



Mr. George D. Sykes

July 7, 1927 - March 17, 2020

FRANKFORT, NY/FLORIDA - On Tuesday, March 17, 2020 the Lord called our Dad, George David Sykes (Saik), home to reunite with his loving wife Connie and his family after a valiant ten year battle with Alzheimer's. He was surrounded by his loving family in the comfort of his Florida home.

Born in Elmira, NY on July 7, 1927, George was the proud son of the late George and Agnes (Berbary) Sykes Betros. He was also blessed with the love and support of his late step-father Sam Betros. At the age of eight, George's father passed away unexpectedly and his family relocated to Utica where he was raised and educated. After the eighth grade he made an unselfish decision to leave school to help his mother financially. He started his "first business" as a shoeshine boy and repairing shoes, a trade that he had observed and learned from his late father. George worked for his brother-in-law Mike who was a mentor to him at Srour's Market and also with General Cable Corporation.

George proudly enlisted in the United States Navy and was stationed in the Philippines and Okinawa aboard the USS Lloyd E. Acree DE-356. He served as one of the machinery repairmen and also attended electrical trade school. During his tour he was the recipient of three medals before his honorable discharge in 1947.

On October 1, 1949 he married the love of his life, Congetta T. (Connie) Carbone at his parish of St. Louis Gonzaga Church. She was his "honey bunch" and they grew to be one in the same, faithfully living their marriage

vows. A humble couple, they worked diligently together and lived a fulfilled, yet simple life. They believed in the Lord and prayed to him for strength and courage. God truly graced them with a lifetime of love and happiness for sixty-eight wonderful years until her passing on October 13, 2017.

In 1950, he established three successful enterprises: Sykes Superette, the Double "S" Laundromat, and Sykes Realty. George was a passionate businessman with a strong work ethic. His friendly and caring manner is why he was so well liked and highly respected by his many patrons, as well as the sales representatives that serviced his store. He was always smiling and gave of himself to help others in any way he could. Keeping the store a close family-run business, George was able to build a business that welcomed four generations of families into Sykes Superette. George and Connie had a flair for entertaining, enjoying family, close friends, sharing conversation, laughing, and of course, good Italian and Lebanese food. He loved his family to gather at their homes on any day and on holidays and always helped with the preparations. They were gracious hosts and everyone was welcome. His video camera was always rolling! His children will never forget all the fun memories made with their cousins, aunts and uncles at holiday parties, sport games in the backyard, picnics at Power Dam, and piling into the station wagons to go to Kewpees and then the drive-in-movies. Summertime fun at their Otter Lake Camp and family dinners and the movie theatre on Sundays were also memorable times.

His favorite hobby was definitely "working," and he took great pride in the remodeling of his properties. He loved the outdoors and found cultivating his garden to be very relaxing. He enjoyed his coin collection, playing cards, and the challenge of a chess game, along with a cold scotch. They were on a co-ed bowling team, loved dancing, and were members of the New Hartford American Legion, U.C.T., the Syrian-American Club, and Loyal Order of the Moose.

He was proudest of his children, the relationship he had with each of them, and the family values he instilled upon them. He had so much love for them,

not only as a father but as a friend. Sharing everyday moments, special family occasions, and carrying on family traditions meant the world to him. His great joy was his loving grandchildren and great-grandchildren who made him a very proud "Pop." He felt blessed to have seen what they did with their lives. First and foremost of importance to George was his family and providing for them. He cherished them above all else. He loved life, his family, his friends. He held them close and he worried about them. He always let you know that he was there to lend a helping hand to anyone in need. That's what he did. He was a true gentleman, a man of integrity and inspiration, and our strong loving foundation. He was kind, genuinely sincere, and definitely old school. In other words, strict! Dad was quiet, but interesting to talk to and usually had a meaningful lesson behind his words. Throughout his life he had a friendly, easygoing personality. He was an accomplished man, but wasn't one to boast. George was a loving, devoted son, husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, brother, uncle, friend, and employer. An extraordinary man with an infectious smile, he listened with his heart and never wanted for anything. He would say that all he wanted from his children was their love and respect. He would remind us daily to "rise and shine," and always to "smile." He touched all of our lives in different ways and he will genuinely be missed by all who knew him.

