



Mr. Francis J. "Frank" Centro

May 22, 1944 - April 11, 2021

ONEIDA, NY - Mr. Francis J. "Frank" Centro, Sr., age 76, passed away on Sunday, April 11, 2021 after being stricken at home, battling several health issues during the latter part of his life.

Born in Rome on May 22, 1944, Frank was the son of the late Frank and Sarah (Asfur) Centro. He attended Sacred Heart Elementary School and graduated from Utica Free Academy/Class of 1962. On October 15, 1966 he married the former Kathaleen "Kathy" Raccuia. They were of one heart and mind, and Frank often said she was "the love of his life". She was his everything during their 54 years together.

For many years, Frank was involved in the ownership, operation, or management of multiple businesses and venues. He worked as an Arnold's Bakery independent franchiser with routes committed to Oneida and the Mohawk Valley. He also owned Astro's Bar & Grill, a successful business he operated with his son Frank and daughter Alicia. He managed the Elks Club on French Road, as well as the American Legion #1376 at the New Hartford location, and oversaw with dedication the daily activities of both places.

He was capable of fulfilling multiple roles, and he knew everything from "A to Z" and "Soup to Nuts"! He lastly worked at Turning Stone Casino where he once again afforded his generous spirit to shine. He retired in 2009. Always optimistic, his affable personality attracted people to him. If you knew Frank, you had to love him. He was a giving gentleman with a great sense of humor, and that was his "calling card".

His children were blessed with his support in all their endeavors and sporting events. He never missed a game. When the bus arrived at the field, Frank and Kathy were there with all the fixings for the entire team. This commitment continued with each of his five grandchildren who knew an incredible Papa, and it was so evident that they were the light of his life!

On Father's Day 2020, his son Frankie wrote a letter to his dad, highlighting from his heart how grateful he and his sister Alicia were for all the little things Dad and Mom did for them when they were younger, that seem so big today! Things that they do for their own children, like making them feel safe, loved, sure of themselves, grateful for what they have, and teaching them manners and self-sufficiency. As adults, they realize the sacrifice, patience, discipline, and compassion it takes to be good parents. Frankie closes his letter as he tells his father, "I am proud to call you my dad and I love you with all my heart. I wouldn't trade one minute with you for anything in this world." Frankie XOXO In his younger years, Frank played tennis, softball, and matriculated into the maturity of the game of golf, a sport that captured his heart. He would often be seen on the fairways at Valley View and Oneida Limited Golf Course in Sherrill. Sunday dinner was a major day to share a meal with family. Also, the backyard with built-in pool was always a gathering place for an "open house" invitation, and anyone who visited enjoyed all the fun, food, and family conversation that Frank, Kathy, and the kids had to offer.

God lived in his heart, and Frank always recited Grace before a meal to thank Him for the blessings of togetherness.

Frank is survived by his beloved wife, Kathy; his loving and devoted children, Frank J. Centro Jr. and his love Kimberly Keenan, and Alicia Centro and Jerry Do Vale; grandchildren, Frankie Carmen, and Carmen Francis Centro; and Alexandria Kathaleen, twins Aiden, and Austin Do Vale. He was truly loved by his sister Betty, and brother-in-law, Roger Sabia. He was predeceased by his sisters, Helen Pardi, and Lena Centro. He also leaves his nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews; in-laws, Ninett and Tony Singe, and Anna and Dan Bruno. He had a group of friends, in particular Art Nole, with whom he

enjoyed many great times.

The family is grateful to Dr. Sultana Razia for her medical expertise, compassionate care, and personal touches; and Jennifer and Donna at the Dialysis Center of Oneida for their excellent care.

Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend a Memorial Gathering to be held Tuesday, April 27, 2021 from 3:00-5:00 at the Eannace Funeral Home, Inc., 932 South St., corner of Hammond Ave. Frank's Celebration of Life will commence upon the conclusion of the Memorial gathering, and all are welcome. Face masks are required and social distancing and contact tracing will be implemented. Expressions of sympathy in the form of donations may be directed to the Dialysis Center of Oneida online at <https://www.mvhealthsystem.org/directory/dialysis-center-oneida>. Envelopes will be available at the service.

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

Previous Events

Memorial Gathering

APR 27. 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

Eannace Funeral Home, Inc.
932 South Street
corner of Hammond Ave.
Utica, NY 13501
(315) 724-6714
eannacefh@roadrunner.com
<https://www.eannacefuneralhome.com>

Memorial Service

APR 27. 5:00 PM (ET)

Eannace Funeral Home, Inc.
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corner of Hammond Ave.
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Tribute Wall



“ *Enduring Grace was purchased for the family of Mr. Francis J. "Frank" Centro.*



April 27, 2021 at 07:07 AM

DE

“ *Just wanted to let you all know we are thinking of you all at this very difficult time. Absolutely we both loved your Dad ! As a matter of fact he made me feel better when my Dad passed away. Very compassionate caring man. If there is any thing you might need please reach out and I will check on your Mom since I'm across the street. Thoughts and prayers to you all.*

*Deb Whiting
Jan Whiting*

Deb - April 26, 2021 at 05:58 PM

RW

“ *Kathy, Alicia, & Frank, I was so saddened to hear of the passing of Frank. He was a very special person. One of a kind. No matter what kind of day you were having, spending time with Frank would brighten it. He was like family to me, having known him my entire life. So many great memories over the years. We were all blessed to have him. Hope you are all doing as well as possible and my sincere condolences to the entire family.*

Ron Walsh - April 26, 2021 at 02:21 PM

AB

“ *Our deepest condolences to the Frank Centro from the Belmont Family*

Allen Belmont - April 26, 2021 at 12:20 PM

JH

“ *Hi Kathy. I just heard about the passing of my dear friend Frankie, and I am sad beyond words. You and the children, Frank and Alicia, have lost a wonderful husband and dad, and I have lost a childhood friend that was one of the nicest people I have ever known. I can only imagine how much you and your children and grandchildren will miss him, as will others in his family and all his friends. I will keep Frankie and you and the family in my thoughts and prayers. And every time I think of our childhood and all the fun we had growing up, I will thank God for allowing me to have had such a great friend. Memories of Frankie's kindness, his sense of humor, and his love of his family will also be with me forever. My love to you and the entire Centro family, and may God bless each of you. Sincerely,
Joe Hibey*

Joe Hibey - April 23, 2021 at 09:10 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mr. Francis J. "Frank" Centro.*



April 20, 2021 at 10:52 PM

AF

“ Anna, Dan & Andre. Nina, Tony, Michael, Tony & Family purchased the Gracious Lavender Basket for the family of Mr. Francis J. "Frank" Centro.



Anna, Dan & Andre. Nina, Tony, Michael, Tony & Family - April 20, 2021 at 05:28 PM

NS

“ While the passing of our beloved brother in law Frank leaves us with a heavy heart and we will greatly miss him, we have so many great memories to cherish from over 53 years of being connected as family. So many festive holidays together, anniversary, birthday and wedding celebrations, our wonderful trips to Italy, watching sporting events, golfing, luncheons together and just visiting and talking about the events of the day. Frank's smile, sense of humor and easy going manner was always present. We greatly admire Frank's courage and love of life and Kathy's and Frankie's and Alicia's unwavering love and support for Frank and each other, particularly during these last challenging years. We extend our deepest sympathies to the Centro family. Frank will always be remembered and be in our hearts forever. Our love to you Kathy and your beautiful family and may God bless you and grant everlasting peace to our beloved Frank.
With our heart felt love.
Nina and Tony Singe

