



Mr. Fred J. Castronovo

December 18, 1937 - May 4, 2019

NEW HARTFORD - Fred J. Castronovo, 81, passed away peacefully on May 4, 2019 and was reunited with the Lord and his beloved daughter Dana Lynn. Fred suffered from Alzheimer's but was blessed to have his devoted wife and girls by his side at the time of his passing.

Born in Bagheria, Province of Palermo, Sicily on December 18, 1937, Fred was the son of the late Anthony and Dorotea "Dorothy" (Scaglione) Castronovo. In 1950, as a young boy he and his family immigrated to the United States. He was very proud of his Italian heritage.

On June 20, 1959 he married his childhood sweetheart Jeanne Olivadoti with whom he shared nearly 60 years. A true love story, they enjoyed happy times and endured trying times, always together. They kept their promise "to hold each other's hands until the very end." She was a true living angel.

An entrepreneur in many areas of life, Fred was successful in all his endeavors because of his work ethic. He owned and operated Custom Body Shop... with the company motto "We fix toys for the big boys." He established the Castronovo Racing Enterprises where his insight, dedication and knowledge brought him to a professional level in racing. In 1971 he won the (NHRA) National Hot Rod Association World Championship in Amarillo, Texas. His funny car always proudly displayed "The Utica Flash" on the front end. Fred was most noted for Custom Body and The "Original" Grimaldi's Restaurant. His talent, hospitality and fine Italian cuisine was a legacy in this community.

Fred is survived by his wife and best friend Jeanne who meant everything to him. Fred was generous, compassionate and giving by nature. He was a phenomenal father to his four daughters, Doreen D. Castronovo, Gina and (James N.) Flihan, Kristyn and (Michael V.) Cristalli. An immense void remained in his heart when he lost his eldest daughter Dana Lynn in 1979. They are now reunited for eternity. Fred will also be remembered by his grandchildren, Franca and (Anthony) LaBarbera; Jimmy and (Sidney) Flihan, Freddy Flihan and fiancée Tiffany, Brandon Anthony Flihan; Michael V. Cristalli Jr., and Christopher Cristalli; great-grandchild, Tyson James Flihan; and the anticipation of his second great-grandchild. He is also survived by his brother and sister-in-law, Victor and (Vicki) Castronovo; sister-in-law, Connie Castronovo; sisters-in-law and brother-in-law, Diana and Robert Piperata, and Teresa "Peaches" Olivadoti; cherished nieces and nephews, cousins, and many wonderful friends. Fred was predeceased by his brothers, John Castronovo, and Philip R. Castronovo; father-in-law and mother-in-law, Dan and Mary Olivadoti; brother-in-law, Victor C. Olivadoti; and his lifelong friend, Ron Risucci.

The Castronovo Family is grateful to JoAnn Carbone, Fred's devoted caregiver; his physicians, Dr. Fred Talarico, and Dr. Jameel Arastu; Frank Sansone, and Lenore D'Apice for their professional advice and support. The last stages of Fred's journey were made most comfortable by the wonderful volunteer staff at the Abraham House. They were an amazing group who respectfully rendered a great sense of love and compassion to Fred; and Lisa Alteri and the personnel of Hospice & Palliative Care for providing amazing care.

The family honored and commemorated Fred's life at a private time. Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend Fred's funeral service and Celebration of Life which will commence on Thursday morning at 11:30 at Saint Mary of Mount Carmel/Blessed Sacrament Parish where his Mass of Christian Burial will be offered. Entombment will take place in the family's private Mausoleum at Calvary Cemetery at their convenience.

Cemetery Details

Calvary Cemetery

2407 Oneida Street
Utica, NY

Previous Events

Funeral Service

MAY 9. 11:30 AM (ET)

St. Mary of Mt. Carmel/Blessed Sacrament Parish
648 Jay Street
Utica, NY 13501
(315) 735-1482
<https://www.mountcarmelblessedsacrament.com/>

Tribute Wall

PS

“ So sorry to hear of Fred’s passing. I have many fond memories of the days I worked for the family at Grimaldi’s. Please be at peace knowing he gave generously and loved dearly as Jesus taught us.
Fondly,
Pauline Smith

Pauline Smith - May 16, 2019 at 12:28 AM

MR

“ So sorry to read this news of Fred’s passing. Thoughts and prayers to Jeanne, Doreen, Gina, Kris, and their families.

