



Mr. Duilio "Dewey" Ragonese

March 29, 1928 - May 3, 2020

UTICA - Mr. Duilio "Dewey" Ragonese, age 92, was reunited with his son Vinny when he passed away on Sunday, May 3, 2020 at the Katherine Luther Residential Health Care and Rehabilitation Center.

Born in the town of Castelforte, province of Latina in the Lazio region of central Italy, Duilio was the son of the late Vincenzo and Caterina Ragonese. As a young man, he migrated to Canada and then relocated to Utica. On January 6, 1952 he married the former Emma Fallone, his childhood sweetheart. They were great companions who shared common values and made a wonderful life for themselves and their family. Their marriage spanned just over 68 years.

An accomplished carpenter, Dewey worked for a number of area construction companies including S & D Construction, until his retirement in 1990. With an aim for perfection and attention to detail, he rose early in the morning to a job he enjoyed. He felt a great sense of accomplishment in his decades long dedication to his craft and career. His life was made rich by his Italian culture, including his love of vegetable gardens and his many fig trees. He tended to them with care, and they returned the favor by producing a bountiful harvest that he shared with family and friends. He also enjoyed fishing and hunting, not only as a sport, but also as a source of food for the dinner table. A genuine family man, Duilio wanted the best for his loved ones and he was proud that he had many friends who could go to him if they needed anything. He was ahead of his time, and he understood the problems that the world

currently faced.

He was a strong willed man who strived to live by the values that were so important to his generation. Many may not know that he attended classes at Munson-Williams-Proctor Arts Institute that brought out his creative eye and visual artistic abilities in sculpting stone! He adored his children and grandchildren, and left them a lifetime of wisdom and time-honored values that guided him through his journey — and will guide them through theirs. Duilio is survived by his beloved wife, Emma; and his daughter and son-in-law, Diana Stevenson and Robert Moore. He always held his son Vinny's passing close to his heart and he was always on his mind; (November 6, 2003). He also leaves his grandchildren, Katie and Matthew Grinneil; Dewey Ragonese, Eric Lawless, and Michael Brown; his great-grandchildren, Isla, and Emma who loved him very much, and he, them; his nieces and nephews, especially acknowledging Angela Di Paola, and Giovanna and Frank Vezza; great-nieces. great-nephews; sister-in-law, Mary Fallone; and family friends, Cecelia and Ronald Gouse. He was predeceased by his siblings and their spouses, Raffael and Maria Ragonese, Emma and Antonio Falso, and Emilia and Salvatore Vezza; and in-laws, Angelo and Graziella Fallone, Quirna and Alexandro Rosato, Carmella and Severino Di Paola, and Arthur Fallone. The family extends sincere appreciation to the staff of MVHS at St. Elizabeth Medical Center/Special Care Unit, especially Jody, who were an extension of the family's love for Dewey; and the personnel of the Katherine Luther Residential Health Care Center/Willow Way and Gordon Units for their compassionate, understanding ways, and being close to Dewey when his family could not.

Due to current health concerns and in keeping with federal and state regulations, services at Calvary Mausoleum will be held privately.

Please take a moment to connect with Dewey's family through the "Memories" section of his obituary on our website.

Our prayers go out to all as a sign of our continued support.

Tribute Wall

GR

“ *Emma and Family Our Deepest sympathies and condolences he was a great neighbor and friend and will be truly missed. Gary Robertson and family.*

Gary robertson - May 14, 2020 at 11:49 AM

CS

“ *Emma,*

I am so sorry you have lost your Dewey.

I grew up knowing the cheerful, smiling Dewey Ragonese, knowing him as one of my parents' most trusted and beloved employees.

The world was definitely a better place with Dewey in it.

My most sincere sympathy goes out to you and your family.

Cynthia

Cynthia S'Doia - May 13, 2020 at 10:19 PM

BD

“ Dear Emma and Diane - On behalf of the Latini, Zammiello, and DiMeo Families we extend our deepest sympathy to all.

Dewey was a special person, we enjoyed his visits and his stories very much and we will miss him.

To honor Dewey we are having masses said for him at our church, St. Anthony and St. Agnes.

