



Mr. Eugene "Gene" F. Militello

December 6, 1943 - December 8, 2020

MARCY - Mr. Eugene "Gene" F. Militello, of Marcy, passed away at the age of 77 on December 8, 2020, at MVHS at St. Luke's Healthcare after a courageous battle.

Born in Rome, NY on December 6, 1943, Eugene was the son of the late Anthony and Rose (Felice) Militello. He was educated in Rome and was a graduate of Rome Free Academy. After graduation, Eugene enlisted in the United States Navy where he proudly served 20 years. He completed a world tour at sea on the USS Long Beach where he served as a Radioman and enjoyed telling stories about the countries he visited. He also served and completed a Southern Hemisphere tour on the USS Farragut. For ten years, he worked as a Navy recruiter in Rome, NY where he enlisted countless individuals into service. His service to his country was a special honor and one in which he took great pride.

He earned his degree from Mohawk Valley Community College in 1984 and worked as a Systems Engineer in computers until retirement in 2005. Eugene was also a beloved adjunct professor at MVCC for many years. He taught electrical code and wiring for years, and robotics for a short period of time. His devotion to his job and teaching profession precedes him.

For several years, Gene was co-owner, and chef of Milo's Banquet Hall of Utica and was well known for his superior cooking skills. Everyone who tried Gene's sauce and meatballs raved about how delicious there were. He was an avid baker and made the traditional Italian Christmas cookie trays every

holiday season. Gene enjoyed this very much and loved sharing his cookie trays with many people. He loved cooking for his family, especially sauce on Sundays and the annual Thanksgiving at "Uncle Gene's." Cooking and sharing his meals brought him much joy and people always looked forward to his wonderful meals and treats.

Gene was very close with his two brothers and enjoyed spending time with them, especially their weekly lunch gatherings. He cherished the relationship he had with his brothers and how close they were.

He was involved in numerous activities, clubs, and organizations. Gene was an avid golfer and ran multiple golf leagues. He enjoyed playing golf and organizing outings, always working tirelessly to ensure every event was a success.

He was Commander of the Whitestown Veterans of WWII Club. He took great pride in the Vets Club organization and worked tirelessly to ensure the establishment was always taken care of properly. He devoted many hours cooking, cleaning, creating lasting friendships, and participating in all the club's various activities. "Geno" was loved by all who met him.

Eugene shared a 31 year blessed union with his wife, Jerrine Militello who passed in 2005. Gene was a doting and loving husband who took special care of the love of his life for many years during her illness.

Throughout their marriage, he provided constant support, strength, and selfless acts of generosity and kindness; he was always by Jerrine's side. They shared a wonderful marriage and partnership, and are now joined together for eternity.

Gene was an amazing father and grandfather. He was present at every concert, sporting event, graduation, and ceremony; he was a constant support and tower of strength, and the best friend any daughter could ever hope for. He was the most thoughtful and kind father and was always there for his children. He was the most generous and devoted father one could ever be blessed with. Gene loved being a "Grampa", and was so proud of his granddaughters. They were the apple of his eye, and he simply adored them.

He especially loved teaching his granddaughters how to make meatballs, cookies, and cannolis, earning him the name "Papa Cookie!"

He loved spending time with his family and was always willing to lend a hand to anyone in need. He was a hard worker and a cherished friend who will be missed dearly. Gene had a loving spirit and his smile and laughter lit up every room. He was a great man whose memory will live on forever.

