



## Mr. John C. Ford

January 18, 1921 - September 4, 2014

Mr. John C. Ford, age 93, of the Cornhill section of Utica, passed away on September 4th after a long, happy, fulfilling, and wonderful life.

Born in Waterville, NY on January 18, 1921, John was the son of the late Mark and Jennie (Hughes) Ford. Raised and educated locally, he was a graduate of Utica Free Academy. He furthered his education at Syracuse University where he received his Bachelor of Science and Master of Arts degrees. A proud veteran of the United States Army, he honorably served his country during World War II stationed in the European Theater of Operations. His awards include battle stars for Normandy and the Battle of Northern France. He was also recently awarded the NY State Distinguished Service Cross for his service during WWII.

After returning from the war, John was the owner and operator of the Greengate Tavern in Rome. He would go to Eddie's Paramount Diner down the street from the Greengate for coffee and pie where he met Assunda "Sue" George, the love of his life. She worked there as a waitress and they began their journey of life together after he asked her at the diner, "If I thought you would say yes, I'd ask you to marry me". On October 25, 1952, they were married and have been devoted to each other from that day through their entire 62 years of married life.

John began his career at the Utica College on Oneida Square as a counselor in the office of Veterans Affairs. Other positions included Bursar, Comptroller and eventually he was appointed as Vice-President and Treasurer, the

position from which he retired in 1995. John was instrumental in preventing NY State from buying the college to use for their planned SUNY institution. Also, John engineered the sale of the College's golf course to the City of Utica, which is now the Utica Business Park. The endowment that was created from the sale provided the funds for UC to buy the old Ramada Inn, which today is still known as the Burrstone House. John was also instrumental in promoting Utica College to divest from Syracuse University. His 42 year investment in Utica College helped put it where it is today.

John was a member of Kiwanis International, where at one time he served as President. During his retirement days, John could often be found golfing on the greens at the local links. He also loved animals, especially cats, dogs and cows.

The world lost a great man: He was the perfect husband, perfect father, perfect grandfather, perfect friend and a saint on Earth. (the patron saint of comedy, of course!) John was a giving man, a loving man, and a man of faith. He was easy-going and always available to help anyone in need. John was a devoted Catholic and was a long time parishioner of St Francis de Sales Church, and later, Historic Old St. John's Church.

John would say he was a skillful carpenter, master VW mechanic, clever inventor, talented singer and song writer, sensitive poet, and strong horse wrestler.

John is survived by his wife, Assunda "Sue"; his children and their spouses, Dr. Sue Ford of NYC, J. Mark and Echo Ford of Utica, Peggy and Robert "Bob" Lounsbury of Saratoga Springs, Gary Ford of Marcy, Nancy L. Ford of Utica, and Keith Ford of Connecticut; his grandchildren, Dr. Jenny Lounsbury, Diana, Stephanie, Allan and James "Jamie" Lounsbury and wife, Kalea, and Jessica and Julia Ford, and newest grandson, Johnnie Ford; and his sister, Elizabeth "Betty" Greer of Deerfield. His extended family includes his many nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, cousins, and in-laws, Mary Romano, Rose "RoRo" Collier, and Winifred George. He was predeceased by his sister, Agnes Ford; his brother and sister-in-law, George and Florence

Ford; and his in-laws, Harold Greer, Anthony Romano, Linda Lagrotteria, Dominick Maio, Katherine and Leonard Cecilia, and Vincent George. Visitation will be held Sunday, September 7th, from 2:00 to 4:00 pm at the Eannace Funeral Home, Inc., 932 South St., corner of Hammond Ave. Memorial contributions in John's honor may be made to Utica College, the John C. Ford Endowment Fund, 1600 Burrstone Rd, Utica, NY 13502; envelopes will be available at the funeral home. John's funeral service and Celebration of Life will commence on Monday, September 8th at 9:00 am from the funeral home and at 10:00 am at Historic Old St. John's Church where his Mass of Christian Burial will be offered by Rev. John Buehler. Committal prayers and interment will take place graveside at Calvary Cemetery with Military Honors conferred.

