



## Mr. Geraldo "Gerry" Retamar

October 3, 1953 - May 25, 2020

UTICA - Mr. Geraldo "Gery" Retamar, age 66, passed away unexpectedly on Monday, May 25, 2020 in the comfort and dignity of his home with those he loved most in his heart.

Born in Ponce, Puerto Rico on October 3, 1953, Geraldo was the son of the late Jose Retamar and Maria Santos. He was raised and educated in Puerto Rico, and as a young man, he came to Utica. His first marriage was to Elida Rodriguez, a union blessed with two children. At one time, he was wed to the late Karen M. (Baye) Retamar and to that relationship came the blessing of two children.

A certified auto mechanic, Gery worked for a number of repair shops, lastly at the West End Auto Company. He was an expert in vehicle diagnostics and was friendly and competent in providing service to patrons.

Geraldo's heart and his life knew the kindness of Adele Cortes. They respected and honored each other for the last 14 years of his life. He was truly a family man. He was supportive and always there, and was intuitive to his children's needs. As one of 12 children, Gery learned to share and love unconditionally from an early age. He captured the attention of family and friends, and showed a great interest in their wellbeing. He often traveled to Massachusetts to visit his siblings and their families. Gery was light-hearted and humorous, with a witty comment for everyone, and if he couldn't remember your name, he made one up! He absolutely loved music and was enthralled by the sounds of the original Spanish artists, but yet he also knew

the more contemporary performers. Salsa music added sauce to the spice of his life, and he became mentally and physically alive. A skilled cook, his specialty was Spanish cuisine, and when he shared his dishes with his kids with pride, he would tell them “make sure you give me the pot back”. He also loved food, feasted on pineapple upside down cake, any kind of soup, and of course rice & beans. Gery found pleasure in taking a long ride, seeing the sites, stopping for ice cream, and unwinding by having his music on in the car and honking his horn when he came to your house unannounced. Two of his favorite hobbies were attending car shows, and the recreational sport of practicing his aim at the firing range. He celebrated his Catholic faith at Historic Old St. John’s Church where he drove the summer bus for the parish, and was active at the annual bazaars. He will be remembered as a humble man, grateful for the blessings of each day and the people who loved him as much as he loved them.

Gery is survived by his children and their loves, Geraldo Retamar Jr. and Angel Cavanaugh, Jose and Janelle Retamar, Andrea E. and Christina Colon, and Ian Retamar; grandchildren, Alexia, and Cosimina; Jacia, Eneliza, Jose Jr., Jalaina, Eliana, Marcella, and Makaiyah; Jaden, Airin, and Jeremiah. He will be remembered by his siblings and their loves, Ana and Louie, Tony and Georgette, Alma (the late Mariano), Fidel, Aida and Abraham, Naomi and Stanley, Marilyn and Abdul, Juanita and Francis, Jesus and Jennifer, Miguel, and Jose and Libby. He also leaves his aunts, Racquel, and Martha; many nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, cousins, longtime good friend Adele Cortes, and the best friend he found in his brother, Tony.

Due to current health concerns and in keeping with federal and state regulations, the immediate family will honor Geraldo’s life privately. Please take a moment to connect with Gery’s family through the “Memories” section of his obituary on our website.

Our prayers continue to go out to all as a sign of our community support.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Full Heart was purchased for the family of Mr. Geraldo "Gerry" Retamar.*



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April 02, 2023 at 01:13 AM



“ *Pina lit a candle in memory of Mr. Geraldo "Gerry" Retamar*



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**Pina** - May 28, 2020 at 10:44 PM



*My Deepest Condolences to all the family. It has been years since I seen everyone but I hold you in my heart always. PINA*

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**Pina** - May 28, 2020 at 10:47 PM



“ *Prayers to the entire family. May he be dancing in the sky. God bless*

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**Pat Soldato** - May 28, 2020 at 07:25 PM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Mr. Geraldo "Gerry" Retamar.*



May 28, 2020 at 04:13 PM



“ *Vanessa Jones lit a candle in memory of Mr. Geraldo "Gerry" Retamar*



**Vanessa Jones** - May 28, 2020 at 03:13 PM



*My deepest condolences to the family...*

**Vanessa Jones** - May 28, 2020 at 03:14 PM



“ *Rose Impression Casket Spray was purchased for the family of Mr. Geraldo "Gerry" Retamar.*



May 28, 2020 at 02:31 PM

AF

“ Arman and Arshad Family purchased the Pretty Please for the family of Mr. Geraldo "Gerry" Retamar.



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**Arman and Arshad Family** - May 27, 2020 at 06:02 PM

GE

“ Where do I begin? You were our best man at our wedding, you were godfather to my firstborn daughter! You were always there to help Tony with his cars. We shared so many celebrations together, whether it was birthdays, Christmas, graduations, picnics up on the hill with you and Karen and of course the kids! You were the one taking videos and pictures at every occasion we shared. Our kids grew up together. You were Tony's big brother and best friend! You were "Tio" to my kids. We shared good times and bad times of grieving loved ones we lost. You were always there!!! You will be greatly missed but never forgotten. Your legacy will live on through your children and grandchildren! RIP

*Georgette Retamar*

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**Georgette** - May 27, 2020 at 05:42 PM

JJ

Sorry for your Loss Georgette!! I know it's hard losing a good person!! May all the good memories bring you all peace! 🙏

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**Jennifer Jewett** - May 27, 2020 at 11:10 PM

JR

“Geraldo was a great, loving and caring grandfather to all of us. I will miss all the cookouts we had together as a family with him. Especially when him, my dad and uncle used to show up wearing those same cargo shorts with a black t-shirt those moments were iconic ! I love this man so much and my family also ! It will be the little things we remember as a family that will get us through this tough time. We are a strong family. We will get through every tough time we pass through. My entire family is in my prayers ! I love you all

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**Jalaina Retamar** - May 27, 2020 at 05:30 PM



“Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mr. Geraldo "Gerry" Retamar.



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May 27, 2020 at 04:07 PM

JS

“Wow !!! Can't believe this is happening to our family . The number two “BOSS” !!! The second in command . Geraldo Where do I begin . You are a true definition of a gentle giant !!! This man would give a stranger his shirt and would fix your car before he fixed his . Everything you taught me as a Child and a man will never be forgotten .!!! As I write this this I can't stop thinking all the jokes you told !! You would say joke and then ask why are you not laughing . And we would all say it wasn't funny . And you would say laugh because I'm telling you to laugh I think it's funny . Or You're crazy bizarre stories of being in the mafia or the time you were a ninja or the time you were airline pilot You were never None of them but you made us Believe you were . Going to Utica will never be the same !!! You were always the first stop . I think a lot of that had to do With ADEL her hospitality was one like no other and her Food always spoke for itself . ADEL thank you for giving my brother the best years of his life. Geraldo You will be missed by many The memories we share never be forgotten . REST EAZY BOSS MAN !!!! Now you can fly with all Eagles you wanted to fly with !!!! Love ❤️ you always !!!!!

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**Joselito sanchez** - May 27, 2020 at 03:50 PM

FC

“I was so sorry to learn of Geraldo's passing. We met many, many years ago when he first came to Utica. We maintained a friendship for all of these years. Geraldo was always a very reserved kind of guy. I remember all of the good times--the baptisms, First Communion, birthday parties, and on and on. We shared so many happy occasions together over the years and I will always cherish them as a source of comfort. My condolences to Adel, Geraldo's children, and the entire Retamar family. May he rest in peace.

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**Frankito Calaprice** - May 27, 2020 at 02:18 PM