Eugene is survived by his loving daughters, Gina Leech and son-in-law William "Cliff" Leech; Andrea Militello Graves and son-in-law Kyle Graves; adopted children from a previous marriage, William "Bucky" Devaney, Tabitha Dunn; granddaughters, Remy and Emerson Graves; and cherished siblings, brothers, Carl Militello, and William Militello; and sister-in-law, Sara Militello; nieces, nephews and their families, Gabrielle and Scott Yerdon, Michelle and Henry Bick, Michael and Jenn Militello, Carl and Angela Militello, Debbie and Rick Semeraro, Laurie and Peter Laterza, Christina D'Ambro, Anthony and Tonya Militello, Rosemarie and Kevin Moore, Louis and Tammy Henry, Jody Henry, and Karen and Dave Hartnett; and many dear friends who are too numerous to list. He also had a special relationship with his friend Kris. He was predeceased by his sister and brother-in-law, Rosalie and Louis Henry. The family is grateful to the doctors and nurses at MVHS at St. Luke's Healthcare/ICU for the care and compassion rendered to Eugene.

Due to the COVID-19 crisis and being aware of everyone's safety, there will be no public visitation. Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend Eugene's funeral service and Celebration of Life which will commence on Monday, December 21, 2020 at 12:00 noon at the Church of Our Lady of Lourdes where his Mass of Christian Burial will be offered with Military Honors conferred by the U.S. Navy. Face masks covering your nose and mouth are required, and social distancing and contact tracing will be implemented. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations in Eugene's name may be directed by mail to the Whitestown Vets Club, 174 Whitesboro St., Yorkville, NY 13495; envelopes will be available at the service. Interment will take place graveside

in Forest Hill Cemetery. Post COVID, his daughters will be holding a Memorial Service in Eugene's honor.

During this time of social distancing that we are all experiencing, please take a moment to connect with Eugene's family through the "Memories" section of his obituary. Our prayers go out to all as a sign of our continued support.

Cemetery Details

Forest Hill Cemetery

2201 Oneida Street
Utica, NY 13501
(315) 735-2701

Tribute Wall

DC

“ *God Bless Gene! A great gentleman. We will miss him at the VFW!*

dave Corr - December 30, 2020 at 03:20 PM

RC

“ *I interned under Gene's department when I was a student at MVCC. I learned much from him. I really great guy. RIP*

R. Conway

Randal C - December 23, 2020 at 11:50 AM



“ *Have know Gene since 1985, always a gentleman and a great golf partner.*

*Will miss you
Tom Morelle*

Tom Morelle - December 20, 2020 at 01:31 PM

DS

“ *Andrea and Gina,
So sorry for your loss. Your dad was a great guy and neighbor. Got to talk to him over the summer and was great to see him. Also thankful for his service to our country. He's in heaven with your mom now.*

Dave Strzepek - December 16, 2020 at 07:45 PM

BT

“ Bucky & Tabitha purchased the Heavenly Sentiments Spray for the family of Mr. Eugene "Gene" F. Militello.



Bucky & Tabitha - December 14, 2020 at 11:35 AM

FA

“ Frank W. Augustine purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Mr. Eugene "Gene" F. Militello.



Frank W. Augustine - December 14, 2020 at 10:36 AM

FA

“ Met Gene first day of kindergarten at De Witt Clinton elementary school, Rome, NY. Stayed best friends through Rome Free Academy. Joined the NAVY together. Stayed in touch as much as life allowed. Last time we got together two years ago at Coal Yard Charlies in Rome. At this stage of my life, have lost many friends. Losing Gene is my toughest one. Will miss you terribly old friend. My sincere condolences to the Militello family during this time.

Frank Augustine - December 14, 2020 at 10:32 AM



“ Our deepest condolences, thoughts & prayers are with all.
Love, AL, Candace, Alex & Carissa Roux

Candace Roux - December 14, 2020 at 09:22 AM

DO

“ *Carl, Bill and Sara...my sincere condolences for the loss of your brother Gene.
Donna Yaghy*

Donna - December 13, 2020 at 10:55 PM

SM

“ *To the Militello Family,
My deepest condolences for your loss. I was a shipmate and a Radioman with Gene aboard the USS Farragut. I am from Amsterdam NY and on weekends Gene would give me a lift back home and then pick me up on the thruway back to Newport RI. Gene was such a great guy always had a smile and was well liked by everyone in the Radio shack and on board the ship. He will be missed dearly.
May you rest in peace Geno
Steve Mroczka*

