



Mr. John J. Altieri, Jr.

August 7, 1926 - June 30, 2010

Mr. John J. Altieri Jr., age 83, of Utica, passed away unexpectedly on Wednesday, June 30, 2010 at Faxton St. Luke's Healthcare Center with the love and support of his wife.

John was born on August 7, 1926 in Utica, NY, the son of the late John J. Sr. and Angeline (Fanelli) Altieri. He was educated in Utica Schools, graduating Thomas R. Proctor High School in 1944. He entered the United States Naval Service in November of 1944 and served as Radarman Third Class, stationed in Seattle, WA and Trinidad. During his years of service, John was awarded the American Theater Medal and Victory Medal. He was awarded an Honorable Discharge in 1946.

On September 11, 1954, John married Pirina "Perry" De Condo; the couple were married for 55 years. John was employed at R.A.D.C. at Griffiss Air Force Base as Supervisor in Data Management until his retirement in 1981.

John had a strong spirit and passion for creating various food dishes including his quest for the perfect pustie. John's entrepreneurial spirit led him to create and operate several businesses, including co-owning Roman Platter Pizzeria in North Utica, owning and operating several traveling pizza trucks, food stands at State and County Fairs and most recently in 2004, being the owner, operator and chief cook at Cool Beans Café on Commercial Drive. Family was

the eternal flame in John's life. He took great joy in hosting family barbecues every Sunday in the summer. He also loved taking trips with family to the Saratoga Race Track. Every year John's birthday was the cause of great celebrations at his home. He was a parishioner of St. Anthony & St. Agnes Church.

John is survived by his wife, Perry; his son, Dr. John J. Altieri, Sarasota, FL; 2 daughters and their husbands; Cathy and Joseph Ducato, and Patricia and Michael Dispirito; and his grandson and best friend, David Dispirito. John is survived by a sister, Josephine Dacquino; and his in-laws; Gene and Virginia De Condo and Victor De Condo. Also surviving are his nieces and nephews, Diana Dacquino, who was his great poker buddy, Robert De Condo, Joseph and Francine De Condo, Rosemary and Howard Demick, David and Lynn De Condo, Geno De Condo, Jeannine and Craig Reynolds, Donald and Joanna De Condo, Cindy and Jim Fernsler and Michael and Sharon Calamusa; many great-nieces, great-nephews, aunts, uncles and cousins. John enjoyed the company of many close friends, especially Joe Grimaldi, Janice and Tony Monescalchi and Gigi Ruddy, John's adopted niece and 2nd great poker buddy. He was predeceased by his nephew, Joseph Dacquino; in-laws, Thomas Dacquino, Anthony and Theresa De Condo, Anne Belmont, Joseph and Louise De Condo, Victor and Catherine Calamusa, and Pia De Condo.

The family would like to thank all the health care professionals who provided John with compassion and care during his illness. They would also like to extend a special thank you to all the Centro Bus staff who were his "wheels" for the past 3 years. The family is also grateful to the staff at Faxton-St. Luke's Healthcare Center for their genuine kindness.

Visitation will be held on Friday from 4-7 at the Eannace Funeral Home, Inc. 932 South St., corner of Hammond Ave. By family request, please omit floral

offerings. John's funeral service will commence on Saturday morning at 9:30 from the funeral home and at 10:30 at St. Anthony and St. Agnes Church where his Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated. Interment will take place in Calvary Cemetery at the convenience of the family.

Cemetery Details

Calvary Cemetery

2407 Oneida Street
Utica, NY

Tribute Wall



“ Eannace Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Mr. John J. Altieri, Jr.



Eannace Funeral Home, Inc. - June 30, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ Peg-Leg John, A Big Life and a Couple Other Things

John Altieri Jr. was my father-in-law. I met him 31 years ago when I came to his house. I was a 23 year old kid as a member of a baseball team that had been invited to share his daughter, Cathy's college graduation party. There we were, a bunch of pretty tough and tumble boys, 8 or 9 of us marching up his drive-way like "The Wild Bunch". I was the first in line. John stood there smiled, shook my hand and said, "Welcome to my home, the food is just about to be brought out." If you read no more, that, in a nut-shell, was my father-in-law, John Altieri – outgoing, generous and always ready to have a party. The next time I came to his house, I was dating his daughter. I was scared to death. He was an intimidating figure – but he greeted me the same way he did the first time. That was impressive to me.

John lived big. He had big ideas, big dreams, big thoughts. Long before I knew him, he built his family a home he could not afford. He dreamt big things for the people he loved. That house is the house he and his wife and his family have occupied since he built it many years ago, and it now symbolizes, to me, the size of John's heart for his family. He had big dreams for his children and he dreamt of providing them with the educational opportunities he did not have. He had big vacations and cross-country trips with a car full of kids. He had big dreams of winning at the track or of thinking and marketing something that no one had thought of before.

I remember a Palm Sunday dinner with John and his family a couple of years before his daughter, Cathy and I were married. I was sitting at the table and I had my head lowered and before I knew it I felt water hitting my head. It was John, he had a bottle of Holy Water and he was blessing us – all of us – even this kid who had intentions of taking away his daughter. I said to myself, "This guy really does it up, doesn't he."

They say that you shouldn't judge a man by how he treats others,

but how he treats his mother. I had the opportunity to watch the way John treated his mother, Angeline and it was with such affection, it could take your breath away sometimes. There's a photo in an album somewhere of a trip we took to Cape Cod. The photo is of John and his mother walking along the ocean shoreline. His mother had her arm wrapped in John's stronger arm and he was helping her walk and enjoy the ocean. This was the size of his heart.

Later, he became involved in computers and adopted the tag, "Peg Leg John". That was always impressive to me because even with an e-mail name, John could not be small – and I loved the sound of it – truthfully. I made the mistake of telling John to play around with the computer....that he couldn't hurt it. Two hours later, I was called to his house, and I was looking at a black, dead screen. John was not afraid to click. He "surfed" as big as he lived

John wasn't even satisfied with stealing other peoples jokes, like some of us....harumph!...are. He made up his own jokes. Even earlier this year, he silenced us all at the kitchen table to tell us his very own Tiger Wood joke.

Everyone will tell you, so I will tell you too, that John lit up at the mention of his grandson David's name, but I want to tell you that if you ever needed to be refreshed and delivered from the toils and troubles of this world, all you needed to do was watch Dave and his grandfather, Papa interact with one another. Nothing made John laugh harder than a funny story about Dave.

My father-in-law was not perfect. If he had been, he would have been the first, but he was a man who had good intentions and tried to give his loved ones the best this world had to offer. He was a good man and he lived a big, old good life and I truly hope he has now reaped his reward. – Joe Ducato

Joe Ducato - July 02, 2010 at 11:23 AM



“ 1 file added to the album *Memories Album*



Eannace Funeral Home, Inc. - July 01, 2010 at 10:25 AM



“ *Candle lit by*



David J - July 01, 2010 at 06:25 AM



“ *Candle lit by*



David J - July 01, 2010 at 06:25 AM



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David J - July 01, 2010 at 06:24 AM