



## Mrs. Esther Ann (Scafidi) Mazzei

October 29, 1949 - April 27, 2020

UTICA - Mrs. Esther Ann (Scafidi) Mazzei, age 70, was reunited with her beloved husband Al and became an Angel when she passed away on Monday, April 27, 2020 at MVHS at St. Luke's Healthcare.

Born in Utica, N.Y. on October 29, 1949, Esther was the daughter of the late Joseph and Anna (Distante) Scafidi. Raised and educated in Central New York, she graduated from T.R. Proctor High School in 1967. It was there that she made many lasting friendships through the Nu Pi Gamma sorority, which was a self-named group of girls who became life-long friends. Esther was a proud patriot and veteran of the United States Army. On July 7, 1979 she married Alfred P. "Al" Mazzei, with whom she shared 35 devoted years prior to his passing on September 15, 2014.

After high school, Esther accepted a position at the Concord Insurance Agency in South Utica. In 1977, she answered the call to serve and joined the U.S. Army Reserve. From 1980-1985, she served as a full-time Civilian Military Technician (CMT); from 1985-1992 she changed to AGR (Active Guard Reserve) status; and from 1992-1995 she transitioned back to a CMT. In 1995, she was promoted to Master Sergeant (MSG / E-8) and transferred to Texas, where she continued to serve as a CMT for the United States Army Reserve. In 2000, she was hired by the United States Postal Service. She retired from a distinguished government career.

Esther loved unconditionally, supported her family, and made an impact on every life she touched. Although she faced adversity in her final few years,

she persevered and continued to make a difference to those that loved her. She was a loving sister, aunt, cousin, and friend. Her cat, Nico, was her best friend and they were inseparable.

Esther was technically savvy for her generation, which enabled her to stay connected and brighten the spirits of friends and family near and far. A gentle, generous woman, Esther was a source of inspiration and comfort to so many, and her beautiful life will be remembered by all who knew and loved her. She was a communicant of St. Anthony & St. Agnes Church, and was guided by her Catholic faith and her trust in the Lord's will.

Esther is survived by her sister and brother-in-law, Angela and Fred Dziezynski; her beloved nephew and Godson, U.S. Army Brigadier General Joseph and his wife Dawn Dziezynski, nephew, Robert Dziezynski; her great-nephew and Godchild, Kolbe Stuckwisch; very special cousins, Patricia Dennison and Jennifer and Wade Karam, who provided untiring and continuous efforts to care and watch over Esther during her years of need; John and Marie Lucarelli, who were always there for her and Nico; and her brother-in-law, Michael F. Mazzei, with who she shared a wonderful relationship through the years.

Left to carry on her memory are Esther's special friends, John and Isabelle Kostera and their family, who checked in daily with her and assisted her with medical appointments or anything she needed; Vincent and Donna Sbarra, who were friends with Esther and Al for many years and would visit often; and the late Bobby Hoyle, who she had known since he was just a little boy. Even though he was dealing with his own health challenges, he would communicate with her almost daily to give her inspiration and hope.

The family extends heartfelt thanks to the nurses, therapy staff, and assistants at The Grand in Ilion, especially Monica Hadsell for her concern, visits, and prayers for "Aunt Esther"; and Doug McGregor for his professionalism and commitment. A special thank you to Cheryl Costello, Esther's neighbor, for taking care of Nico the past few months.

Due to current health concerns and in keeping with federal and state

regulations, services will be held privately. A Memorial Mass of Christian Burial will be offered in Esther's honor at a future date to be announced. Please take a moment to connect with Esther's family through the "Memories" section of her obituary on our website. Our prayers go out to all as a sign of our continued support.

# Tribute Wall

RD

“ Sisi, I will miss all the laughs and loud expletives that we would joke with others in our family with. I'm glad we got to speak before you died, and I know You, Uncle Al and Gramma are looking down on all of us as angels now. I Love You and miss you. Love Bob

Robert Dziezynski - May 09, 2020 at 03:42 PM

RD

if anyone knows why no one will contact me from Utica please let me know. I'm on food stamps and welfare in Los Angeles lost my job due to civil 19 cuts and am dying of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis and MS. I don't talk to Angela Joe Dawn Kristi or Kolbe who is not my son, belongs to her old boss at Phx PD. She's under investigation for fraud for accepting 998.00 a month in child support for years from me over \$33,000.00....until 2007 and 2010 to 2013 then it was stopped after she admitted it wasn't mine. Her daughter Tia isn't hers either. She lied and was in witness protection from someone who witnessed a threat from a prisoner when a victim advocate.

Robert Dziezynski - December 22, 2020 at 05:14 AM

DS

“ Angela and Fred,

So sorry to learn of Esther's passing. I knew her from high school and for many years in the Army Reserve. She was always the sweetest person and full of fun and laughter. Anyone who knew Ester was truly fortunate and their lives were enhanced by her presence. I hope that all your treasured memories will sustain you during this difficult time. My deepest sympathy, Dan Salsbury