George is survived by his three devoted children, Paula and Gene Bianco, David Sykes Sr. and Carolyn Battelene, and Georgianne "Gigi" and Jeffrey Allen; his six cherished grandchildren, Matthew Bianco, Genae Bianco; David Jr. and Mary Sykes; Nicole Sykes and fiancé Jeffrey Thrasher; Derek Sykes and fiancée Tayia Giacobelli, Jenna Sykes and fiancé Quan Hong; his nine great-grandchildren that lit up his life, Savino Bianco; Kylie, and Kaeden Barry; David III, Davin, and Bella Sykes, and Katryna Congdon; Michael, and Myla Thrasher. He was beloved Uncle George and a second father to his many special nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, cousins, and godchildren. He knew the love of his extended family, Bill, Lisa, and Amanda

Fridley who were always attentive to him; and his long time friends, Carol Perry and Cindy Sykes who were there for him in love and support. George was predeceased by his beloved wife Connie; his sisters and brother-in-law, Mabel Sykes; Marion Srour-Sherwood, Michael Srour; Florence (Emilio "Gooch") Julian; and his brother and sister-in-law, Albert Sr. (Thelma) Sykes. He also leaves his in-laws, Anna (Joseph) Castellano, Rita (Coleman) Comito, and Catherine (Ercole "Hinko") Gualillo, Joseph (Jean) Carbone, Michael (Mary) Carbone, James (Dorothy) Carbone, Dominic (Sadye) Carbone, Peter (Victoria) Carbone, Fred (Helen) Carbone, Rocco (Rosemary) Carbone, and Frank Carbone, Jr.; and his lifetime friend, whom he thought of as a brother, the late Dominick Pento.

We extend our sincere appreciation to Dr. Kevin McCormick whose patience and compassionate care for our Dad enabled us to share many more heart warming memories with him. And to Dad's caregivers, Diana, Nicole, Penny, and Fredricka, there are no words to express the gratitude, love, and respect we have for the patience and heartfelt care you showered our Dad with daily. You always let him feel safe, preserved his dignity, and loved him as your own "Papa."

Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend George's funeral service and Celebration of Life which will commence on Friday morning at 11:00 at St. Mary of Mt. Carmel/Blessed Sacrament Parish where his Mass of Christian Burial will be offered with Military Honors conferred. Social distancing, registration for contact tracing, and a mask covering your nose and mouth will be required. Expressions of sympathy in lieu of flowers may be considered to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital online at <https://www.stjude.org> or the Alzheimer's Association online at <https://www.alz.org>. Envelopes will be available at the service. Interment will follow graveside in Calvary Cemetery.

Arrangements have been entrusted to the Eannace Funeral Home, 932 South St., corner of Hammond Ave. Please take a moment to connect with George's family through the "Memories" section of his obituary. Our prayers go out to all

as a sign of our continued support.

“Dad, your mind may have forgotten, but we know in our hearts that when we looked at you and held your hand, ...your heart never did.”

Cemetery Details

Calvary Cemetery

2407 Oneida Street
Utica, NY 13501
(315) 735-2727

Previous Events

Funeral Service

OCT 2. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Mary of Mount Carmel / Blessed Sacrament Parish
648 Jay St
Utica, NY 13501
(315) 735-1482

Tribute Wall

CP

“ George and Connie-such special friends. Love,kindness and respect for each otherthat they shared with all who knew them!Picnics,parties,and all that Sat. Nite dancing.All fond memories that will always be cherished by our family,keeping them close in our hearts.Now that you are together again,Connie and George,rest in peace.God bless you both.Love, Carol

carol perry - September 30, 2020 at 07:42 PM

FW

“ We Are Sending Our Love, Praying For The Family RIP💕
Family Of James & Mary Workman

Family Of James & Mary Workman - September 29, 2020 at 05:50 PM

JP

“ Sykes family my condolences for the passing of George. I used to enjoy his visits to D&D an joking with him. Joe

joe prymas - September 29, 2020 at 12:00 AM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mr. George D. Sykes.



September 28, 2020 at 02:13 PM

IR

“ To his children if you remember. Eddie the Mullers dairy milkman I his wife iris is sending thoughts of going to their camp in otter lake one weekend and going to the barn for dancing. What a great time we had and so many laughs always a great memory. Ed died almost 5 years ago also of Alzheimer’s they are up in heaven now having so many laughs. My condolences to your family

iris ruffrage - September 28, 2020 at 11:42 AM

JS

“ My sincere condolences for your loss. Fond memories of both George and Connie.
Julia Serour Scranton

Julia A Scranton - September 28, 2020 at 09:08 AM

LW

“ *Paula, Gigi & Family,*

We are So sorry to hear about your father's passing. I know this is a very sad and difficult time fo you and your family. You have our very deepest sympathy.

The loss of one's father marks one of the most profound rites of passage in our life.

I know how close you all were to your father and what an influence he had on your lives.

A father may pass on but, his thoughts, hopes and dreams live on in us.

I hope it comforts you to know that your grief is shard by all who knew him.

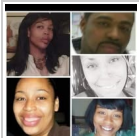
Life doesn't seem fair sometimes and this is one of those moments.

We will keep you close in our thoughts and prayers in the coming weeks as you are going through your process of grieving.

As always, we are here fo you if you need us.

Love Mike & Lori Wojtanowski

Lori Wojtanowski - September 27, 2020 at 09:38 PM



“ *What a great man. George Sykes store was a big part of our lives growing up in the projects. Condolences to his family*



Dawn Winston - April 26, 2020 at 05:14 PM

SP

“ George and Connie were my god parents and treasured friends of my parents. He was there when I took my first steps almost 50 years ago, and even the last time I saw him I could tell, like always, he knew more than he was saying. I always loved that about him. He'll be missed by many, including me. Here's a photo I shared at Connie's memorial that says a thousands words.



