



Gary Fontaine, Retired, Utica Fire Department

April 10, 1952 - June 18, 2009

Gary Fontaine, Retired, Utica Fire Department, age 57, of Whitesboro, was taken unexpectedly on Thursday, June 18, 2009 at the St. Elizabeth Medical Center with the love and support of his family.

Gary was born in Utica on April 10, 1952, the son of Mario and Monica (Hughes) Fontaine. He was a 1970 graduate of T.R. Proctor High School and he continued his education at Morrisville College. On September 7, 1974, he was united in marriage with the former Paula Castelli with whom he shared 34 years, throughout which they were best friends and soulmates.

For many years, Gary was associated with his father and brother, Ron, in running the family business, Fontaine's Service Station. On August 24, 1981, he was appointed to the Utica Fire Department, earning a promotion to Lieutenant on June 3, 1989, and to Captain on September 12, 1992. His commitment to fire service, his relationship with the brotherhood, and his professional demeanor, earned him the respect of this community. He retired from the fire department in 2002, and also remained active in the family business until that time. His ultimate concern as a parent was to share his wisdom and give his children the best advice he possibly could, which formed the backbone of their life's existence. He worked to accomplish ever-higher goals and he was always ready to serve those he loved, the friends he valued, and his community. Gary was a compassionate man, well loved and respected by everyone who knew him. With his wonderful sense of humor as his stronghold, Gary was continually a source of support and happiness for all.

His hobbies included woodworking, camping, boating, and scuba diving; he was a motorcycle enthusiast and an animal lover. He also enjoyed spending time with his grandson, who brought him immeasurable pleasure.

Gary is survived by his wife, Paula; his daughter, Kristina Fiorini, and friend, Brian Listovitch of Utica; his son, Gary Fontaine, Jr. of Virginia; his grandson, Michael Fiorini; and his parents, Mario and Monica Fontaine of Utica.

Survivors also include his brother and sister-in-law, Ronald M., Sr. and Josette M. Fontaine of Utica; his sister and brother-in-law, Lyn and Larry Oyer of Clifton Park; his father-in-law and mother-in-law, Angelo and Anna Castelli of Utica; many devoted nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, cousins, aunts, uncles, and in-laws, Mindy and Fred Garner, Dorothy Smothers, and Angela Durrigan. Gary had a solid network of friendships; some which began in his youth and continued to this very day, and all of which he cherished along life's journey.

The family wishes to acknowledge the courageous efforts of the Whitesboro Volunteer Fire Department, the Sheriff's Department, and the St. Elizabeth Medical Center Emergency Room staff.

Visitation will be held Sunday (today) from 2:00-6:00 at the Eannace Funeral Home, Inc., 932 South St., corner of Hammond Ave. The family will remain until all visitors have been greeted. Please omit floral offerings. For those wishing to do so, please consider memorial donations in Gary's honor to the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation, or the Stevens Swan Humane Society; envelopes will be available at the funeral home. Gary's funeral service will commence on Monday morning at 9:00 from the funeral home with full fire department honors and at 10:30 at St. Anthony & St. Agnes Church where his Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated. Interment will take place in Calvary Cemetery.

Tribute Wall



“ Eannace Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Gary Fontaine, Retired, Utica Fire Department



Eannace Funeral Home, Inc. - June 18, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ To the family of my friend Gary,
I recently learned that my friend from many many years ago has joined our good lord. My prayers and thoughts are with the family. I will never forget the good times on Brinkerhoff Ave with the Heaton's, the Fellow's, and Gary.

God Bless you all, Mary##imported-begin##Mary Tartaglia Heaton##imported-end##

December 22, 2009 at 12:37 PM



“ Didn't know you long but for a short time I felt like I made a good friend.I'll never forget the good times we had at Sparano's Resturant.Rest in peace my Friend. Lenny##imported-begin##Leonard Molinelli##imported-end##

June 29, 2009 at 02:45 PM



“ We are saddened to hear that Gary has passed away. Gary is in the Arms of our Savior. There is no better place to be. Our prayers are with you. May God Bless and keep you all.

*The Dilorio Family##imported-begin##Tessa Di Iorio
Ambrose##imported-end##*

June 24, 2009 at 06:27 AM



“ Paula,
It's been so many years!! I'm so sorry for your loss of Gary! My brother, Joe, told me about it yesterday. It's so hard to believe that we're at the age that we're losing our loved ones and friends. Life IS so short. May God bless you and your children and family.
Love

Janice##imported-begin##Janice (Puleo) Frasier##imported-end##

June 22, 2009 at 08:25 PM



“ Dear Paula, Gary Jr. and Kristina,

We are so sorry to hear about the sudden loss of Gary Sr. What a great person!!!!

