



Mr. James A. McKinney

January 3, 1948 - March 11, 2023

KNOXVILLE, TN- Mr. James A. McKinney passed away unexpectedly on Saturday, March 11, 2023, at the age of 75. At the time of his passing, he was in the hearts of those he loved the most.

James was born in Utica on January 3, 1948, to the late Arthur and Rose (Romano) McKinney. He attended T. R. Proctor High School. As a young man he was privileged to work at the Florentine Pastry Shop. As many of the young men of that era did, James enlisted with the buddy system as a U.S. Marine during the Vietnam War and served as a combat soldier. He was a recipient of numerous decorations and medals. After the war he became a reservist with the 107th MPCO at the Parkway Armory, then reactivated as a part of Operation Desert Storm. In 2002 he was proud to be part of the security team in support of Operation Mobil Eagle. He was quick to protect and serve the NYC community after the 9/11 attacks—it was his innate instinct to comfort and serve others. In 2006 James served his final tour of duty in Iraq. Semper Fi.

In 1972 James wed the former Janet Fontaine. From this union came the blessing of two children, Charles and Luann, the treasures of his life. James' second relationship and marriage was to Antoinette Bruno, with whom he shared companionship until her passing in 2021. James' civilian life included employment with Kelsey Hayes, Bendix Corp., Bossert Manufacturing, as well as various construction jobs that were events that displayed his talents. His last position was with Castle Point VAMC, a job he truly enjoyed.

James lived by the words “if you need me, call me.” He had a generous heart and spirit, and he was a knowledgeable conversationalist. His friendships were deep, and his loyalty was never questioned. No matter where the road took him, he was still a Utica Boy, and there was no place like home. He loved the food, his old friends, and everything that Utica is all about.

James was a great cook and baker, especially of his favorite Italian recipes. He was a talented bowler, and his ball was named “the tank.” He had a passion for classic cars, and an eye for a nice ride. Of all his life’s accomplishments, James was the most proud of his children, being a good Papa, and serving his country with honor. In keeping with his wishes, James will be brought home to Utica and have military honors as a sign of respect for his service to our country.

In 2013, James moved to Knoxville, TN. The southern hospitality and wonderful neighbors in his cul de sac were incredible. He was happy to make the friendship of Mr. Steve Barnes and his wonderful family.

James is survived by his children and their loves, Charles J. and Daniella McKinney, and Luann and Charles Santelli; and their mother, Janet. He is also survived by his grandchildren, twins Giuliana Rose and Liliana Josephine, and Emilia Grace Santelli. He was always mindful of his beloved granddaughter RoseMarie who passed on July 7, 2009. He will be remembered by his sister, Regina Timpson; several nieces and nephews, including Danny and Lisa Baldanza, Louie Baldanza, Kimberly Muldon, and Rosalie Richard as well as their families; many cousins; and many members of the Fabbio family with whom he remained close, Tom, Gloria, Sherri, Tom and Michelle and their families. He was blessed with many wonderful friendships, too numerous to mention, all of which he held close to his heart.

Visitation to be held on Tuesday, March 21, 2023 from 5:00-7:00 p.m. at the Eannace Funeral Home, Inc., 932 South St., corner of Hammond Ave.

Memorial contributions in James’ honor may be made to Feed Our Vets online at www.feedourvets.org; envelopes will also be available at the funeral home.

James’ funeral service and Celebration of Life will commence on Wednesday,

March 22, 2023 at 11:00 a.m at St. Mary/Blessed Sacrament Parish, 648 Jay St., where his Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated with Military Honors conferred by the U.S. Marines. Interment will take place in St. Agnes Cemetery.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82725004617?pwd=aUpiVVBDQVZxaWN3SXg3bWxCdVBrQT09>

Meeting ID: 827 2500 4617

Passcode: 908018

Cemetery Details

St. Agnes Cemetery

601 Arthur Street
Utica, NY 13501
(315) 732-8588

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 21. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Eannace Funeral Home, Inc.
932 South Street
corner of Hammond Ave.
Utica, NY 13501
(315) 724-6714
eannacefh@roadrunner.com

Funeral Service

MAR 22. 11:00 AM (ET)

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

Tribute Wall

JV

“ My sincere condolences to "Jimmy's" family. I was recently informed of Jimmy's passing. I attended Brandegee School with Jimmy and his sister Regina. My Uncle Danny Valenti married Jimmy's mother and I always refereed to Jimmy as my cousin. We served together in PhuBai, Vietnam and at Camp LeJeune, NC when we returned from Vietnam. Jimmy was the Best-Man at my wedding in June 1973. He had a heart of gold! Rest in Peace Marine! Johnny Valenti, Rome, NY.

John C Valenti - August 08, 2025 at 02:00 PM

PP

“ Deepest sympathy to the family of James (Jimmy) McKinney. Jimmy was a wonderful person. My family & I have many fond memories of Jimmy & family & the Mary Street neighborhood. Sending prayers of comfort to the family from Patricia Patterson & family

Patricia Patterson - March 31, 2023 at 10:35 PM

JN

“ Over 20 years ago I met Jimmy McKinney. When I met Jimmy I knew we were going to be instant friends. As I was New to the military he took me under his wing. We went on several deployments together during that time he always looked after me and everyone around him. During the good or the bad he was always there with me. He was a father figure to me a mentor and a wonderful friend. I was blessed to know him and blessed to have him as a part of my life. Jimmy touched so many lives .with him gone the world seems a little less.

James Nessia - March 22, 2023 at 10:41 AM

JG

“ So very sorry to hear of Jims passing. You are in our prayers....The Murray Family

Joan grande - March 21, 2023 at 11:20 AM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Mr. James A. McKinney.



March 19, 2023 at 12:30 PM

JP

“ Rest In Peace my friend. I will always cherish the memories of our teenage years growing up on Mary street. You, Antonio and me had many adventures those days, too many to recall.

To Jim,s family, sorry for your loss.

John Pedulla & Simona

John Pedulla - March 18, 2023 at 10:47 AM

RR

“ Rest in peace uncle Jimmy. You will be dearly missed. Thank you for your service to our country and for the amazing role model you were to Danny, Louie, Kimmie and myself. I know your mother Rose, my grandmother and your beautiful grand-daughter Rose Marie are waiting for you with open arms. Fly with the angels.

Rosalie Richard - March 17, 2023 at 06:13 PM

MC

Jimmy was a wonderful person and will be missed by all. He was like a nephew to my deceased husband Tom and myself although he was Toms cousin. I love all you! RIP Jim!" Prayers and condolences to you all! Peg Colosimo

Margaret (Peg) Colosimo - March 21, 2023 at 12:47 PM

DS

“ So many memories in our cul de sac family. You will forever be loved and missed. Denise Stinnett and family.

Denise Stinnett - March 17, 2023 at 04:35 PM

BG

“ RIP Jimmy. It was an honor serving with you. My condolences to the family on their loss.

Bob Gordon - March 16, 2023 at 10:46 PM

WH

“ RIP Jimmy. It was an honor to service with you. You were man who cared for the troops and always made sure we were well fed. Thank you for service. Rest in Peace my friend.

Will Hall - March 16, 2023 at 09:46 PM

JW

“ RIP Jimmy. It was a pleasure serving with you.

Jon Walker - March 16, 2023 at 08:26 PM