



## Gerald F. Didio

February 28, 1910 - June 26, 2013

Mr. Gerald F. "Jerry" Didio, age 103, of New Hartford, passed away on Wednesday, June 26, 2013 at the Charles T. Sitrin Healthcare Center with his loving family by his side.

Born in Utica on February 28, 1910, Jerry was the son of the late Michael and Grazia (Dispersia) Didio. Raised and educated locally, he graduated from Utica Free Academy and while there he played on the championship baseball team, serving as captain. On July 18, 1938, Jerry was joined in marriage with the former Lena Camarata with whom he shared a blessed union of more than 53 years prior to her passing on May 1, 1992.

For more than 32 years, Jerry owned and operated Gerald's Men's Clothing Store, a mid-century landmark establishment in downtown Utica. He will not only be remembered for his contributions as a concerned businessman and his service to the Downtown Utica Merchants Association (DUMA), but also for his leadership and loyalty to numerous civic, church, sports, and charitable organizations. He was a member and champion of the Comity Club, at one time serving as its President. Active with the Utica Sports Boosters, he served on the committee which first brought Little League Baseball to the city, as well as the resurgence of the Public Grammar School Baseball League. In addition, Jerry belonged to the Mohawk Valley Umpires Association. As founder and first President of the Cornhill Youth Association, he was largely responsible for influencing the city to convert a lackluster area on Arthur Street into O'Connor Playground. He also contributed to the establishment of

Senior Day Centers in North Utica, East Utica, and Adrean Terrace. A talented violinist, Jerry was a member of the Utica Symphony Orchestra for 60 years; he also was affiliated with the Little Falls Symphony and the Con Amore Orchestra. He was a proud member of the UFA Alumni Association, attending reunions until his 102 year. He was a communicant of St. Anthony & St. Agnes Church, a 4th Degree Honorary member of the Knights of Columbus, and a devoted member of the Nocturnal Adoration Society.

Jerry is survived by his daughters and son-in-law, Grace McNasser of New Hartford, and Mary Lou and Richard Strunk of Cheshire, CT; his grandchildren, Lori Knope, Ronald Brescia, Gerald Brescia, Karen Steigman and Ben Reder, Jerrold Steigman and Christina Mednick, Matthew Steigman, Elena Steigman, Richard Strunk, Carolee and Jason Jerome, and Suzanne and Lee Pelletier; and his great-grandchildren, Kiersten, Gregory, and Michelle Knope, Lucy and Leo Paul Steigman, Agnes P. Steigman, Nicole and Ally Jerome, and Aaron and Ryan Pelletier. He is also survived by a devoted brother and sister-in-law, George and Marie Didio of Utica, as well as many nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, cousins, and in-laws. He was predeceased by a beloved daughter, Paula Steigman; sons-in-law Arnold Steigman, and William McNasser; brothers and sisters-in-law, Rocco and Marie Didio, and Joseph and Mary Didio; sisters Jane and John Tuccillo, Rose and Frank Pagliaro, and Theresa and John Bolandis; sisters-in-law and brothers-in-law Mary and Michael DiMino, and Lucy and Ben Gigliotti.

The family acknowledges and thanks the Charles T. Sitrin Health Care Center/Mulberry House staff for the outstanding and personal care with compassion that Jerry received during his last years. He was always treated with respect, understanding, and kindness.

Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend Jerry's Memorial Mass which will be celebrated on Saturday, August 17, 2013 at 11:00 Our Lady of the Rosary Church on Burrstone Road. The family will receive visitors at the conclusion of the Mass. Expressions of sympathy may be made to Hope House or Operation Sunshine; Envelopes will be available at the service.

Arrangements have been entrusted to the Eannace Funeral Home, Inc., 932 South St., corner of Hammond Ave.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Rick Strunk lit a candle in memory of Gerald F. Didio*



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**Rick Strunk** - August 15, 2013 at 04:11 PM



*Thanks Pop for all of your support, love and fun times for me as a kid and as an adult. You were a true inspiration for all of us. love you, Rick*

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**Rick Strunk** - August 15, 2013 at 04:15 PM

RR

“ *Dear Grace and family:  
Rosemary called today to give me the sad news about your father. It was a privilege to meet your father many years ago when we were students. I am sorry for your loss and plan to see you Aug. 17th. If I can be of any help please call me.  
Love, Bob Robertson*



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**Robert H. Robertson** - July 02, 2013 at 12:17 PM

DA

“ *Dear Didio Family:  
We are sadden by the loss of Jerry and we will forever miss his smile and funny saying's.  
It was a privilege and honor to care for Jerry.  
THE Staff at the Mulberry House.*

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**Debra Allman** - June 30, 2013 at 03:48 PM

JS

“ George and Marie, and all of the Didio family, please accept my sincere condolences. Jerry was a true gentleman. I was a customer of his at Gerald's and a fellow member of the Comity Club. He will be remembered by many.

*John Scala*

*North Carolina*

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**John Scala** - June 30, 2013 at 10:48 AM

JD

“ To Grace and Family:

*My condolences on your great loss. Having read his obituary, he left a wonderful legacy.*

*Jim Dooher*

*DeWitt, NY*

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**Jim Dooher** - June 30, 2013 at 07:05 AM