Marcia Reesh - May 11, 2019 at 07:20 AM

LL

“ My deepest condolences to the Castronovo Family. The years I spent at Grimaldi's were a special time of my life. I will always remember the great times I spent with Freddy and his family. They treated me like family and they will always be a special part of my life.
Larry Luizzi

Larry Luizzi - May 10, 2019 at 09:17 AM

DP

“ *To Jeanne and family
I only know you from Saturday night mass at St. ANTHONY'S but
we always spoke and your husband was always friendly before this
horrible disease consumed him.
I am so sorry for your loss and may Bod Bless You.*

Dolores Ptak

Dolores Ptak - May 09, 2019 at 02:53 PM

AC

“ *We are So Sorry for Your Loss! Our Thoughts and Prayer are with
the Family! Great Guy, Andy & Linda Convertino*

Andy & Linda Convertino - May 08, 2019 at 03:25 PM

FS

“ *I'm so very sorry for your loss. My deepest sympathies.
Filly salsbury*

Filly salsbury - May 08, 2019 at 01:14 PM

JM

“ *Sending deepest sympathy to your entire family! Whether our family
was walking into your restaurant or your family was walking into
ours, it was always met with a smile from Freddy.*

Jeanna Marraffa - May 08, 2019 at 11:52 AM

A.

“ Jeanne and family,

We are very sorry for your loss. We have fond memories of seeing Fred at Grimaldi's, it was always a pleasure to see him. We are sorry we can't attend his service due to previous commitments.. You will be in our thoughts and prayers, sending God's blessings to all of you and may Fred rest in peace. 🙏

Deepest sympathy and love, Re and Don Greico

A.G. - May 08, 2019 at 10:18 AM

ES

“ Jeanne and family,

How can I ever forget the welcoming smile every time I walked into the restaurant, the genuine concern as to how I was doing, and the offer to share a glass of wine as we talked about traveling in Italy? I have missed you both but you have never been far from my thoughts and I am so sad not to be with you at the service as I am working in Tucson, Arizona until Friday. Love you all and may God bless you all. I know I was blessed to have known this wonderful man.

Liz Sacco

Elizabeth Sacco - May 08, 2019 at 09:16 AM

CS

“ Jeanne, Doreen, Gina, Kristyn, We are so sorry for your loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all at this time. Freddy was a great man. God's peace in your hearts.

Jerry and Charleen Sangiacomo

charleen sangiacomo - May 08, 2019 at 09:10 AM

KB

“ *This is one of those times where living across the country feels so far away. My heart is with you all. Kimberlee*

Kimberlee Bliet - May 08, 2019 at 08:35 AM



“ *Days of Sunshine Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mr. Fred J. Castronovo.*



May 07, 2019 at 08:52 PM

MH

“ *Dear Jeannie, Doreen, Gina, Kristyn
So sorry to hear of the passing of Fred. A wonderful kind man. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. God bless
Mary Holmes*

Mary Holmes - May 07, 2019 at 07:10 PM

MA

“ Dearest Jeanne & Families,
Our sincere sympathy for the loss of someone we have admired for many years. Fred connected with all that knew him in a very heartfelt way. There was no one like him who existed and truly loved people on an individual basis. His eye contact was sincere and humble, let alone his most beautiful smile. He treated us like we were family as he did so often with others. That's what made him the very special man he was. To us, a true gentleman in the eyes of God. We were so Blessed to have crossed paths with him while in Utica, a forever fond memory we shall carry in our hearts for always. The Peace of Jesus at such a difficult time.
With Love,
Frank & Mary Guzzardo Annese
Venice, FL

