreciative of the outstanding care and compassion provided by Hospice and the Abraham House. From his bed, Carmen described the caregivers at Abraham House as “angels” and often stated, “God is here.” Additional thanks for all the daily support and assistance during Carmen’s illness, especially acknowledging his sister, Linda and Frank; nephew and his wife, Mark and Kristen Joseph; great-nieces, Gianna, and Rachael Joseph; friends, Phil and Geri Restifo; cousins, Bart, Ben and Joan; and countless special people who found time to offer a ride, a meal, or run an errand on behalf of Carmen and his family.

Visitation will be held on Sunday (today) from 5-7 at the Eannace Funeral Home, Inc., 932 South St., corner of Hammond Ave. In lieu of floral offerings, please consider a donation to the Abraham House; envelopes will be available at the funeral home. Carmen’s funeral service and Celebration of Life will commence at the conclusion of visitation at 7:00 at the funeral home offered by Rev. Joseph Salerno. Interment will take place in Calvary Cemetery at the convenience of the family.

Cemetery Details

Calvary Cemetery at the convenience of the family

2407 Oneida Street
Utica, NY

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 30. 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

Funeral Service

AUG 30. 7:00 PM (ET)

Eannace Funeral Home, Inc.
932 South Street
corner of Hammond Ave.
Utica, NY 13501
(315) 724-6714
eannacefh@roadrunner.com

Tribute Wall

PK

“ Because my Uncle Carmen reminded me so much of my father, (and looked like him too) UC took his place when dad passed. He would call ME on the holidays and send me his love. He would hug me and say it was from my dad. When he was asked to tell daddy about his grandchildren , J and K, he didn't miss a beat and said absolutely! Uncle Carmen and Aunt Connie came out to Albany to see Katie perform, came to Katie & John's functions and were there being the grandparents they no longer had. He and my dad were the only 2 people in the world who called me Paa Paa. He carried on that tradition until August 2015. I will never be called that again. Rest in peace my most beloved & favorite Uncle Choo Choo.
Forever and Always,
Paa Paa

Patty Klimacek - September 01, 2015 at 08:21 PM

CS

“ Mary Beth and family,

We were so saddened to hear your sweet father's brave battle with brain cancer has ended. I have heard the stories you tell, and those my parents have shared with us over the years about this kind, generous, and loving man and know the world has lost someone very special. We hope you will find some comfort in your many special memories and in the thoughts of the happy years you shared.

With heartfelt sympathy,

CC, G, and the Speciale family

Carm Speciale - September 01, 2015 at 08:09 AM

MB

“ We, at Blooms By Bogner, New Hartford, just learned of the passing of one of our most cherished customers! Carmen was bigger than life, always making us smile and laugh with his jokes and humorous personality. We loved seeing him and his lovely wife Connie come in, as we knew we would get our laughs for the day! He told us a story once about he and Connie when they were dating which earned him the name " the splitter". We would affectionately call him this, and I hope this is bringing a much deserved smile to her face at this difficult time. We will miss you terribly, Carmen!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Connie please stop by and see me when you feel up to it. Marlene Bogner

Marlene Bogner - August 31, 2015 at 12:16 PM

MS

“ Michele Ancona Synek lit a candle in memory of Mr. Carmen A. Russo Jr.



Michele Ancona Synek - August 30, 2015 at 07:13 PM

NM

“ Nancy Cox Marafioti lit a candle in memory of Mr. Carmen A. Russo Jr.



Nancy Cox Marafioti - August 30, 2015 at 05:44 PM

NM

*Dearest Linda and Marie,
My heart goes out to you on the loss of your brother. The loss of a sibling is like no other. My sympathy goes to all the family, as well. I hope you can feel my hugs and love. How does life move so quickly? You and I just saw each other a short while ago.*
xo

Nancy Cox Marafioti - August 30, 2015 at 05:54 PM

RD

“*Roxanne Davis lit a candle in memory of Mr. Carmen A. Russo Jr.*



Roxanne Davis - August 30, 2015 at 10:16 AM

RD

May the sadness in your hearts today soon be filled with the love and laughter of memories he leaves behind. How lucky we are to have had such kind and loving people in our world.

Roxanne Davis - August 30, 2015 at 10:26 AM

DJ

“ *Mary Beth, Mrs. Russo and family,
I am so very sad and have heartfelt sympathy for all of you. I feel so blessed to have known your Dad MaryBeth. There are few people you meet in life like him. I truly feel special. The kindness and pure goodness that radiated from him could actually be felt. Your mom has it too. They were a truly special couple as well. I know your hearts are heavy and I wish I could help but I know how truly blessed you were to have him in your life. No wonder you are so good. The look on his face when he looked at you was full of a fathers love he was so proud of you. Please know how special he was and how very much I care about you. Hugs to you and your mom. May God continue to bless you and give you strength xoxo.
Love Donna jordan*

donna jordan - August 30, 2015 at 07:06 AM

JJ

“ *Aunt Congetta:*

Janice and I were thankful that we were able to visit and discuss Uncle Junior with you and our loving memories. All our prayers, masses and rosaries will constantly being offered for you Cousins Mary Beth, Frank and his family as well as David.

We will see you soon and keep strong.

Janice and Samuel L. Russo, Jr.



Janice and Samuel L. Russo, Jr. - August 29, 2015 at 05:20 PM

BR

“ We are heartbroken over the death of Carmen. He was such a special guy. He loved his family above everything and never had an unkind word about anyone. A real class act. We loved going into New York City with him and Conchetta at Christmas time a few years back, and also going on a boat ride around Manhattan, not to mention many times shared between houses. We will never forget him. Rest in peace old friend.

Barbara Russo and Frank Pezzella

Barbara Russo - August 29, 2015 at 04:26 PM

LR

“ My brother Carmen was the best brother in the whole world. You could call him and he would say 'Where are you, I'm coming.' He always brought joy and pleasure to everything. He would make the most wonderful seasoned hot peppers you ever had. My brother was a gentleman's gentleman. I will love you until the 12th of never. I know you will be with mama, daddy, Eleanor, Lourie and Sammy brother. I also know you are having your soup with acini de pepe. May you rest in peace. Love always and forever,
your sister Linda.

Linda Russo - August 29, 2015 at 04:22 PM

DR

“ Peace be with you, Dear Cousin. Your love of Family and Life will always be remembered in tribute to the wonderful person you have always been.

May God bless and be with you!

Donald De Rosa

Donald De Rosa - August 29, 2015 at 01:49 PM