

Mr. James E. "Jimmy" Caruso

May 15, 1949 - February 15, 2023

UTICA - Mr. James E. "Jimmy" Caruso, age 73, remarkably lived with dignity and grace as he fought the good fight against Advanced T Cell Lymphoma Cancer, until he passed away on Wednesday, February 15, 2023 amid a continual vigil of his loved ones through the entirety of his journey. At the moment of his crossing over, his wife was at his side.

Born in Utica on May 15, 1949, James was the son of the late Philip A. and Natalie M. (Delli Colli) Caruso. His childhood home on Eleanor Place was where it all began, where he forged his childhood friendships that lasted throughout his lifetime. He attended T.R. Proctor Jr./Sr. High School where he graduated with the Class of 1967. He enrolled in Herkimer County Community College (HCCC), followed by Utica College of Syracuse University. But Jimmy was not a man who found school to his liking. He was a self-taught botanist, well-versed in nature, following in the same steps and skills that were cultivated by his grandfather, Nicandro Caruso, who Jimmy just admired; the two shared their passions in this avocation and adventures. Jimmy was drafted into the United States Army in 1970 stationed at the Reserve Center as a member of the 107th Military Police. He was a proud veteran of the U.S. Army National Guard as well. On June 12, 1976 he married the former Delores Zasa. Jimmy always made his "Delor" feel safe, and he guarded her with all his heart.

Jimmy enjoyed his job as a Plant Supervisor at the Oneida County Water & Sewage Facility where he was responsible for the portion of the final disposal

of the operation. He began this career in 1972, and retired in 2010.

Jimmy was a true craftsman who could repair, refinish, refurbish, disassemble, and reassemble anything, often with great patience, until he could re-invent it, utilizing talents he learned from his grandfather, father, and his father-in-law. Everything he did was accomplished with love and pride, and that's what he would want to be remembered for.

Jimmy was grounded by his family, parents, elders, siblings, and Delores and their children and especially grandchildren. Parenting and grandparenting was very important to him. His home was open, and he was a force in the lives of his family. His strong constitution and moral codes were intense, and although he set enormous expectations for himself, he never imposed upon others. He was a Mason in good standing and a member of the Amicable Lodge #664 F & AM Fraternal Organization. His family parish was that of St. Mary of Mt. Carmel/Blessed Sacrament.

In essence, Jimmy was a multi-faceted guy who was always fun to be around. He will be warmly welcomed to his eternal home where his energy will shine just as bright. He was an unforgettable man.

Jimmy is survived by his devoted wife and best friend, Delores; his daughter and son-in-law, Stephanie and William Whitty; son and daughter-in-law, Joseph and Sherice Caruso; and grandchildren, Jamieson Clark, and Luca Zasa Whitty; and Olivia Rose, and Logan James Caruso. Coming from an incredible family and the dearest of relationships, he is survived by his brother and sister-in-law, Nicholas and Patricia Caruso; and his sister and brother-in-law, Mary Ann and Samuel Bottini, Jr. He also leaves his respectful and adored nieces and nephews, including Valerie and David Indolfi, Matthew and Kayliegh Caruso; Kenneth and Colleen Bottini, and Mark Bottini and their families; his sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Irene (Zasa)Willett and husband Bill, and their children, Michael and Kim Ridley, Beth Ridley and Joseph Russo, and all their families; and many cousins. Jimmy had a tremendous network of close friends, but it would be remiss not to mention his dearest friendships including Santo Tomaino, Tommy Coluzzi, Frank Gohringer, Eli

Zogby, Ray Casatelli, Jim McAleer, Caz Krauza, Bob Merritt, and Nick Palmieri. He was preceded by his friends, Angelo DePaul, Charles Lanza, and Alexander Forte. He is now reunited with his father-in-law and mother-in-law, Joseph and Anne (Puglione) Zasa; and his cousins, Ernest Caruso, and Richard Panella.

The family extends their appreciation to Jimmy's cousins Dr. Laurie Caruso, and Dr. Teresa Gentile Femia, the Roswell physicians, Francisco Hernandez-Ilizaliturri, M.D., Maureen Ross, M.D., Ph.D., Gary Mann, M.D. and their respective teams, the hospital staff of MVHS at St. Elizabeth Medical Center and physicians Affaf Munir, M.D., and Andrea Johnson, D.O., his family and friends who were faithful and available to his last day, and his co-workers who were supportive and uplifting during his difficult days.