There are scores of stories of John's random acts of kindness to family, friends and strangers. The family suggests honoring John's life by extending a random act of kindness.

"Where there once was snoring, there is now only a deafening silence."

# Cemetery Details

## Calvary Cemetery

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

# Previous Events

## Visitation

SEP 7. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

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

# Tribute Wall

RH

“ Dear Mrs. Ford, John was a wonderful guy who was beloved by all who knew him. My mom (Alice Howard) worked with John at UC for many years and always spoke so highly of him right up to her passing last year. I would often visit Mom at the Oneida Square and Burrstone campuses and Mr. Ford always took time to say hello and share our experiences . A truly terrific guy who will be forever in my heart and mind.

*With deep sympathy, Bob Howard (class of 1971)*

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**Robert Howard** - September 14, 2014 at 01:00 PM

FL

“ Dear Mrs. Ford and children,

*It deeply saddens me to learn of Mr. Ford's passing and I'm so sorry that you are suffering this great loss. My father, F. Clark Laurie, worked with John Ford for many years at Utica College and always spoke of him highly. He was enriched by his association with Mr. Ford as they ever conspired to give the college their best. The results of those untiring efforts are apparent today and well noted in Mr. Ford's obituary. I am grateful for Mr. Ford's kindness to me during the early years of Utica College when faculty and staff would often gather as close knit devoted families. Those were wonderful times.*

*Please be comforted by knowing that Mr. Ford lived his life fully with great honor and love. Though tragic, death is not final and soon loved ones will be united in paradise on earth forever. "Do not be amazed at this, for the hour is coming in which all those in memorial tombs will hear his voice and come out." John 5: 28, 29.*

*F. Kerns Laurie*

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**F. Kerns Laurie** - September 09, 2014 at 12:38 AM

PG

“ Dear Sue and family,  
Heartfelt condolences. John was so helpful to me during my years at UC. I have often shared stories about how this generous man connected me to a pathway of funding a substantial share of my undergraduate program at UC. Fond memories of a man I admired.

*Phil Geraci*

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**Philip Geraci** - September 08, 2014 at 10:21 PM

BW

“ Dear Sue and Family,  
Having lived next door to you most of my life I have had the opportunity to spend some great moments with John. At times I have looked at John as a father figure, a man of reason and a man with unlimited common sense. I remember the day my father died and John came over and hugged me. I will never forget that hug, nor will I ever forget what a great man that he was. My God bless John and family. No man could ever live a greater life.

*PS: I can see John with Bill and Rosemary right now.*

*Respectfully Billy & Marnie Williams*

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**Billy Williams** - September 08, 2014 at 04:42 PM

PW

“ J.Mark and Family, I am very sorry for your loss of a great man who I'm sure made each and every one of you the person you are today.

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**Paul J Witte** - September 08, 2014 at 09:51 AM

DL

“ *Sue and Family,*  
*My deepest condolences on the loss of a gentle, kind man. My Father, Donald D. Snyder enjoyed John's friendship and now they are all up there laughing and partying with the rest of the family, Tony, Katie, Leggs, Linda, Grandma George...God bless you Sue and your family through this difficult time of loss.*  
*Sincerely,*  
*Dena Snyder Lafferty*

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**Deana Snyder Lafferty** - September 08, 2014 at 08:46 AM

MT

“ *Gary, our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.*  
  
*Margo & Greg Taylor*

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**Margo Taylor** - September 08, 2014 at 07:52 AM

FB

“ *Though not among the founders of Utica College in 1946, John was of their kind--decent, thoughtful, and utterly committed to the welfare of the college. Someone once called him a bean counter; I always felt good knowing that with John someone was in charge of finances who turned a nickel over three times before he spent it.*  
*My respects to John, and my condolences to Sue and the family.*  
*Frank Bergmann, UC professor emeritus*

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**Frank Bergmann** - September 07, 2014 at 06:35 PM

MG

“ Aunt Sue, Keith, Mark, Gary, Peggy, Nancy and Susy

*I've known just today about uncle John passed away.  
I wish you to know that myself, Mara, Rafael and Giulia are close to you.*