Mary Guzzardo Annese - May 07, 2019 at 06:05 PM

FD

“ Dear Jeanne, Doreen and family. We were saddened by the death of wonderful and friendly man. Always made you feel welcomed at Grimadli's, he was very proud of his and Jeanne's place. We brought our grandsons to his body shop because he wanted them to see and sit in one of the cars. He was like a big kid himself. Who would have thought we would become neighbors at Oxford Heights. Driving by we always had to stop so he could tell us how wonderful we were.!!
He will always be in our hearts and prayers. Love Fred and Marilyn Demma

Fred and Marilyn Demma - May 07, 2019 at 05:23 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Mr. Fred J. Castronovo.*



May 07, 2019 at 05:05 PM



“ *Rose Remembrance was purchased for the family of Mr. Fred J. Castronovo.*



May 07, 2019 at 04:29 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Mr. Fred J. Castronovo.*



May 07, 2019 at 10:09 AM

AO

“ I grew up 1 block away from Custom Body. When they fired up the "Utica Flash" we all came a running.

The greatest show of how kind and generous Fred was is the day he drove my Dads car to our house after fixing his brakes. Dad had an issue walking at the time. Dad thanked him then paid him. Then less than a minute later there was another knock at the door, it was Fred again. He gave back the money dad paid him for the brake service. Fred simply said " have a great day". That kindness made my dads heart soar. It now does mine every time I think of the times we had in East Utica.

Thank you Fred Castronovo for being an inspiration in my life and I am sure many others.

Rest in Peace

Al Orsino and family

al orsino - May 07, 2019 at 09:22 AM

KA

“ So very sorry to hear of Fred's passing.He was always a gentleman from the first time I met him at the Custom Body Shop,Grimaldi's and most recently as a neighbor where we would always stop to chat.

Kevin Allen - May 07, 2019 at 07:49 AM

DE

We are so sorry to hear this sad news. Fred was a lovely man and fun to play cards with. You are an amazing family. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

Debbie - May 07, 2019 at 09:51 AM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Mr. Fred J. Castronovo.



May 07, 2019 at 07:45 AM



“ Mrs. Castronovo, I wish you comfort. My sincere condolences to you and your entire family.

Gina Scampone~Szuba - May 07, 2019 at 03:23 AM



“ My deepest and most sincere condolences to Mr. Castronovos family and friends

Lenamarie Parrotta - May 06, 2019 at 11:10 PM



So very sorry Jeannie for you loss 💔 Freddie was a great man!

Joe creaco - May 07, 2019 at 07:50 AM



our thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time. We are sorry for your loss Richard & Addie Li Britz

Richard Li Britz - May 07, 2019 at 05:22 PM

SH

“ *Jeanne and family-We are praying for you all during this time. While he will Be sharing a beautiful life of eternity with our family already there , he will be missed. The love in his eyes and the kisses of lovyhe shared with you those last days were most precious. The depth of his love shined through. He will surely be missed by many!! Our love and prayers are with you. Sue and Ray*

Susan Hamo - May 06, 2019 at 09:23 PM

NP

“ *Jeanie and family, it was a shock learning of Freddy's passing, knowing him over fifty years, from my rookies years with upd, going to the car races, playing cards and getting beat most of the time in gin rummey, the parties, and his unforgettable smile. Both mary and I send our prayers from Naples, Florida.*

Nick & Mary Parrotta

Nick & Mary Parrotta - May 06, 2019 at 05:46 PM

LW

“ *Jeanne, Doreen and family... We are very sorry for your loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with you at this time. we are out of town and will be unable to attend the services, but if you need anything please let us know.*

Mike and Lori Wojtanowski

lori Wojtanowski - May 06, 2019 at 05:34 PM

NS

“ I can not remember when Fred and Jeanne were not in my life. They both go back to my youngest childhood memories. While traveling with Fred and the race car (sometimes 32 cities a year) I accumulated enough experiences and laughter to be able share it all and tell it all forever. Fred was a unique and charming individual that once meeting him you would never forget him. I LOVE YOU FRED and you will live in my heart forever. My love and prayers go out to Jeanne and Freddy and the beautiful family that they created.