It was Jimmy's desire to donate his body to science through the Upstate Medical Center Anatomical Gift Program to help another person and their family who may find themselves in the same journey that Jimmy faced. In lieu of flowers, and to fulfill his wish, memorial donations in Jimmy's name may be directed to the Roswell Comprehensive Cancer Center online at <https://www.roswellpark.org/cancer/lymphoma>.

Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend James' Celebration of Life and Memorial Mass of Christian Burial which will be held at St. Mary of Mt. Carmel Church/Blessed Sacrament Church, 648 Jay Street on Wednesday, March 1, 2023 at 11:00 a.m. There will be an opportunity to greet the family at the conclusion of the Mass.

Previous Events

Memorial Mass

MAR 1. 11:00 AM (ET)

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

Tribute Wall

JR

“ *Delores and family, I know your husband's painful struggle has ended. Please know that I am praying for peace and comfort for your entire family.*
Jacquelyn



Jacquelyn Rizzo-Schmidt - March 03, 2023 at 09:52 AM

EA

“ *So very sorry for your loss. I was a classmate of his- Proctor HS, 1967*
Eileen Angelico

Eileen Angelico - March 02, 2023 at 09:50 AM

DY

“ *Delores...I am so sorry to read of the loss of your husband. I never realized Jimmy was the son of Phil and Natalie Caruso who were good friends with my parents. My prayers are with you and your family.*

Donna Yaghy - March 01, 2023 at 09:46 PM



“ *Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of Mr. James E. "Jimmy" Caruso.*



February 28, 2023 at 05:44 AM

DC

“ Delores .. I send my love to you and your family. I remember you sharing your joy and love of Jimmy back in the 1980's when I worked with you at Family Services. Then 20 years later my son married Al Forte's daughter Alicia and heard all the childhood stories from Al. Jimmy lived life well and loved you. Peace to you my friend.

Deb Favat-Carpenter

Deb Carpenter - February 27, 2023 at 08:57 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Mr. James E. "Jimmy" Caruso.



February 27, 2023 at 12:51 PM



“ Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mr. James E. "Jimmy" Caruso.



February 27, 2023 at 11:25 AM

LW

“ We are heartbroken to hear of Jimmy's passing. Our condolences and love to Delores and the entire Caruso family.

*Lisa (Payne) and Terrance Wansley
Pawling, NY*

Lisa Payne Wansley - February 27, 2023 at 08:25 AM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mr. James E. "Jimmy" Caruso.*



February 27, 2023 at 12:09 AM



“ *My deepest sympathy prayers to you and your family at this difficult time 🙏*

Julie Spanfelner - February 25, 2023 at 04:27 PM



“ *It is with great sadness that I read this tribute. What a wonderful guy! My deepest sympathies to you all, May his memory be eternal.
John*

John Brown - February 25, 2023 at 09:03 AM



“ *Delores, Stephanie, Joe and Marianne,*

We are sorry to learn of Jimmy's passing. He was truly a man of many interests and abilities in addition to being a gentleman and devoted family man.

God bless all,

Ron and Martha Mancuso

Ron Mancuso - February 25, 2023 at 08:30 AM

RR

“ My deepest sympathy to the family. I am so very sorry for your loss.

Rocco Rositano



rocco rositano - February 25, 2023 at 08:00 AM

BR

“ Delores, Stephanie, & Joseph,
We are so saddened to learn of Jim's illness and passing. The fact that he is donating his body to science just shows what a truly generous and outstanding person he was! May you find peace in your memories of your time together.

Love, Joanne & Bob Roselli

Bob Roselli - February 24, 2023 at 04:28 PM

DS

“ DEWS staff purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Mr. James E. "Jimmy" Caruso.



DEWS staff - February 24, 2023 at 01:24 PM



“ Care and Compassion Spray was purchased for the family of Mr. James E. "Jimmy" Caruso.