Steven Mroczka - December 13, 2020 at 08:56 PM

FA

“ *To the Militello Family,
My deepest condolences on your loss. I worked with Gene at MVCC and he always had a friendly word and a great smile for everyone. He was a true gentleman and one of a kind. I will always think of him fondly. Sincerely, Franca Armstrong*

Franca Armstrong - December 13, 2020 at 06:41 PM

SJ

“ To the entire Militello family:

*When things go wrong, as they sometimes will,
when the road you're trudging seems all uphill,
when the funds are low and the debts are high,
and you want to smile but you have to sigh,
when care is pressing you down a bit - rest if you must, but don't you quit.*



*Life is queer with its twists and turns.
As everyone of us sometimes learns.
And many a fellow turns about when he might have won had he stuck it out.
Don't give up though the pace seems slow - you may succeed with another blow.*

Often the goal is nearer than it seems to a faint and faltering man;

*Often the struggler has given up when he might have captured the victor's cup;
and he learned too late when the night came down,
how close he was to the golden crown.*

*Success is failure turned inside out - the silver tint of the clouds of doubt,
and when you never can tell how close you are,
it may be near when it seems afar;
so stick to the fight when you're hardest hit - it's when things seem worst, you must not quit.*

Janice and Samuel L. Russo, Jr. Administrator Emeritus - Mohawk Valley Community College (MVCC)

Samuel L Russo Jr - December 13, 2020 at 03:34 PM

MM

“ I Loved that your dad always made a point to come and see us when we were visiting with Andy, Kyle, Remy and Emerson. He always had his amazing food and cookies to share with us. His smile and lightness of spirit and generous heart is such an inspiration. I Love how he loved his daughters and his grandchildren so much. I feel blessed to have known him and to continue to experience his Spirit through Andrea and Gina. Big Love to you all. Such a treasure.



Melissa Mace - December 13, 2020 at 12:02 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mr. Eugene "Gene" F. Militello.



December 13, 2020 at 11:49 AM

BP

“ Tammy and I send our heartfelt condolences to the Militello family. His leadership and commitment to the Vets Club was an attestation to the individual Gene was as a man and a friend. Thank you for the friendship that you allowed both of us to share. RIP Commander! God Bless

Bill & Tammy Patterson - December 13, 2020 at 11:24 AM

SR

“ Carl Laurie & family. So very sorry for your loss

Sue Robinson - December 13, 2020 at 11:18 AM

RL

“ Our condolences to the family of Gene. I am so saddened by this loss. He enlisted me and 3 of my brother-in-laws. I was lucky enough to return to Rome and recruit with Gene. He taught me so much about enjoying life and family. I retired after my 20 years and of course Gene attended my welcome home party. We played golf and bowled together, I will miss his friendship. I will never forget that winning smile of his. RIP Gene!!

Richard LaRoy - December 13, 2020 at 09:46 AM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mr. Eugene "Gene" F. Militello.



December 12, 2020 at 09:44 PM

LB

“ Gina and family, so sorry for the loss of " Gene Gene the dancing machine" as I called him! Such a great guy!!! He will be missed!!! <3

Lisa Bullet - December 12, 2020 at 08:48 PM

WD

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



William Eugene Devaney - December 12, 2020 at 08:23 PM

WD

1970, Gene and stepkids, Bucky and Tabitha, on the way from California to New York.

William Eugene Devaney - December 12, 2020 at 08:25 PM

WD

My sister and I offer our sincerest condolences to Gina, Andrea, and their families as well as the Militello family. Dad Gene was one of a kind and will be greatly missed.

William Eugene Devaney - December 12, 2020 at 08:28 PM

PH

“ Both Debbie and I offer our sincere condolences to the Militello family. We thank Gene for his service to our country and for his great service to our Vets Club. He will surely be missed. Rest in peace Commander. Debbie Zabek and Paul Hinkston from the Vets Club

Paul Hinkston - December 12, 2020 at 08:07 PM