



George J. "Jr. Grates" Grizzuto

December 1, 1943 - January 19, 2024

FRANKFORT – George J. “Jr. Grates” Grizzuto, aged 80, passed away peacefully on Friday, January 19, 2024, after numerous years of health challenges. Janet, his dear wife, was by his side and his beloved family as well comforted one another.

Born in Frankfort on December 1, 1943, George was the son of the late George Grates and Lucy (Teso) Grizzuto. He was a graduate of Frankfort-Schuyler Central School/Class of 1961. He maintained longtime relationships with the friends he met there, and enjoyed their yearly class reunions... they were forever friends. He was an avid sportsman. He participated in wrestling and was a Section 3 RE Champion. George wrestled under the direction of infamous Coach Joe Campo, earning honors during the 1960-61 season, when he was undefeated, winning 26 consecutive bouts. He also enjoyed playing football and baseball, showing all around sports enthusiasm and talent. George continued his education at Lycoming College from 1961-1963, where he concentrated his studies on liberal arts. George then graduated from Kerpel School of Dental Technology in 1971, preparing for his artistic work in dental technology. His father was always a force behind his good decisions to continue his education.

On July 28, 1990, George married the former Janet M. Bolos, embracing not only a wife but her daughter Melissa. A gentleman, he provided stability to

their lives, and a new blessed family became one. They spent nearly 34 years together, and have memories of how they remained by each other's side during times of joy, and at times of need.

George began his career with the Village of Frankfort Police Department, before continuing on to Remington Arms. After his schooling, he accepted a position as a Laboratory Technician at Parker Dental Lab, working his way up to be a dental technician, the title he held when he retired after 34 years in his chosen profession. Following his retirement, George enjoyed working part-time for L.B. Security. He was a man who could never remain idle!

Known for his passion for documenting family affairs, George converted 72 photo albums into digital form, creating a treasured family legacy. Family was paramount. His siblings and his nieces and nephews fondly remember always learning something new from George. Whether watching the History Channel or following sports stats, many interesting discussions were had. His parents, a respected Italian family, lived a lifestyle that was rich in traditions such as having face-to-face conversations, and an open-door homestead... it was a Frankfort thing. He loved reminiscing about those good old days and sharing knowledge. This lifestyle provided a strong core value that was the foundation of his happiness. George was always mindful of the kind of life that he was blessed with and the meaningful memories that always filled his heart. He remained loyal to the Frankfort Police Benevolent Association.

George found pleasure in playing the keyboard, which he did so by ear. He gave testimony that it came from his musical family. In later years, he played for Janet, and she was entertained by his choices of their favorite songs, always uplifting her day. George and Janet enjoyed many years at their camp on the St. Lawrence River, where they found delight in fishing, boating, and hosting family gatherings. The ultimate pleasure was the serenity of the setting and that was their "happy place." George and his brother Joe, loved

rummaging through garage sales while they were at “the River.” They discovered precious sports memorabilia, tools that they didn’t need, and they would find some of the best things at the “hot spots” of the Thousand Islands. He was a master of fixing things, and if he took one of your articles in need of repair to his precious workspace, you could be sure it would be returned done to perfection. George had a mental inventory of all the items that he had at his home, inclusive of vintage toys from his childhood.

George was a spiritual man, relying on the Lord for strength.

The fact that George was a true gentleman, and a kind-hearted person, he knew that Janet was the woman who could complete his life. Their relationship evolved as they became one and did what was best for each other during a good life lived.

He is survived by the love of his life, Janet; he was “bonus Dad” to Melissa and Anthony Rocco; and “Pop” to Martino, and Milana Rocco. He will be remembered by his cherished sister and brother-in-law, Ann Marie and Joseph "Tony" Oliver. He was predeceased by his brother and sister-in-law, Joseph and Barbara Grizzuto. He further leaves his memory to his nieces and nephews, Lori (Grizzuto) and Greg Foster, Mike and Jeannie Grizzuto, Chris and Renee Grizzuto; Daniel Oliver and Sarah Patrei, and Michael Oliver; as well as many great-nieces, great-nephews, and cousins; in-laws, Joyce (Bolos) Showalter and the late Charles "Chuck" Showalter, and Sonia (Giangi) Bolos and the late Joseph T. Bolos. He was preceded by his sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Joan (Bolos) and Roger Farney. George's friendships, particularly with the late Brian Jones, and Tony Simonette, were so precious. He called everybody “Cuz,” and everyone in his life had a nickname – that’s another Frankfort thing. What a life he lived! He adored and always kept close to his heart the memory of his father-in-law and mother-in-law, Toufek S.

“Toufie” and Ardell (Shalhobe) Bolos.

Special thank you to Dr. Thomas John and his associate Shannon. They provided encouragement and were inspiring in their care of George. During his medical care, he was fortunate to have the blessings of great caretakers, namely nurse Anita from MVHS St. Luke’s dialysis, as well as nurses, and physical therapists who expressed genuine kindness, who will never be forgotten.

Visitation for family and friends will be held on Friday, January 26, 2024, from 1:15 - 2:15 p.m. at Historic Old St. John's Church, 240 Bleecker St. George’s Mass of Christian Burial and Celebration of Life will commence at 2:30 p.m. at the church. In lieu of floral offerings, memorial contributions in George's honor may be made to the Frankfort Police Dept., Town Hall, 201 Third Ave., Frankfort, NY 13340, and New Hope, % Big Apple Music, 8441 Seneca Turnpike, Suite E, New Hartford, NY, 13413; envelopes will be made available at the service. In the springtime of the year George will be laid to rest in Mt. Olivet Cemetery in Frankfort.