Scott Perry - April 13, 2020 at 06:37 PM

RS

Remembering Connie and George. Wonderful people and family❤️

Rosemary Serour Scialdone - September 27, 2020 at 05:16 PM

JP

Dave and family! so sorry for your loss.

Joseph Plado

Joseph Plado - September 28, 2020 at 10:02 PM

CP

“ My sincere condolences to the family through this time. Truly a huge loss. I always enjoyed our time with Connie and George - great people and a big part of my youth.

craig perry - April 09, 2020 at 08:03 AM

CD

“ This photo brings back such fond memories. Mr. Sykes had such a pleasant personality. I was raised in Washington Courts. Sykes store was down the street. As a young girl I would go there everyday to get odds and ends for my mother. Mr. Sykes was usually behind the meat counter or checking people out. When I would go to check out, I hardly ever had enough money. He would never embarrass me by not letting me get the food. I remembered his kindness and the teasing of Gooch.

I send my heartfelt condolences to the family, God bless.

P.S., I brought 4 needle point pictures from David's wife over 40yrs. ago. I am looking at them now hanging on my wall.

Candace Duncan

Candace Duncan - April 06, 2020 at 07:38 PM

KM

“ Rest easy Uncle George I know you are with Aunt Connie together again. 🙏🙏 It's never goodbye see you.



kelly mcconnachie - April 03, 2020 at 01:57 PM

CG

“ *Paula, Gene, Gigi, Dave and family,*

We are so very sorry for the loss of your dad. He was a really good man.

We have lots of good memories from all of the family gathering we were included in. The picture in the paper really captures what a beautiful man he was inside and out. May you find strength and comfort in the fact that he is now with your mom.

Love,

Candee and Joe Gazzal

Candace Gazzal - April 02, 2020 at 10:48 AM

LS

“ *Linda Spratt sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. George D. Sykes*



Linda Spratt - March 29, 2020 at 09:20 AM

NP

“ *Sykes Family.,*

So sorry for your loss of your father George. He was Always a gentleman, and always had a smile on his face, always a great conversationalist, a good businesses man. May George rest in peace.

Nick Parrotta

Nick Parrotta - March 29, 2020 at 08:50 AM

TS

“ Thomas J Saladino lit a candle in memory of Mr. George D. Sykes



Thomas J Saladino - March 28, 2020 at 06:12 PM

MS

“ I don't know if this is the same George Sykes who owned a grocery store, if it is I remember him very well. He was the kindest man to us children back in the day. My condolences to the family.

Maureen Saunders - March 28, 2020 at 02:10 PM

PB

Hi Maureen. Yes that is our Dad. He was the kindest and most thoughtful man. Always smiling! He taught us to be the same. Thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts with us 🙏Paula

Paula Bianco - March 28, 2020 at 03:11 PM

BT

“ Dear Paula and Gigi and entire Family , We are so very sorry to hear about your dad. Our thoughts and prayers are with all of you . Only a life lived for others is a life worthwhile... that was your dad !

Barbara and Eddie Thayer - March 28, 2020 at 08:18 AM

AG

Dear Paula and Gene, so sorry to hear about your dad. He was a wonderful man. I remember him with fond memories. May he rest in peace eternally with your mom.

Adele Grimaldi - March 28, 2020 at 02:19 PM

CC

“ *Uncle George,
Both you and Aunt Connie are so missed and loved by this family.
While we are happy you are at peace we still shed tears because
you are not physically present with us. Here is a poem that I love
that you can carry with you on your journey back to Aunt Connie:*

*Of all the many blessings however great or small, to have had you
as an Uncle was the greatest one of all. The family chain is broken
now and nothing seems the same. But as God takes us one by one,
the chain will link again.*

*We love you, Uncle George. I always remember how much you and
Aunt Connie loved to dance. Your smiles and love is ever-present.
So, dance away in heaven, smile every day, and when I am called
by God, save a dance for me! Love you!*

Connie M Castellano - March 27, 2020 at 01:56 PM

MS

“ *Paula, Gene and family. Jimmy, and I want to send you our
DEEPEST SYMPATHY. We are thinking of you at this time. God
Bless, Jimmy, Maryrose and Roz*

Maryrose Schiavetta - March 27, 2020 at 01:52 PM

GI

“Dad, I miss you so much, will cherish every memory and thank you for molding me into the person I am today. You and mommy are together again.”



Gigi - March 27, 2020 at 01:42 PM

RB

“I am so sorry for your loss. Your Dad will truly be missed ❤️ Much Love and Prayers to all.”

Regina and Frank Butler

Regina Butler - March 27, 2020 at 01:39 PM