



Mr. John A. Potenza, Sr.

June 24, 1932 - November 16, 2016

Mr. John A. Potenza, Sr., age 84, a native Utican, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, November 16, 2016 surrounded by loving family in Syracuse where he had made his home for the past 10 years.

Born in Utica on June 24, 1932, John was one of nine children born to the late Vito and Serafina (Dellerba) Potenza. He was a graduate of T.R. Proctor High School/Class of 1950. A proud veteran of the United States Army Corps of Engineers, John honorably served his country from 1954-1956 during the Korean Conflict. On September 21, 1957 he married his high school sweetheart, the former Nancy Convertino. He then continued his education at Utica College of Syracuse University where he graduated cum laude in 1960 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Physics. During their nearly 35 years of marriage, John and Nancy were all about family. They sacrificed for their children, and “the boys” were their life. The blessing of grandchildren made their life even better. Nancy passed away on September 12, 1992.

John worked at Griffiss Air Force Base as an Electrical Engineer developing radar and sonar technology, retiring in 1988. As a patriarch, his family was his greatest source of pride. He enjoyed coaching his sons’ Little League baseball teams, and he fondly reminisced about the wonderful times and memories made at family holiday parties and reunions. His leisure pursuits included gardening, remodeling his home, and playing golf, tennis, horseshoes, billiards, and bowling. John was also concerned with civic interests and was active in community and social affairs. In his retirement years he lovingly

cared for his wife Nancy, spent time with his family, and volunteered at Faxon Hospital, St. Francis De Sales Church, and Hospice & Palliative Care. John was a humble, giving man of great faith. He was a member of St. Anthony of Padua Church, St. Francis De Sales Church, the Knights of St. John Commandery #385, the Social Athletic Club, and was more recently a parishioner of St. Anthony & St. Agnes Church.

John will be remembered for his many altruistic attributes and his pleasant persona, especially his slight smile,... always a sign of his appreciation and love.

John is survived by his sons and daughters-in-law, Dr. Vito J. and Ann Potenza of Rochester, Dr. Mark S. and Theresa Potenza of Syracuse, and John, Jr. and Jean Potenza of Endwell; his grandchildren, Gina and Robert Rigsby, and John Potenza; Dr. Marissa Potenza and fiancé Tom Burke, Christopher Potenza, Nicholas Potenza, Joseph Potenza, Anthony Potenza, Matthew Potenza; Dominica Potenza, and Michael Potenza; and his great-grandson, Robert Rigsby. He was blessed to share a great companionship with the late Marilyn Goodman who preceded him. He also leaves many nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, cousins, and in-laws, Josephine "Jody" Potenza, Eugene DeMonte, Anna Marie Leach, Sebastian "Sal" "Buster" Convertino, and Betty Convertino. He was predeceased by his sisters and brothers-in-law, Agatha "Ida" and Peter DeCarlo, Catherine "Kay" and Rocco Graziadei, Rose and Joseph Fiore, Palma "Polly" and Raymond Zangrilli, and Mary and Sebastian "Buster" DiCesare; his brothers and sisters-in-law, Dominick and Anne Potenza, Stephen and Mary Potenza, and Abbate "Pat" Potenza; and his in-laws, Potenza "Pat" DeMonte, Robert Leach, and Frank J. Convertino.

The family extends their gratitude to the caring staff of the Brookdale Senior Living Center and the friends John made as a resident over the past 10 years; the personnel of the Intensive Care Unit at Upstate Medical University Hospital in Syracuse for the care rendered to John; their professionalism, attentiveness, and compassion were greatly appreciated; and Fr. Denny

Hayes for his spiritual guidance and blessings.

Visitation will be held Sunday from 3:00-6:00 at the Eannace Funeral Home, Inc., 932 South St., corner of Hammond Ave., Utica NY. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in honor of John to the Abraham House in remembrance of those who received love and attention in their greatest time of need at www.theabrahamhouse.org; envelopes will be available at the funeral home. John's funeral service and Celebration of Life will commence on Monday morning at 10:00 from the funeral home and at 11:00 at St. Anthony & St. Agnes Church where his Mass of Christian Burial will be offered by Rev. Mark Kaminski. Committal prayers and Military Honors will take place in Calvary Cemetery Mausoleum.

Cemetery Details

Calvary Mausoleum

2407 Oneida Street
Utica, Ny

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV **20**. 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

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

Tribute Wall

AM

“ I never met John Potenza but know his son Vito very well. Judging from how well he raised his son then John must have been an incredible person. Our prayers go out to Vito and Ann as well as the rest of the family.