Who could forget the days when Gary Jr. was a Boy Scout and all the help you and Gary gave to the troop. And how proud was Gary Sr. when Gary Jr. became an Eagle Scout!!!

And we will never forget how calm

and reassuring Gary was when our daughter Nikki had an accident and he arrived at the scene. We also remember Gary from the gas station when we were all young, we remember him from Proctor, we remember him from Boy Scouts.....Always with a smile, always a kind word.....and always in love with Paula.

Cherish your memories and keep his spirit alive.

You are in our prayers.

Love,

Paula Eannace and Paul Lupia##imported-begin##Paula J.

Eannace and Paul J. Lupia##imported-end##

June 22, 2009 at 02:18 PM



“ Gary, we will miss you and all the good times with you and Paula.. you have been a true friend and Louie will miss the times when you went to Americade with him, you made him laugh and he was happy to be with you.. you will be truly missed by us and when you are looking down upon us know that we are looking up at you and watching over your beautiful family. Miss and Love You. Mary and Louie Fedor##imported-begin##Louis & Mary Fedor##imported-end##

June 21, 2009 at 11:19 AM



“ PAULA AND FAMILY, GARY WAS SUCH A GREAT GUY, I HAD SO MANY LAUGHS AND FUN TIMES WITH HIM, ON AND OFF THE JOB. HE HAS SO MANY FREINDS THAT RESPECT AND ADORE HIM, HE WILL NEVER BE FORGOTTEN. WE WILL BE THERE FOR YOU. OUR PRAYERS ARE WITH YOU. RICH & GERRI ZIEZIO###imported-begin###RICH ZIEZIO###imported-end##

June 20, 2009 at 10:50 PM



“ *Paula & Family*
We were so sad to hear the news about Gary. We will always remember the fun we had at Dorothy's with him. We were blessed to have met you both and we will remember the good times. Our prayers and thought are with you in this difficult time!!

Keep Riding in Heaven
Love Karl (Taz) and Sharon Cote###imported-begin###Karl & Sharon Cote###imported-end##

June 20, 2009 at 10:31 PM



“ *I'm saddened to hear of Gary's passing. My thoughts and prayers are with you.*
Peace.###imported-begin###Tony Loperrfido###imported-end##

June 20, 2009 at 09:14 PM



“ How do you express one's love for a person? Perhaps it is fitting to speak of our over forty year relationship. In our culture the term friend is bandied about much too loosely. We use that word when we really mean acquaintance. A friend is someone on whom you can depend utterly, completely and unconditionally. For me, Gary was one of those people...and I to him. He was my brother and no tie of blood was necessary. As I write these words tears are welling in my eyes and I know there will be more to come. The realization that I will never again see him in this life has yet to take hold. It is said that time heals all wounds. However we all know there are exceptions to every rule. There is a hole in my heart, more devastating than physical injury, that will remain until it ceases to beat. I will happily remember all the good times, but regret that there are no more memories to be made. Farewell my friend, my brother. You were loved by many and I was fortunate to have been one of them. With deepest love and admiration for all eternity,
Byrd###imported-begin##Al Funicello###imported-end##

June 20, 2009 at 07:27 PM



“ Kristina & Brian We are so sorry to hear of the loss of your Dad. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.###imported-begin##Jim & Anne Doti###imported-end##

June 20, 2009 at 07:24 PM



“ THANKS FOR THE 45+ YEARS OF FRIENDSHIP AND MEMORIES###imported-begin##Tom Maugeri###imported-end##

June 20, 2009 at 01:11 PM



“ Dear Paula & family,

My family and I cannot express the sadness we are feeling on the loss of Gary. He led a full life spreading happiness and good will wherever he went. Gary was my brother's closest friend and by far one of the nicest, interesting, and most compassionate people I have ever known. We will miss him very much and think of him always.##imported-begin##Richard Orsino##imported-end##

June 20, 2009 at 11:34 AM



“ What a great friend and human being we have lost. I will never forget the young man I knew with the ready smile, the hearty laugh, and the big heart. Rest in Peace, Gary, My thoughts and prayers are with Paula and the family.

With love and sympathy,

Laura##imported-begin##Laura Simonelli##imported-end##

June 20, 2009 at 11:16 AM