



Gilbert R. "Gil" DeStefano

January 3, 1931 - December 25, 2012

Mr. Gilbert R. "Gil" DeStefano, Sr., age 81, passed away on Christmas Day, Tuesday, December 25, 2012 at home under the care of his children. When Gil passed he was surrounded by his entire family which they feel in their hearts was a true blessing.

Born in Utica on January 3, 1931, Gilbert was the son of the late Victor and Ella (Ioia) DeStefano. He was raised and educated locally and attended Trade School to master the craft of masonry. In his youth, he was blessed with the mentorship of Jimmy Guzzardo who allowed him to travel the produce route; Gil looked to Jimmy for his parental guidance which helped to mold his character. At one time, he was married to the former Marjorie L. (Esford) and to that relationship came the blessings of their 4 children.

Gil's hard work ethic and passion for his trade as a mason was reflected in his work for various area contractors. He had an intrinsic creative insight with stone work and he performed it to perfection. Knowledgeable and masterful in his craft, he was an advisor to many apprentices. Highlights of his work could be seen in many notable area structures as well as two of his own homes of which he was so proud. He was a member of the Bricklayers Union local #19. His love for his family was paramount. He knew how to love unconditionally and was gentle in his guidance and committed to his children in all ways. He was not only a father who loved them, but he was also their best friend and confidante. Also dear to him was his more than 20 year rewarding and valued relationship with Betty (Garramone) Luciano. To all who knew him, Gil was

congenial, genuine, and nostalgic, and his friendships were vast, from his own brothers to co-workers and longtime friends as well as new acquaintances. He assigned nicknames to people as a sign of affection, especially within his family, names that were used for years. He held a deep admiration for his parents and was always proud of his roots. He was an entertainer at heart, and he loved to laugh. Many memories were “locked in his memory bank” of a fleeting moment or a special occasion, and he held them close to his heart. He also believed that we needed to “stop and smell the roses” from time to time. His greatest accomplishment in life was providing for his children’s well-being. During his spare time he enjoyed games of chance, Pin Ball Wizard, the horses, card games, the casino, and rolling the dice. He liked to fish for bullheads using tactics he learned from people in his youth. He also planted a yearly garden which yielded bountiful vegetables including his favorite tasty tomatoes. His spiritual beliefs allowed him to be graceful when he faced life’s challenges. He was devoted to St. Joseph who was the patron saint of workers and craftsmen which seemed so fitting to his life. He was a parishioner of St. Anthony & St. Agnes Church.

Gil is survived by his children, Renee and Chet Maciag of Marcy, Gilbert R. Jr. and Colleen DeStefano of Chadwicks, Denise and Richard “Rick” Hensel of Frankfort, and John D. DeStefano of Rome and his girlfriend Alexandra; his grandchildren, Paul and Alicia Toti, Angela and Chris Tubilewicz; Nicole, Jacob, Joseph, Hannah, Vincent, Dominic, and Thomas DeStefano; Anthony and Gina Hensel, Ricky and Jared Hensel; and his great-grandchildren, Nathaniel; JoAnna, Teresa, and Antonio. Also left to mourn his passing are his brother, Victor L. DeStefano, Sr.; his companion, Betty, and her children and grandchildren; many nieces, nephews, especially acknowledging, Julie and Jim Stephens, Janice DeStefano, Louis and Christine DeStefano, and Sally DeStefano; great-nieces, great-nephews, cousins, Theresa Pecorello, Fannie Desmarais, Gloria Ambruso, Michael and Roseann D’Alessandro. Gil was blessed with many friends throughout his life sharing a special closeness with his childhood friends, Cosmo LaPolla “Moe Brown”, Tony, and Angelo

Giacovelli, the Gimelli girls, Rita Cronian, Joanie Kimball, as well as Victor Valerio, and Dick Hensel. He also honored the memory of many friends who preceded him. He was predeceased by his brothers and sisters-in-law, Mario J. and Jane DeStefano, and Gennaro "Dino" and Rosaria "Sara" DeStefano; his infant siblings; nephew Victor L. DeStefano, Jr.; and his sister-in-law, Margaret J. DeStefano.