*He Was a really nice person and I had the honor to know him when I visit you in Utica. A big hug to you all and in a special way to Aunt Sue,*

*Marco, Mara, Rafel and Giulia*

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**marco giorgi** - September 07, 2014 at 05:02 PM

KS

“ Sue you know I've known you a little more than I've known John but loved all the stories you told me about him. What a wonderful husband and father he was. You shared so many stories that I actually felt like I knew him personally and I know how much he was loved by all. He will be deeply missed but just keep all of those lovely stories and memories close to your heart and he will never really be gone. Love you. Kathie. My thoughts and prayers are with you and the family



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**Kathie Scalise** - September 06, 2014 at 10:22 PM

DL

“ Mark and Family,  
Sorry to hear about the passing of your Dad. Met him once at the Golf Course and enjoyed his wit and smile. I hope you will remember and have the same smile when you think of him.

*Dominic N. Longo*

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**Dominic Longo** - September 06, 2014 at 06:52 PM

DS

“ 1 file added to the album Memories



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**Daughter Sue** - September 06, 2014 at 08:07 AM

PT

*This is so "John"...always interesting and ready to put a new spin on something as simple as a map...and all the Judd Roads! Love it!*

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**Pat Tedesco** - September 06, 2014 at 04:51 PM

JM

“ *Nancy and family, may you feel God's love surround you during this difficult time. My thoughts and prayers are with you all. God bless you, with love Jacque*

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**Jacque Murad** - September 06, 2014 at 08:02 AM

HC

“ *Keith, Trel and I are so sorry for your loss, I know what it is like to lose a parent, I just buried my mother this past Thursday, hold on to your memories and they never will be forgotten, your in our thoughts brother*



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**Harry Walters, Meriden, CT** - September 06, 2014 at 07:13 AM

TF

“ Our world just got a whole lot smaller with the loss of your dad but heaven will certainly never be the same now. We will keep him and all of you in our prayers.



Tim & Colleen Moylan Family - September 06, 2014 at 05:39 AM

JP

“ Working with John C. Ford at Utica College you could never take yourself too serious, But, make no mistake, he was sharp, witty, smart and modest. Didn't have to dress like a pro golfer to enjoy the game, but that's what I liked about him, he was down to earth. When I worked with him in the 90s I can remember a sign he had someone put up in the bathrooms, that explained proper use if microwaves.. Do not walk away from them when using them, especially for making baked Alaska! Of course it was directed at me because I had burned popcorn the day before and set off the smoke alarm! A great person and very glad our paths met.

Jill Pekarski - September 05, 2014 at 10:34 PM

JP

“ Jill Pekarski lit a candle in memory of Mr. John C. Ford



Jill Pekarski - September 05, 2014 at 10:07 PM

MA

“ *Mark lit a candle in memory of Mr. John C. Ford*



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**Mark** - September 05, 2014 at 08:34 PM

L8

“ *Condolences to the Ford family.*



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**Laurie Robinson UC class of 87'** - September 05, 2014 at 07:37 PM

KC

“ *K.A. Cecilia-Rivera purchased the Sincerest Sorrow - Lavender and White for the family of Mr. John C. Ford.*



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**K.A. Cecilia-Rivera** - September 05, 2014 at 06:04 PM

PT

“ *John Ford, the most outstanding man I have ever known! He was kind, gentle, responsible, loyal, serious, hilarious, intelligent, intimately and personally knew the workings of all VW's, adored his wife and children, could get down and dirty or be equally at ease with "high brows", played golf with real "wood" clubs, knew who he was and was comfortable in his own skin! He once pretended to be a "flasher" at Utica College when he was the Comptroller.*

*The world has lost an outstanding man! Most memorable for me is that*

*Sue and John were instrumental in my returning to college to pursue my degree. Pat Tedesco*

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**Pat Tedesco** - September 05, 2014 at 04:32 PM

KF

“ *Kathleen F. purchased the White Sympathy Floor Basket for the family of Mr. John C. Ford.*



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**Kathleen F.** - September 05, 2014 at 04:15 PM