



Mr. James J. "Jim" Piccola, Sr.

February 18, 1939 - August 30, 2024

UTICA – On Friday, August 30, 2024, Mr. James J. "Jim" Piccola, Sr., age 85, was greeted in eternity by the love of his life, his wife Phyllis. At the time of his passing, he was surrounded by the comfort of his family with his beloved New York Yankees playing a victorious game on the television.

A lifelong Utican, Jim was born on February 18, 1939, the son of the late Vincent "Jim" and Adeline (DeMartino) Piccola Guarnieri. A proud graduate of T.R. Proctor High School/Class of 1957, he was involved in the planning of many class reunions. He always felt that Proctor possessed the ability to be the platform for the education of many successful people.

On April 8, 1961, Jim joined in matrimony with his high school sweetheart, the former Philomena M. "Phyllis" DeVito. During their 48 years, they were committed to one another and inseparable until her passing on December 27, 2009.

Jim continued his education at MVTI (now MVCC) and earned his BA in business administration from SUNY of Utica/Rome. He began his career with the Oneida County Department of Social Services in 1961 where he served as Deputy Commissioner of the department from 1964-1975 along with Commissioner Michael J. McGuirl. Jim then departed from the county to head social services/discharge planning at St. Elizabeth Hospital until his retirement

in 1998. He was truly proud of the assistance he gave to the people in the county and community who needed it.

A true gentleman with great strength of character, Jim was an admirable and trusted man who lived by his words and actions. He was above all a loving and supportive father. He and his wife were amazing parents, serving as a united front supporting their children. When grandchildren came along, he happily accepted the title of "Papa," and he and Phyllis were instrumental in nurturing their grandchildren in their formative years. It started with day care and continued to attending sporting events and school activities, never missing any special occasion. His heart truly belonged to his wife, children, grandchildren, and in-laws, the DeVitos, who never forgot him, and he looked forward to spending as much time with them as he could.

Jim participated in several bowling leagues and concluded the evening with a friendly game of cards at Pin-O-Rama. He was also an avid golfer, with Valley View as his preferred fairway.

A member of St. Anthony and St. Agnes Church, he knew and loved the Lord, attended daily Mass, and was a Eucharistic minister in later years.

Jim is survived by his children and their spouses, James J., Jr. and Kathleen Piccola, Vincent J. and Denise Piccola, and Kelly Ann Budlong (the late Timothy Budlong, who passed away on July 5, 2018); grandchildren, Ryan Piccola, Marissa Piccola and fiancé Erik Harris; Vincent J. Piccola, Jr., and Jennifer Lynn Piccola and Jasman Dragovic; beloved nieces and nephews, John A., Jr. and Deidra DeVito, and Kelly J. and Michelle DeVito and their families; the blessing of many cousins; sister-in-law, Eleanor DeVito; and a multitude of friendships that he held dear and were blessings to him throughout his life. He was additionally predeceased by his father-in-law and mother-in-law, Kelly and Antoinette (Treta) DeVito; and brother-in-law, John A.

DeVito, Sr.

The Piccola family wishes to extend their gratitude to Dr. Sudershan Dang, Jim's longtime physician; Dr. Michael Kelberman; the staff of Wynn Hospital, 6th Floor West for their care, affection, and kindness, which the family will always remain mindful of; the Abraham House for the level of comfort, home-like environment, and respect they provided, the family knew Jim was safe and in great care ~ may God bless the mission of this amazing establishment; and to Hospice & Palliative Care, Inc. for their planning skills and attention to Jim's needs.

The family will honor and commemorate his life at a private time. Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend James' Mass of Christian Burial and Celebration of Life, which will commence on Friday, September 6, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. at St. Anthony and St. Agnes Church, 422 Tilden Ave. There will be an opportunity to greet the family at the conclusion of Mass. In lieu of floral offerings, memorial contributions in Jim's honor may be made to the Abraham House online at www.theabrahamhouse.org/donate; envelopes will also be available at the service. Interment will take place in Calvary Cemetery.

Cemetery Details

Calvary Cemetery

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

Previous Events

Funeral Service

SEP 6. 10:00 AM (ET)

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

Tribute Wall

JC

“ Jim, I'm very sorry I wasn't to attend your wonderful father's services. I'm in and have been interested hospital in Syracuse. Please accept mu apologies
Joe Cacoza

Joe Cacoza - September 11, 2024 at 02:59 PM

FM

“ To Jimmy and family - my condolences to you all on the passing of your father. Great to have a dad proud of his son and for you to be proud of your own family. Take care and God bless.
Frank Martello - DeBary,FL.

FM - September 09, 2024 at 03:07 PM



“ Jimmy, I am sorry that I missed the service but I will remember you in my prayers. Hank Tomaino

Henry Tomaino - September 06, 2024 at 01:02 PM

MM

“ We have lost a true gentleman of the highest order. So many fond memories of Jim, and of course Phyllis from “back in the day”. I will especially always remember what a true friend Jim was to my dad for so many years. Indeed, Jim was the best of the best.

Mary McGuirl - September 05, 2024 at 09:29 PM

LF

“ *Jim and Family, I am so sorry to hear of the passing of your Dad. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. God Bless!*



Lynette Franco - September 02, 2024 at 05:08 PM

CS

“ *Jim, Kathy and the Piccola family*

I am so sorry to hear of Jim's passing. I would see him in church at Saint Mary of Mt. Carmel each Sunday and we would have a little chat . When my husband was sick, he never failed to ask each week how he was and to make sure I told my husband he gave his regards. But, anyone could see how much he missed your Mom . I remember always seeing them together . He was a very kind, gentle man and I missed seeing him in his same seat on Sundays. I am truly sorry for your loss. May God Bless him and may you always remember the happy memories of him and with him.
Carol Scampone

CAROL SCAMPONE - September 02, 2024 at 12:47 PM

JC

“ *My heartfelt sympathy to Jim's beautiful family for the loss of a true gentleman and friend. We were friends since grammar school. I'm sure he's so happy to be back by your mom's side. That's how they went through life . God bless you all.*
Jeanne Castronovo

Jeanne Castronovo - September 02, 2024 at 11:51 AM

MC

Dear Piccola Family, my husband and I were so sad to hear of your dad's passing. He and your mother were very good and close friends of ours since high school. We loved them so very much. We are so sorry for your loss. May you rest in peace our dear friend. Please give Phyliss a hug for us. Love always, Babe and Joanne Cannistra.

Mr and Mrs James Cannistra - September 03, 2024 at 10:59 PM