God Bless all during this sad time.

*Bernadette Zammiello DiMeo and Michael DiMeo
Francine Zammiello*

Bernadette DiMeo - May 13, 2020 at 12:45 PM

AS

“ My deepest sympathies to Emma & Diana and families. You were such good friends of my mother, Aurora Martorella. My earliest memories are of babysitting Diana & Vincent, as they were my first babysitting job. So sorry for such a great loss.

Antoinette Scalzo, Clearwater, Florida

Antoinette Scalzo - May 11, 2020 at 09:37 PM

JH

“ Sorry to hear about the death of your dad. Your mom and dad came to my parents house often Maria cavo and innocenzo cavo. Sorry for your loss. My love sent to your mom Emma

joann cavo haley - May 10, 2020 at 10:30 AM

CD

“ Diana- My sympathies to you and your family. May time and cherished memories bring you comfort and peace.
Cathy Altieri Ducato

c ducato - May 10, 2020 at 08:58 AM

CN

“ Diana, I'm so sorry for your loss. I remember your dad as a kind and welcoming man. May your memories of your dad bring you comfort.
Cathy Nicotera

Cathy Nicotera - May 09, 2020 at 09:20 PM

SM

“ Our thoughts and prayers to all. We have many fond memories of hunting and especially fishing and coffee afterward. He will be missed. Sal and Natalie Manoiro

Sal and Natalie Manoiro - May 09, 2020 at 05:32 PM

RL

“ I have such fond and special memories growing up as neighbors with the Ragonese family on Steuben Street. Mr. Ragonese was warm and welcoming of the neighborhood children playing outside around his house. My sincere sympathy and prayers to Diana and family. Rosanne Lewis



Rosanne Lewis - May 08, 2020 at 07:48 PM

JZ

“ We are so very sorry for your loss. Dewey was a wonderful man!!!

Jerry & Janine Zenzillo - May 08, 2020 at 02:10 PM

JS

“ *Mr. Ragonese was a wonderful man I used to love his story's my prayers go out to the family at this difficult time !!!!*

Julie spanfelner - May 06, 2020 at 02:38 PM

MS

“ *On the 3rd of May we lost a great man. To all of us he was a legend. Uncle Dewey as we referred to him was a blessing to all of us. All the years that we knew him he never failed to impress all of us with his wisdom and compassion. A quote from Uncle Dewey is as follows. " When you own a home you have to wear many hats". We all knew that we could not keep him forever. We all hope now that because he touched the hearts of all of us that he will be joined by all that left this earth before him. Your work is done Dewey go in piece and pray for us. The Sciortino's*

Michael Sciortino - May 06, 2020 at 10:08 AM

LE

“ *Diana my sincerely sympathy to you and your family. Such a heartbreaking loss. My prayers are with you.*
Lorraine Eady

Lorraine Eady - May 06, 2020 at 08:33 AM

JR

“ This very sad news. Duilio and my dad (Raffaele Ragonese) grew up together in Castelforte. They were cousins and best friends that loved each others like brothers. They immigrated to Montreal along with Duilio's brother Raffaele. I do remember eading a letter that my dad wrote to his father saying how sad he was when Duilio decided to kove to the USA.

On a personal basis I vaguely remember him growing up in Castelforte as he lived next door to us in zio Vincenzo's home. I will always remember him as a kind and caring man always with a smile on his face.

Quite a few years back I called him at his home and we talked for quite a while reminiscing about the past.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my sincere condolences to his family and especially Diana who I only know through Facebook. May the memories sustain you.

Joe Ragonese - May 06, 2020 at 07:04 AM

JR

The four cousins Raffaele, Raffaele, Duilio, Annunziatino are together again

Joe Ragonese - May 06, 2020 at 07:07 AM

LB

“ To the entire family - I'm so sorry for your loss. He sounds like an incredible man who led a strong family life. Diana, please know that I'm thinking of you.

Sincerely, Lynn Bertrand

Lynn Bertrand - May 06, 2020 at 06:18 AM

JG

“ To the Ragonese family , So sorry for your loss our prayers and thoughts are with you at this difficult time.

Janice Greer - May 05, 2020 at 08:59 PM