



Mr. Francesco "Frank" Bonacci

September 22, 1929 - November 7, 2023

NEW HARTFORD – Mr. Francesco “Frank” Bonacci, age 94, died peacefully on Tuesday, November 7, 2023. At the time of his passing, he was in the company of his son and in the hearts of his family.

Born in Decollatura, Calabria, Italy on September 22, 1929, Frank was the son of the late Angelo and Angelina (Volpe) Bonacci. In 1948 he came to join his father in the United States, settling in Utica. As the years passed, the rest of his immediate family arrived and made Utica their home. His primary education was completed in Italy, and after his time in the service, he graduated from Utica College of Syracuse University with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in English. In 1967 he completed his higher education studies at Syracuse University, earning a Master’s Degree in Social Work. Although raised in Italy, Frank was born a U.S. citizen, and served our country with the U.S. Army during the Korean conflict, stationed in Germany. He was proud to have served and felt blessed for the advantages that he received during this developmental time of his life.

On January 9, 1965, he wed his co-worker and friend, Sylvia Slivsek. They shared a mutual respect for one another and a passion to help others. If any marriage is made in heaven, this was it. His kindness and sense of humor was endless, his humor kept her laughing, and nothing mattered more than his family. They knew the treasure and gift of laughter in their marriage, and

spending precious time together as a family was a blessing to them. They loved entertaining and sharing celebrations big and small with their extended family and friends.

As a young immigrant aspiring to create a successful life, he took whatever work he could find. He baked bread, polished salami, shoveled snow, delivered coal, and worked as a painter and a tailor. After his time in the service and in completing his collegiate studies, he turned his attention to social work and obtained employment with the Oneida County Department of Social Services. He began as a case worker and was afforded many opportunities to start new and innovative programs, including a detention home for troubled teens and the school breakfast program for Oneida County School Districts. Eventually he became the Director of Intake for Child Welfare in Oneida County and retired from that position after four decades. In his work he was passionately dedicated to helping people find their way. He always aspired to be kind, helpful, and compassionate – traits that guided his lengthy and successful career as a social worker.

Ever an enchanting and humorous man, Frank will be recalled as a gifted storyteller. He possessed the ability to spin many amusing tales about everyday life. He had a gentle nature and a reputation as being a true friend to many. Mostly, he had a large heart for children and anyone who was underrepresented, an appreciation that was innately part of his personhood.

In his later years, he craved the peace and tranquility of his home and the company of his family. He could often be found tinkering outside his shed in the woods, taking in the view from his hilltop perch, enjoying summer evenings outdoors, and tending to his garden.

Although not a musician himself, Frank deeply appreciated beautiful music of all kinds, especially Italian opera and folk music from his home province of

Calabria. When working around the house, he would always treat himself to entertainment courtesy of his vinyl LP's and Saturday afternoon Metropolitan Opera broadcasts.

A lifelong Roman Catholic, he respected the traditions of the church and quietly and devoutly observed his faith.

Frank is survived by his cherished wife, Sylvia; his sons and daughter-in-law, Angelo Bonacci, and Andrew and Mary Bonacci; and his grandchildren, Steven, and Anton Bonacci. He treasured the memory of his sister, Maria Carmela Gigliotti, who preceded him. He will also be greatly missed by his nieces and nephews, Angela and Walter Bange, Vinicia and Frank DeFazio, the Hon. Louis Gigliotti, and Michael and Lisa Gigliotti; his cousins who reside in Italy and Australia; and his "chosen family" Maria Elena Heck and Sylvia Amoroso, and Rocco Pepe and his wife Scarlett. He was predeceased by his father-in-law and mother-in-law, Martin and Mary (Yerina) Slivsek; and by his "Aunt" Teresa Pietrogiacomo.

The family wishes to extend a special thanks to Frank's dedicated physician Dr. Amy Gorczynski and to Dr. David Almeleh and the entire third floor staff at Little Falls Hospital for their outstanding care and many kindnesses.

Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend Frank's Memorial Mass of Christian Burial and Celebration of Life, which will commence on Saturday, November 18, 2023 at 11:00 a.m. at Historic Old St. John's Church, 240 Bleecker St. Military honors will be conferred by the U.S. Army. There will be an opportunity to greet the family at the conclusion of Mass. Acknowledging the mission of their organization, memorial contributions in Frank's honor may be made to the Thea Bowman House online at www.theabowmanhouse.org/donate.