Cemetery Details

Mt. Olivet Cemetery - Frankfort

Elizabeth Street
Frankfort, NY 13340

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 26. 1:15 PM - 2:15 PM (ET)

Historic Old St. John's Church
240 Bleecker Street
Utica, NY 13501
(315) 724-6159
<https://www.historicoldstjohnschurch.com/>

Funeral Service

JAN 26. 2:30 PM (ET)

Historic Old St. John's Church
240 Bleecker Street
Utica, NY 13501
(315) 724-6159
<https://www.historicoldstjohnschurch.com/>

Tribute Wall

TZ

“ Janet
Please accept my deepest sympathy in the lose of your husband.
Jackie just told me about his passing. It's not easy losing the love of
your life, but God gives us strength to carry on.
Terry Zangrilli

Terry Zangrilli - January 28, 2024 at 07:14 PM

JG

Thank you Terry, I know you know what its like.💔

Janet Grizzuto - February 08, 2024 at 11:00 PM

AG

“ I am going to miss George he was a great
guy and a great boss. I worked with for a long
time at the dental lab. This is Alice Griffiths .
Sorry for you're loss.



Alice Griffiths - January 26, 2024 at 10:10 AM

JG

Thank you Alice, I remember him talking about you he enjoyed working
with you.❤️

Janet Grizzuto - January 26, 2024 at 11:51 PM

LH

“ Janet and Melissa I am so sorry for your loss. I didnt really know
George but I know how much you loved him. My prayers for you
both at this difficult time.

Linda Hughes - January 26, 2024 at 09:10 AM

JG

Thank you for the prayers Linda, he was awesome and we miss him already. ❤️

Janet Grizzuto - January 26, 2024 at 11:52 PM

FS

“ *Annmarie, Tony and family, I am so very sorry. My thoughts and prayers are with you Filly*



filomena salsbury - January 26, 2024 at 07:40 AM

DD

“ *Tony, Ann Marie and family, so sorry to hear of George's passing. Our deepest sympathies. Tom and Dona*

Dona Dawes - January 25, 2024 at 04:30 PM

JO

Thank you for the kind wishes. Tony&Ann Marie

Joseph Oliver - January 25, 2024 at 08:53 PM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of George J. "Jr. Grates" Grizzuto.*



January 23, 2024 at 03:29 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of George J. "Jr. Grates" Grizzuto.*



January 23, 2024 at 06:55 AM



“ *We have a Summer residence in Fishers Landing and that's where I met George and Janet. I was brought up in Utica so I found out we lived fairly close to each other. I loved seeing George on his scooter and always had a smile on his face. So sorry for Janet and her family's loss but the Landing lost a special person too and he will be remembered...lovingly!*

Judy Barbrie - January 22, 2024 at 11:39 AM



That was truly our happy place the most beautiful sunsets, fresh air, beautiful islands and wonderful friends and neighbors. I'm so grateful that I got to be a part of it for over 30 years.

JanetGrizzuto - January 22, 2024 at 07:24 PM



“ *Janet and Family,
Wishing you my warmest condolences as you grieve the loss of your husband, may God embrace you with his strength and comfort in the days ahead.
Dena Putrello*

Deanna Putrello - January 22, 2024 at 11:05 AM



Thank you Dena ❤️

JanetGrizzuto - January 22, 2024 at 07:25 PM

DS

i am so very sorry for your loss. you had a wonderful marriage and will see him again. GOD BLESS ALWAYS. LOVE DEBBIE

DEBRA skermont - January 24, 2024 at 02:07 PM

JG

Debbie thank you❤️

Janet Grizzuto - January 25, 2024 at 07:10 PM

DC

“ *Diana Cassidy lit a candle in memory of George J. "Jr. Grates" Grizzuto*



Diana Cassidy - January 22, 2024 at 08:34 AM

DC

“ *Being George's younger cousin (16-year difference) I always found him to be very loving and entertaining. He would talk to me in the voice of Donald Duck, he had an old marble collection that he would let me play with, and last but not least he would steer his car with his knees, but always very cautiously. When I was older and moved into my own apartment, he would call to see how I was doing. He will be remembered forever in my heart and will be missed.*

Diana Cassidy - January 22, 2024 at 08:34 AM

JA

Oh yes the Donald Duck voice, it was pretty good too! Love all the memories you have. He loved all of his cousins. We all have to hang onto those memories ❤️❤️

JanetGrizzuto - January 22, 2024 at 07:27 PM

DK

“ Dear Janet & Family,
We so very sorry for the loss of your beloved husband George. He certainly was a fine gentleman. May we offer you all our prayers, sympathy, condolences and love.
May His Memory Be Eternal
Deacon Dan and Cindy Klockowski and Family

Deacon Daniel A Klockowski A Klockowski - January 22, 2024 at 08:11 AM

JA

Thank you both so much 🙏❤️

JanetGrizzuto - January 22, 2024 at 07:28 PM

RO

Cousin George had many interests. And he had many unique relationships with family and with friends. To me, George was the keeper of our extended Grizzuto (Grates) family history via photographs, videos and audio tape and CDs. George and Janet were supporters of mine and my sons Steve and John Conte's music careers, for which we are grateful.

The past ten years, as George and I fell to old age and similar symptoms, we were also confidants, spending long phone conversations about music and politics. It helped both of us to blow off steam!

To everyone who loved George and whom he loved back, I am sorry he will no longer be in your future....but he will be in your hearts and in mine.

A long time ago, someone gave me this beautiful quotation that has stuck with me during times of loss: "GOD gave us memory so we might have roses in December." Rosemary Grizzuto-Conte

Rosemary - January 26, 2024 at 09:50 PM