Nina and Tony Singe - April 19, 2021 at 09:15 PM

DK

“ Frank & family, my condolences for your loss. You certainly had a wonderful father/husband who was so much fun back in our Chicago Market days...long ago when we met. Blessings to you all.
Dea (Markum) Kershaw

Dea Kershaw - April 17, 2021 at 05:10 PM

MM

“ Dear Kathy, Frank, Kim & Family - Vinny and I are so very sorry for the loss of your dad. We always enjoyed seeing him at the baseball games. The beautifully-written obituary, telling the story of his life, reveals to us that he left quite a legacy. Our thoughts and prayers are with all of you at this most difficult time. Love, Vinny & Marilyn

Marilyn Maneen - April 17, 2021 at 04:57 PM

JC

“ Frank so sorry for your loss I remember the good times when Dad and you were redoing the BAR ASTROS sorry again for your and family's loss

Jim Carbone - April 17, 2021 at 07:59 AM

WE

“ Frank, Frankie, and Carmen,
I am so sorry for your loss. Please know you are all in my thoughts and prayers. May your wonderful memories help you through this difficult time.

Wendy Egresits

Wendy Egresits - April 17, 2021 at 02:56 AM

GF

“ We are so sorry for your loss and our hearts go out to everyone. Frank was a wonderful person and will be missed by everyone.

George and Bonnie Fitzgerald - April 15, 2021 at 02:08 PM

BS

“ Frank. So sorry for your loss. Thinking of you and your family at this difficult time. Remember all those fun times.

Barbara Sage

Barbara Sage - April 15, 2021 at 01:22 PM

KG

“ Kathy, Please Know that I am thinking of you and the rest of your family, Frank was a great guy 🙏❤️

kathy Gerace - April 15, 2021 at 01:08 PM

NW

“ Our thoughts are with you all during this difficult time. May all the cherished memories sustain you now and in the days ahead and be painted in a rainbow of colors that will never fade.

Love & Blessings,
Neil, Erica, Kaeden & Kieragan Wood

Neil & Erica Wood - April 15, 2021 at 09:11 AM

TA

Dear Kathy, Frankie, Alicia and family, It's with a very heavy heart and tears that I offer you my most sincere condolences for the loss of a wonderful husband, terrific dad, encouraging cousin and caring person. I want you all to realize that I always loved Frank very much and will continue to love my memories of him with us as my brothers and I were growing up on Mathews Ave in Utica. Frank was like my older brother during those years and was more important to me then perhaps he even knew. Frank, his mother Sarah, father Frank and his sisters Helen Ann, Lena and Betty helped raised me as a young boy. He coached our little league team, taught me about sportsmanship and was always there to play catch with the baseball or just chat about things. Kathy, I remember the day I first met you and knew how happy my cousin was when introducing you to our family. I cherished the Sunday dinners at Nana's with all of you. The parties at your home and the love you all gave me. I deeply miss everyone and truly love you all. I am certain Frank is resting peacefully with his Mom and Dad, sisters, Nana, Aunts Rose, Mary, Ann, Helen and my Dad his Uncle Anthony. My thoughts and prayers will continue to be with Frank and each of you. I realize this is a most difficult time but focus on the love your husband and dad brought to so many people and it's that love which lives on in wonderful memories forever...

With love,

Anthony (Tony) Asfur

Tony Asfur - April 20, 2021 at 09:53 PM

MS

Dear Frankie,

I was so very sorry to read of your dear Father's passing. I may have mentioned I also went to Sacred Heart and remember him from there. My prayers are with you at this difficult time.

*God bless,
Michele Simmen*

Michele Simmen - April 23, 2021 at 02:10 PM

JC

*Kathy,
So sorry to hear of Frank's passing. So many fond memories of past
years.
Mike and Joanne Clark.*

Joanna Clark - April 23, 2021 at 06:26 PM

PV

*So sorry to hear about Frank- he was always nice to me and Tommy
Pat Villelo*

Pat Villelo - April 25, 2021 at 04:34 PM