Rest In Peace My Beautiful Friend,

Nick Montana Sr.

Nick Montana Sr. - May 06, 2019 at 05:18 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mr. Fred J. Castronovo.

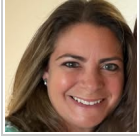


May 06, 2019 at 03:07 PM

RA

“ Jeanne & family,
We just hearddidn't know Fred wasn't well. Ray & I and the kids send love and prayers. Days and years are going by so quickly - we must cherish the moments and thank God daily. Love to all - Cuz, Roe (Balsamo) & Ray Armstrong

Roe Balsamo Armstrong - May 06, 2019 at 01:26 PM



“ Aunt Jeanne we our sending our love 💕
Love - tiffany, juliana, alyssa & camilla

Tiffany Falta - May 06, 2019 at 12:31 PM



“ My sincere condolences to the castronovo family. I will remember all the good times I had with Freddie and all the laughs and all the good times with my dad and Freddie. RIP Freddie

Vincent Montana - May 06, 2019 at 12:15 PM



“ So sorry for your loss. Fred always treated me well as his advertising rep and his Realtor and the nights I drove limo and brought many a party to Grimaldi's for weddings and parties. He will live on in our memories.
Always admired his achievements from Racing to business success.
Loved to see his awesome vehicles.
Great guy and will be missed.
My deepest condolences.

J.C. Pantola - May 06, 2019 at 12:12 PM



“ My sincere condolences to the Castronovo family...



Don Marino - May 06, 2019 at 10:53 AM

CP

“ Dear Jeanne, my heartfelt condolences go out to you and your family. Fred was a sweet, friendly man. He was always wearing a smile and great with a joke/or to tease you. I will always remember him that way. Love to you Cissy, Marianne and Amy(the twins) Pastorella. RIP Fred.

cissy pastorells - May 06, 2019 at 09:55 AM

DG

“ Dear Jeannie..Doreen...Gina...Krissy..
Vic ..Vicky ..& Castronovo family
We all are so very very sorry for your loss...for all of our loss...of our friend...neighbor for years. and always family...Our Freddy..
He will forever be in our hearts..as sick as our Dad is...he asks about his friend...he is so sad...we love you guys...R.I.P. our friend...we will miss you but we will all be reunited someday..
Pristeras...Giruzzis..McEwens

Denise Giruzzi - May 06, 2019 at 09:20 AM

DD

“ With caring thoughts to the entire Castronovo family, May your memories bring you comfort and peace.
My deepest Sympathy,
Donna Magaro Dye

donna magaro dye - May 06, 2019 at 08:33 AM

PG

“ To the Castronovo Family, especially Vic and Vicky my sincere sympathy. I remember the old "Custom Body Days". Those were the days.....

Phil Graziano - May 06, 2019 at 07:56 AM

KB

“ Sending Prayers for Fred, Jeannie and family
🙏
Ken Bugaj



Ken Bugaj - May 06, 2019 at 07:47 AM

JS

“ Jeannie, I am not going to call, but know if you need anything, We will be there for you.
Out prayers are with you and your family.
Love Joyce and John

joyce shaffer - May 06, 2019 at 06:38 AM

FS

“ Very sorry for your loss. May Freddie Rest In Peace. My prayers are with the family.

Francine Sansone - May 05, 2019 at 04:21 PM

TD

“ To the Castronovo family , our deepest sympathy. Our thoughts and prayers are with all of you at this difficult time.

Tom DeSimone - May 05, 2019 at 04:04 PM

SL

“ Freddy, get the car ready and the cards out, the rest of us guys will be with you someday soon. For the time being take a breather and see you soon. For the family we are very sorry and God Bless you all.....Steve and Becky

Steve and Becky LoPiccolo - May 05, 2019 at 03:03 PM