



Frank A. Sportelli

March 17, 1923 - April 11, 2010

Mr. Frank A. Sportelli, age 87, of Utica, embraced the precious moments of his life's final journey on Sunday, April 11, 2010. He passed away in the comfort and privacy of his home with the love and support of his family by his side.

Born in Utica on March 17, 1923, Frank was the son of the late Vito J. "Vic" and Palma Rose (Convertino) Sportelli. Raised and educated locally, he was a member of the first graduating class of T. R. Proctor High School in 1940. A patriot of the Greatest Generation, Frank was a veteran of the U.S. Army, serving his country in the European Theater of Operations during World War II as a member of the 28th Infantry Regiment. On September 4, 1950 he wed the former Theresa J. Martelli with whom he shared a devoted love that united their marriage of 59 years; relying upon each other for strength and support unconditionally.

Frank began his working endeavor in the grocery business while working alongside his father as they operated Vic Sportelli & Son. In 1953, he established Sportelli Super Market located at 253-255 South Street, offering specialty meats and groceries until 1962. Subsequently, he accepted a management position with Acme Markets and Price Chopper in New Hartford where he served his customers with integrity and a prime knowledge of meats. He lastly worked as an evening dispatcher for the Utica Transit Authority, retiring in 1991. Overall, he had an innate need to serve people which gave him much satisfaction. A man of simple means, Frank wore many

“hats” in his life. He was blessed with the attributes of being a good provider, a trustworthy and patient partner in life, and wonderful parent and role model. He was a gentle man with a soft heart and a strong bond with his family, home, and workplace. His generosity and goodwill will never be forgotten. He rooted for the New York Yankees and respected the sport of fishing as a generational hobby that he shared with his family. He was a member of the American Legion Post #229 and a parishioner of St. Mary of Mt. Carmel/Blessed Sacrament Parish.

Frank is survived by his wife, Theresa; and his son and daughter-in-law, Vito J. and Donna G. Sportelli of Buffalo. Always close to his heart was the memory of his son, Ralph A. Sportelli, who passed away on May 27, 1992. His legacy continues through his grandson, Patrick F. Sportelli of Buffalo. Survivors also include his nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, cousins, and in-laws, Angela M. Paolozzi of Clinton, Ellena Snogles of Utica, and Dominick and Kathleen Martelli of Chicago. He was predeceased by his brother, Angelo D. Sportelli; his sister and brother-in-law, Vita and Joseph D. Brigano; his father-in-law and mother-in-law, Ralph and Rose Martelli; and his brothers-in-law, Joseph A. Paolozzi, Jr., and Norman H. Snogles, Jr.

The family was comforted by the professional and personal relationship shared with Frank’s physician, Dr. Scott Brehaut, who tended to Frank with so much devotion and support; his niece, Angelina Roach, whose commitment was genuine and of the greatest consolation; and the many friends who offered thoughts and prayers that were so meaningful. A special thank you to Father James Cesta and the spiritual community of his parish.

Visitation will be held Tuesday from 4:00-7:00 at the Eannace Funeral Home, Inc., 932 South St., corner of Hammond Ave. By family request, please omit floral offerings. Frank’s funeral service will commence on Wednesday morning at 9:00 from the funeral home and at 10:00 at St. Mary of Mt. Carmel/Blessed Sacrament Parish where his Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated with Military Honors. Interment will take place in Calvary Cemetery at the convenience of the family.

Tribute Wall



“ Dear Mrs. Sportelli and Family: I was so sorry to hear about Mr. Sportelli's passing. He was such a wonderful person. Never forget all the fun times we shared at your house. I am very happy I had the chance to know him. My heart goes out to you Mrs. Sportelli, and my prayers always. May Mr. Sportelli rest in peace. My love to you. Laura###imported-begin##Richard and Laura Mucurio###imported-end##

April 16, 2010 at 05:14 PM



“ Truly sorry Theresa,
an old friend,
Rosemarie conte Brown###imported-begin##Rosemarie Conte
Brown###imported-end##

April 13, 2010 at 08:00 PM



“ I worked with frank at Utica Tansit. So sorry for your loss, I just have to say he was alot of fun to work with. again so sorry for your loss, with deepest sympathy.###imported-begin##Dawn Vescio
Dougherty###imported-end##

April 13, 2010 at 09:51 AM



“ We are so sad in the passing of Mr. Sportelli. He was truly a gentleman and beautiful person. He will certainly be missed. We hope you find comfort and peace in knowing how much he loved and adored his family.###imported-begin##Vincent and Susan Lamberto###imported-end##

April 13, 2010 at 07:40 AM



“ Theresa, we will be praying for you and your family during this time.
Love, Maria, Bill, Sean & Mia##imported-begin##Maria, Bill, Sean &
Mia P.##imported-end##

April 12, 2010 at 03:18 PM



“ Theresa, Vito and family,

We are very sad to hear about Frank's passing. We send you our
love and condolences. May G-d send you strength and healing.

Love,

Sharan and Mitch##imported-begin##Sharan and Mitch Bonder and
boys##imported-end##

April 12, 2010 at 09:36 AM