February 24, 2023 at 09:36 AM

BO

“ *My condolences and prayers to Jimmy's family. May he RIP*

Bobby Ollerenshaw - February 24, 2023 at 08:30 AM

LP

“ *I am sorry to learn of Jimmy's illness and passing. Jimmy always had a way of making people smile whenever he entered a room. May he rest in peace. My condolences to the entire Caruso and Zasa Families.*
Lorraine (Panella)

Lorraine Panella - February 24, 2023 at 12:31 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mr. James E. "Jimmy" Caruso.*



February 23, 2023 at 11:36 PM



“ *Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Mr. James E. "Jimmy" Caruso.*



February 23, 2023 at 08:04 PM

MJ


“ *All I can say is such a very special person! Knowing him made me strive to have some of his qualities. Michael j. Uvanni*

michael j.uvanni - February 23, 2023 at 05:16 PM

ML

“ Some of my fondest memories include growing up in Utica and the traditions my Dad held so close. I loved every Christmas when we all went to cut down Christmas trees and had brunch at rotating houses throughout the years - My dad always held his friends close to his heart even though we moved away. One of his favorite movies was Stand By Me , maybe because he loved this line - “ I never had any friends later on like the ones I had when I was twelve “

I'm so sorry for you and the kids , unfortunately , I know what you are going through -

Know that you are loved and so was he and memories last a lifetime. Love to you all 

Melissa DePaul LaViola - February 22, 2023 at 08:32 PM

JF

“ I know that Al welcomed you with open arms. May you forever enjoy playing with your friends in heaven. Love from Jan Forte

Janice Forte - February 22, 2023 at 08:10 PM

AS

“ To one of my very oldest and sweetest friends in the world. Am so sorry for all your suffering. Rest in peace my friend, until we meet again. Love ,Angela Spartano

Angela Spartano - February 22, 2023 at 03:31 PM

RC

“ So Sorry to hear about the passing of Jimmy. My prayers are with you, may he rest in peace. My condolences to the family.

Rosemary Ionta Caruso - February 22, 2023 at 02:12 PM

VM

“ Very sorry to hear of his passing. My wife at the time and I rented the apartment downstairs from his parents back in mid 80's for quite a few years. He and his family were very kind to us. Rest in peace. Please hug Phil and Natalie for us.
Vincent F Mazzei

Vincent F Mazzei - February 21, 2023 at 09:48 PM

JJ

“ Remembering the good clean fun we had on Eleanor Place and Leeds streets . Always a gentleman with respect and dignity . Your legacy and deminer will always be remembered . Thank you for the life lessons . Joe Cotrupe . 😊

Josepe R. Cotrupe Jr. - February 20, 2023 at 12:41 PM

FM

“ Delores and family. Deepest sympathy in the loss of Jimmy. May he rest in peace.

Francine Mulchy - February 20, 2023 at 07:52 AM

RE

“ Jimmy with the beautiful hair and always a smile on your face. You will be missed. My love and sympathy to the family ❤️

roseannette enea - February 19, 2023 at 08:46 AM

AD

“ Delores and family, so sorry to hear of Jimmys passing. You are all in are thoughts and prayers.

Anthony & Elizabeth DeCarolis - February 18, 2023 at 10:20 PM

GV

There comes a time when a childhood friend becomes much more. They become part of your family. Jimmy's tribe is grieving with you. We have lost not only a friend but a brother. Hopefully with time, our memories will bring us joy. Eli & Grace

Grace Vento-Zogby - February 23, 2023 at 10:24 AM

EQ

Delores and family, I have had the benefit of knowing Jim since our early days of Conkling School, extending through High School and college. Our close family relations began with our fathers growing up as friends on Eleanor Place. Jim always displayed a demeanor that was caring and thoughtful. REST IN PEACE

eugene F quadraro - February 23, 2023 at 04:21 PM

BR

I was a very close friend of Jimmy's and a best friend of his brother Nick. My brother Frank and I hunted and fished with Jimmy and Nick our entire lives and we all grew up together. Jimmy was a few years younger than us and always lightened up every day! We will never forget all the good times we had together especially when Jimmy was with us. We will certainly miss him. Bob Robertaccio

Bob Robertaccio - February 24, 2023 at 12:26 PM

RL

Delores and family, Lorie and I are so sad for Jimmy's passing. He was always a great guy who had a big heart. I remember him with the Eleanor Place group. He will not be forgotten. Rest in Peace 🙏

Ralph Lupia - February 28, 2023 at 07:02 PM

GS

Mary Ann, Nick and Jimmy's-family. So sorry to hear of Jimmy passing. I will never forget all the wonderful memories we had with our families growing up. We had the greatest parents and the best of times together. Jimmy always made us laugh!

Grace Smith - March 01, 2023 at 11:23 PM