The family is grateful to Dr. Christopher Max, Dr. Tatjana Mondom, Dr. Dominic Aiello, Dr. Francis Constantine and his staff; the nurses and supportive personnel of Faxton-St. Luke's Healthcare Center, St. Elizabeth Medical Center, St. Luke's Rehab, and the Charles T. Sitrin Rehab, and the Bassett Healthcare Home Care Network. Gil's spiritual needs were tended to by Rev. Mark P. Kaminski who prayed with him with much reverence, as well as his longtime friend Msgr. Francis Willenburg.

Visitation will be held Sunday from 2-5 at the Eannace Funeral Home, Inc., 932 South Street, corner of Hammond Ave.

Gilbert's funeral service and Celebration of Life will commence on Monday morning at 9:30 from the funeral home and at 10:30 at St. Anthony & St. Agnes Church where his Mass of Christian Burial will be offered by Rev. Mark P. Kaminski. Committal prayers will take place in Christ Our Savior Mausoleum with burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Cemetery Details

Calvary Cemetery

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

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC **30**. 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

Eannace Funeral Home, Inc.
932 South Street
corner of Hammond Ave.
Utica, NY 13501
(315) 724-6714
eannacefh@roadrunner.com
<https://www.eannacefuneralhome.com>

Service

DEC **31**. 9:30 AM (ET)

Eannace Funeral Home, Inc.
932 South Street
corner of Hammond Ave.
Utica, NY 13501
(315) 724-6714
eannacefh@roadrunner.com
<https://www.eannacefuneralhome.com>

Service

DEC **31**. 10:30 AM (ET)

St. Anthony & St. Agnes Church
422 Tilden Ave.
Utica, NY 13501
(315) 732-1177
<https://www.stanthonystagnes.com/>

Tribute Wall



“ Eannace Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Gilbert R. "Gil" DeStefano



Eannace Funeral Home, Inc. - December 25, 2012 at 12:00 AM

DH

“ My handsome daddy...I will miss you every moment of every day of my life....you were the best dad, grandfather and friend anyone could ask for! So many beautiful memories we shared....our times sitting on the swing in the backyard together holding hands, planting your garden together, gathering at your table for coffee and pie, accompanying you out on your usual rounds for breakfast etc, watching the old movies while you would belly laugh to the old comedies, how you loved to laugh and spread joy to all around you...nobody will ever fill your shoes....people loved you everywhere you went because you made them feel happy just to be in your presence....you knew how to do that, you just had that gift. My love will be with you through eternity and I will be mindful of all the beautiful memories and lessons you have taught to me throughout my life...until we meet again daddy...may God's warm light shine upon you every moment of your eternity!!! Your # 1 fan and loving admirer.....your daughter Denise (a.K.a. your Puppypcat as you had called me since a toddler)!!

denise hensel - January 02, 2013 at 01:03 PM



“ *Rachelle Pastorella-Rustici lit a candle in memory of Gilbert R. "Gil" DeStefano*



Rachelle Pastorella-Rustici - December 31, 2012 at 07:01 PM

PC

“ *Denise and Family,*

I am so very sorry for the loss of your dad. You have his smile. You and I are alot a like when it comes to our dads. We will always be daddy's little girls forever! I am so very sorry I missed the calling hours for your dad. Please give your family my best! You are a wonderful daughter and I am sure he will be watching over you everyday!



*Deepest Sympathy,
Your Friend,
Patty Cittadino*

Patricia Cittadino - December 31, 2012 at 11:37 AM

DH

*Thank you Patty...your beautiful words mean a lot to me and my family!
God Bless! xoxo*

denise hensel - January 02, 2013 at 12:51 PM

CS

“ I remember Gil well from the years he worked for my father at S&D. I can still picture him because he always had a smile on his face and because my father always said he was an awesome stone mason.

My sympathies on the loss of a really good guy.

Cynthia S'Doia

Cynthia S'Doia - December 30, 2012 at 09:22 AM

DH

Thank you Cynthia. From what I have heard over and over again regarding my dad's art of masonry, he was one of the best the area has seen. He was the best father and friend as well and will be greatly missed.

denise hensel - January 02, 2013 at 12:53 PM

KH

“ *DeStefano Family*

It is with a heavy heart and tear filled eyes that I express my sincere sympathy for the loss of Gil. He was like a part of our family and his smile and laugh were contagious, you could not help but be happy around him. I have such fond memories of him that will live in my heart forever! Such a gentle, kind, loving person who brought so much joy to others. He will be greatly missed by the entire Hensel family.