Daniel G Salsbury - May 07, 2020 at 03:19 PM

MK

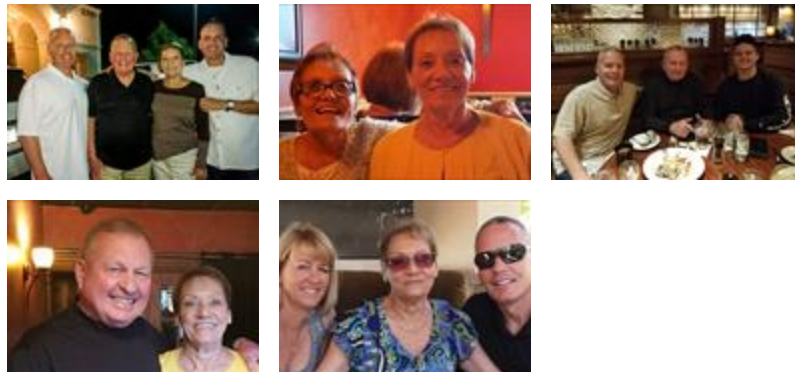
“ I am the late Chuck Kershaw's wife; Esther went to school with my husband and then they were in the Army Reserves together. She was such a help to him in the Reserves. She told him about the tuition reimbursement program and many other programs/benefits that he was eligible for. He absolutely loved her and valued their friendship so much. I was always hearing about what a wonderful person she was; I felt like I knew her personally just from him. She did a great deal of good and I'm sure she is now reaping the benefits of her kindness. I know Chuck welcomed her with open arms in Heaven, glad to see his dear friend once again. May she rest in peace.

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**Marguerite Kershaw** - May 03, 2020 at 02:00 PM

DF

“ 6 files added to the tribute wall



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**Dziezynski Family** - May 02, 2020 at 05:37 PM

FD

“ Esther...*"my favorite Sister-in-Law"* . I will so miss the times we would talk and laugh about the many things we did during our military careers and the great people we met and still call our friends. Angela and I will miss your telephone calls to sing "Happy Birthday" in that voice that only you could project and make us laugh. But most of all we will miss you Esther, who we loved dearly. You were so much fun to be with and so good to our family. Angela and I know you are now in a better place, with Al, and free from the pain and discomfort you had to endure these last few years. But it is still so hard to say goodbye. We love you.

*Angela and Fred Dziezynski*

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**Fred and Angela Dziezynski** - May 02, 2020 at 03:55 PM

SD

“ I am so sorry to hear about Esther Ann's passing. We always had fun in grandma's and grandpas garden and eating grapes off the grape vine . She was a good person with a heart as big as all outdoors. May she Rest In Peace and May the lord help you in your time of sorrow.

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**sam distante** - May 02, 2020 at 07:47 AM

SC

“ As your neighbor, the many years that we had spent with you and Al will forever be a part of our memories! So many dinners and cocktails at your table-many fond memories! Even after Al's passing, the relationship that you and Matthew had together, always makes me smile. 8:30AM-every day he'd show up and then come home, at some point, to tell me the "events" of the day! Your presence will sadly be missed! You were definitely one of a kind!! Hugs to you and a big Hello to Al! Soar high "Mama"!

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**Scott Carpenter** - May 01, 2020 at 11:06 PM



Catherine Longo

“ *Catherine a Longo and Gary miner /family sorry for your loss . Esther is in heaven with her husband now . Feel bad of her passing.*



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**Catherine Longo** - May 01, 2020 at 08:25 PM

JH

“ *Fred Angela Esther was a great person she was a lot of fun we had some nice times in the army my wife Marlene graduated high school with Esther. Jim Marlene Hancock*

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**James Hancock** - May 01, 2020 at 04:57 PM

JD

“ *My favorite aunt, my only aunt, my Sisi. I love you now and forever. We will miss you dearly, but you are in a better place now. Heaven has a new angel.*

*Be thou at peace,  
"Joe Baby"*

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**Joe Dziezynski** - May 01, 2020 at 04:29 PM

MH

“ *I will forever love and miss you each and everyday. Rest In Peace my friend. Love Matthew*

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**Matthew Holt** - May 01, 2020 at 10:25 AM

MB

“ *The 331st lost a great soldier, and great caring person. She was always available to help with personnel issues. You will be missed Esther. Salute and RIP. I know you we're suffering and now your are at peace.*

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**Mitchell A. Beauchamp** - May 01, 2020 at 10:08 AM

AB

“ *Angela and Fred my deepest condolences on esthers passing  
She had a beautiful smile and infectious laugh  
She was credit to the United States Army and USA*

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**allen belmont** - May 01, 2020 at 09:29 AM

EW

“ *Rest in peace my "forever friend". I already miss my daily briefings from you. However, I do have my many memories of our comradery together. I will forever remember all the uncontrollable laughter we shared when we were not supposed to be laughing. Those were great times we shared. I will always remember them and you fondly. I miss you. I send my most sincere sympathies to Angela, Freddie and family. Ed WASHBURN*

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**Ed WASHBURN** - May 01, 2020 at 08:59 AM

LH

“ *Esther, a beautiful lady who Will always bring a smile to my face when I think of you. You fought so bravely and now you are with your beloved AI. Rest In Peace and know that I will always remember you. Angela, Fred and family my deepest condolences.*

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**Lois Hoyle** - April 30, 2020 at 11:03 PM

MY

“ *A great lady and friend. You will be greatly missed. Rest In Peace my dear Esther You will always be in my heart.*  
*Your friend , Marcia Yero*

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**Marcia Yero** - April 30, 2020 at 10:20 PM

AF

“ *My dear friend Esther, you were such a sweet and caring person. I will miss my weekly call to you but will cherish all our fond memories. Angela and family so sorry for your loss. My prayers and thoughts are with you.*  
*Love*  
*Antoinette (Aceto) Fiore*



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**Antoinette (Aceto) Fiore** - April 30, 2020 at 04:58 PM