Tribute Wall

LM

“ I was sad to learn that Frank has passed. Please accept my belated condolences. Frank was a very nice man and I have fond memories of him and his family. Frank's passing motivated me to look through all the family photos I have, perhaps nearly a thousand in total, in an effort to find an image of Frank. Considering my family visited often with the Bonaccis, I found it odd there was only one photo of them in my collection. It's not a very good image of Frank because it is a view of him from the side, but it is the only one I have. However, in the image Sylvia is captured straight-on and she looks quite striking in her polka dot dress. For those who are curious, the image was developed in May of 1962.



Len Milano - March 02, 2024 at 07:24 PM

FM

“ Frank, Maria, Angelo and Angelina were very, very close friends of my grandmother and grandfather Carmela and Ignazio Maggiore. I lived with my grandparents on Belmont Ave and I remember all of the great times we spent together with the Bonacci Family. I remember walking with Nanna and Nanno to there home on McQuade Ave for many enjoyable visits. There were so many times that they came by the house on Belmont Ave for some coffee and annisette cookies and would sit out in the back yard to enjoy the company and talk about a number of things. Those were the days and my memories of the Bonacci Family were such great times. Since I live in California I won't be at the funeral, but I will be with your thoughts and prayers. The last time I seen Frank was at my uncle Tony's funeral back in 2001. it was such a pleasure to see Frank again. He was always so happy to see and be with all of the Maggiore Family. You will be missed so very much. Rest In Peace, Frank. Your friend, Frank Maggiore "Junior".

Frank Maggiore - November 18, 2023 at 11:25 AM

GG

“ My beloved Sandra and I will also be grateful for the welcome, grace and laughter and great meals we always received from Francesco and family whenever we had the opportunity to visit them from Australia. The one we love is no longer we he once was for he is now wherever we are!
Requiem aeternam dona eis, Domine, et lux perpetua luceat eis.
Pace e Bene
Giuseppe and Sandra Gigliotti

Giuseppe Gigliotti - November 17, 2023 at 06:47 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Mr. Francesco "Frank" Bonacci.*



November 17, 2023 at 09:16 AM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Mr. Francesco "Frank" Bonacci.*



November 17, 2023 at 06:52 AM



“ *Heather, George, and family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mr. Francesco "Frank" Bonacci.*

Heather, George, and family - November 17, 2023 at 06:52 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mr. Francesco "Frank" Bonacci.*



November 16, 2023 at 07:27 PM



“ *Magnificent Life Spray was purchased for the family of Mr. Francesco "Frank" Bonacci.*

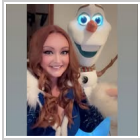


November 16, 2023 at 01:28 PM



“ *Worked with Frank at Family Services. I remember him as a kind and funny man. My husband Jihn and I offer our heartfelt condolences to Sylvia and the boys. Frank, enjoy Heaven.*

Vickie Hamelin Egresits - November 15, 2023 at 06:32 AM



“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Suzanne Bange - November 11, 2023 at 05:36 PM



“ *Please accept the sincere sympathies of the Mike McGuirl Family. Frank was a great friend and co-worker of my father. I have vivid and fond memories of his visits.*
Mike McGuirl 3rd

Michael J McGuirl - November 10, 2023 at 06:13 PM

NM

“ There will never be another man like Frank Bonacci. Never. Classic. Classy. Extremely knowledgeable in history of the world. Funny. Kind. Advocate of those treated unfairly. Not afraid to speak up and remind all of us, especially those in power, how things should be. And oh, how he loved to share life stories. " How do you do".

Oneida County Dept. of Social Services was made better with Frank Bonacci insights and presence.

I considered him not only a co worker but also a friend.

Godspeed, Frank. We'll miss you.

Love to Sylvia and the family.

Nancy Cox Marafioti

John F. Marafioti

Nancy Cox Marafioti - November 10, 2023 at 01:40 PM

RW

“ I am saddened to learn of Frank's passing. I have many good memories of working with him at the county. He always had a smile on his face and told great stories. One that comes to memory is the sympathy he felt for the chicken lady on Bleecker Street because she had to live with the chickens in the house. :) Why I remember this, I don't know.

Rose Anne Warmuth - November 10, 2023 at 12:02 PM

AB

“ 7 files added to the album Tribute wall



Andrew M Bonacci - November 09, 2023 at 08:35 PM