Karen Hensel - December 29, 2012 at 01:10 PM

DH

Thanks Karen....I know, it will be a huge void....he was unique and nobody could ever fill his shoes...I am just so glad he is not suffering any longer and that I was able to be by his side and holding his hand!

Denise Hensel - December 30, 2012 at 01:06 AM

AC

“ Anthony, Gina & Children. *lit a candle in memory of Gilbert R. "Gil" DeStefano*



Anthony, Gina & children. - December 29, 2012 at 09:47 AM

MA

“ *Dearest Denise and Families,
With sincere sympathy in the loss of your incredible Dad. Always a gentleman with such a remarkable love of life . A smile that would touch our hearts forever. The memories of your father and my mother and father on Linda View Lane, Frank and Wanda Guzzardo will forever be held dear. The beautiful patio he built for us created such wonderful times as we grew up, with special dinners my mom cooked and visits from your dad. My parents adored him as my sisters and I have over the years. The last time I had the privilege of seeing his handsome face was where I worked, Marian Medical Imaging. I can still see his face, his contagious smile. He would always speak so highly of my mom and dad and portray his Faith of God and St Joseph. He would talk about traveling to Old Forge and seeing the statue of St Joseph so vividly seen from the road where the miracle occurred for my grandfather, preventing a very serious accident. Right now your Dad is helping build our Mansions for our entrance into Heaven where he will await for each and everyone one of us.....Rest in the arms of Our Savior, Jesus Christ Gil till we all meet again! With Love, Mary Guzzardo Annese, Venice, FL*

Mary Guzzardo Annese - December 29, 2012 at 07:29 AM

DH

Mary, thank you so kindly for your beautiful words...I know that dad is up there and so ecstatic to see your wonderful grandfather, father and mother as they were staples in his life that he spoke of often and made huge impacts on his life....so many beautiful memories, such a beautiful man my daddy...I will miss him constantly and a huge hole will forever be left in my heart....your family meant the world to him as well and now they are together again!!! I know he did miss seeing your beautiful face at Marian Imaging whenever he had to go not only because he loved you but he said you reminded him so much of your dad too! Carol told me your dad died Christmas Eve...so many parallels! God Bless you Mary....my daddy is surely smiling down on us all!

Denise Hensel - December 30, 2012 at 12:47 AM

 Mary
Vivenzo

“ .

To the loving family of Gilbert, I am so heartfully sorry about the loss of your father. He has been a customer of the USPS for a long time and I was blessed by becoming so friendly over the years. Gilbert was a kind, loving and funny gentleman. He was so very young at heart and that smile of his would light up a room! He will be very sadly missed, as he came in every day and on occasion we would dance right in the lobby because he had such a zest for life! He has touched my life in such a big way and I extend my deepest condolences to his wonderful family and friends because he was such a big part of your lives! He will be sorely missed!

Mary Vivenzo - December 28, 2012 at 07:11 PM

DH

Thank you Mary....your message has filled my heart with such joy...he spoke of you often and looked forward to going to the post office each day to see his special little friend...you! He told me you just were such a nice person and made him feel so happy when you exchanged pleasant conversations! My dad was just that....kind, fun loving, sincere, lived robustly and loved, loved, loved with a huge heart and very deeply his family and friends. He loved to make everyone he encountered feel his joy and again, it made me so very happy to hear of his encounters in his day to day routine and how he effected so many with his joyful spirit and cute little smile...he was and will always be the love of my life...I was so lucky to have him as my dad but he was so sick the past six months that I am glad his suffering is over and he is reunited with many of his loved ones now....May God Bless you always Mary....again I thank you for sharing your wonderful memories!

Denise Hensel - December 30, 2012 at 12:55 AM

GL

“ To Gil Jr,

I am so sorry to hear the news about your father. My prayers and thoughts are with you and your family during this time of grief.



*"Blessed are those that mourn, for they shall be comforted."
(Matthew 5:4)*

Sincerely,

Gjon Lahu

Gjon Lahu - December 28, 2012 at 05:16 PM

AH

“ Amber H lit a candle in memory of Gilbert R.
"Gil" DeStefano



Amber H - December 27, 2012 at 06:29 PM

JU

“ My sweet Uncle Gil, we will cherish and miss you forever.

Love, Julie, Jim, Maggie, Bella, and Gavin

Julie - December 27, 2012 at 02:29 PM

MP

“ Gil Jr., Denise and Family.

So sorry to learn of the passing of your father. It sounds like he died gracefully, on his terms and with you all at his side .. exactly as he would have wanted. I always remember going to his work sites and seeing how they were developing carefully over time.

I hope you find peace at this time and cherish his memory and the times you all shared together.

If there is anything I can do, please let me know. My thoughts and prayers are with you.

Maryanne Panaro-Grady

Maryanne Panaro-Grady - December 27, 2012 at 02:11 PM

DH

Thank you...your words are very kind and help us bear this difficult a little bit easier! God's blessings to you!

Denise Hensel - December 30, 2012 at 12:56 AM

RJ

“ *Gil and Family,
It has been many, many years since I have seen your dad, but I will always remember how sweet, kind and welcoming he was. His family has really grown over the years and I can only imagine how proud he was of all of you.
May God bless him and his entire family. I pray that your wonderful memories bring you peace.
Robin Arcuri Jones*

Robin Arcuri Jones - December 27, 2012 at 01:27 PM

DH

Hi Robin...thank you so much for taking the time to think of us....my dad was a gem yes!!! It is finding out that he had touched other people outside of the obvious ring of family and close friends, that make us realize even more that he truly was so special not just because he was our dad but a truly unique and genuine spirit! Hope all is well for you and yours! God's blessings always! Denise

Denise Hensel - December 30, 2012 at 12:59 AM



“ *JOHANNA BRENON lit a candle in memory of Gilbert R. "Gil" DeStefano*



JOHANNA BRENON - December 27, 2012 at 12:36 PM



To Denise, Rick and family,

We are so very sorry to hear of your loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all at this time. May he rest in peace.

Johanna (Grande) Brenon and Family

JOHANNA BRENON - December 27, 2012 at 12:38 PM

DH

Thank you Johanna...that is very kind of you....as you know, it is one of the hardest things you will every go through but it is the kind words of others that helps! God BLess!

Denise Hensel - December 30, 2012 at 01:00 AM

DB

“ *To the DeStefano Family,*

*I'm sorry to hear about the passing of your Dad and Grandfather.
My thoughts and prayers are with all of you. May he rest in peace.*

Debbie Barbero - December 27, 2012 at 05:15 AM

DH

Thanks Deb

Denise Hensel - December 30, 2012 at 01:00 AM

DL

“ To the Family of Gil,

I had the pleasure of knowing Gil through an office that I worked at. I am so sorry to hear of his passing, he was one of a kind, as he would tell me, they broke the mold when he came around, and I believe it is true. He always spoke of his family with a smile that would light up a room. He had a gentle and loving soul, that was pure. I hope the memories that have been created with Gil are passed down through the family to continue traditions and are able to ease the pain during this most difficult time. He was a great man and will be missed.

*Respectfully,
Deanna Salvatore-Lercara*

Deanna Lercara - December 26, 2012 at 10:53 PM

DH

Deanna, your words are exquisite and truly describe my dad to a "T"....he was all of that and so much more. We were so extremely blessed that God gave us a dad like him! He was and will always be the love of my life! God did break the mold when they made him!! God's blessings to you and yours!

Denise Hensel

Denise Hensel - December 30, 2012 at 01:03 AM

SR

“ *Rest In Peace Peace Gil. My thoughts & prayers go out to the entire DeStefano family. Susan & Jenna Risler*

Susan M. Risler - December 26, 2012 at 05:20 PM

DF

Denise, Rick and Family
Sorry to hear about Gil, he was a very sweet man.. He is now in a much better place, no more pain or suffering... God Bless you all.. Thoughts and Prayers are with you all..
Debbie Fontaine

Deborah Fontaine - December 29, 2012 at 08:48 AM

DH

Thank you Sue and Jenna!

Denise Hensel - December 30, 2012 at 01:04 AM

DH

Thanks Deb!

Denise Hensel - December 30, 2012 at 01:05 AM