Andy and Carolyn Murphy

Andrew Murphy - November 23, 2016 at 10:44 AM

AK

“ Vito, our heartfelt condolences go out to you and your family May you find comfort in the precious memories of your father. Angela and Mike Kasperowicz

Angela Kasperowicz - November 20, 2016 at 05:10 PM

LF

“ Loretta Francati lit a candle in memory of Mr. John A. Potenza, Sr.



Loretta Francati - November 20, 2016 at 04:05 PM

LM

“ I worked with John at Rome Lab for over 20 years and we were good friends always sharing family stories and I know now he is with the Angels in heaven. I am so sorry for your loss. Loretta Marks/Charlotte NC

Loretta Marks - November 20, 2016 at 08:24 AM

LP

“ So sorry for your loss. Are condolences to Mark, Theresa and the Potenza family. From Lisa and Ed Przywara

Lisa & Ed Przywara - November 20, 2016 at 07:39 AM



“ Dish Garden with Fresh Cut Flowers was purchased for the family of Mr. John A. Potenza, Sr..



November 19, 2016 at 01:55 PM

FR

“ FAMILY VITO POTENZA GINO D'ANGELO ROBERT RIGSBY purchased the Multicolor Pastel Mixed Flower Standing Cross for the family of Mr. John A. Potenza, Sr..



FAMILY VITO POTENZA GINO D'ANGELO ROBERT RIGSBY
- November 19, 2016 at 10:40 AM

M(

“ Michael, Jocelyne, Norma, Linda & Dave (D'Angelo) purchased the Yellow & White Mixed Fireside Basket for the family of Mr. John A. Potenza, Sr..



Michael, Jocelyne, Norma, Linda & Dave (D'Angelo) -
November 19, 2016 at 09:25 AM



“ *Simply Lily was purchased for the family of Mr. John A. Potenza, Sr..*



November 19, 2016 at 08:02 AM



“ *Buon Giorno!!!....Buona Sera!!!.....Never Arrivederci!!!!.....Having had the blessing to have interacted personally with John through life's events, family gatherings and his beloved grandchildren I can never forget the joyous smiles and embraces of love and affection that are innate to his nature....his words were few but they held weight because the spiritual love inside the learned man is immense...filled with pride and honor to be Papa Potenza gazing at the bevy of his children....and childrens' children!!!.....the content on his face was the happiness of God's creation through his graces....my connection with Papa Potenza across knowledge, assimilation and family was filled with respect, love, humor, advice and spirit. My family will miss our Roman Centurian who lived life with honor and valor....to this we greet always the memory of this inspiring Father with Good Morning.....Good Night.....never Goodbye.... because we will always march together as one unit....one family. Ciao John!! C'e vediamo un giorno pronto ensiemo....Papa Gino, Nana Albina, Carmen & Rhonda D'Angelo & Children*

Carmen D'Angelo - November 19, 2016 at 06:57 AM



“ *To my Family and Friends of John, Grandpa John will truly be missed. He was the glue the helped bring the Potenza's together on our many special occasions. He was a humble man that taught us all about family values. I am proud to be his grandson and a member of our now vastly large family tree. My thoughts and regards to all who will be attending the funeral.*

John Potenza - November 19, 2016 at 02:19 AM

MZ

“ *Dear Vito, Ann, Mark, Theresa, John and Jean, Our thoughts and prayers are with you all. Cousin Mary has so sincerely expressed our sentiments about the passing of your dad ...our sweet Uncle John. I will ALWAYS remember that smile of his, his quick wit and that special wink he would give me every time we would see eachother. He had left behind a beautiful family ; sons , daughter in laws and grandchildren that he simply adored and so incredibly proud of. May his legacy live on in the generations to come. Love always, cousins Maria and Alex and family*



maria zammit - November 18, 2016 at 10:30 PM



“ *Healing Tears - Blue and White was purchased for the family of Mr. John A. Potenza, Sr..*



November 18, 2016 at 01:45 PM

MH

“ To my cousins - I am so very sad to hear that our wonderful uncle John has left us. It's so hard to believe that all our beautiful aunts and uncles are gone. The only comfort I find is knowing that all the siblings are together now along with grandma and grandpa in Paradise. I know we will all be reunited one day.

What a legacy our grandparents left us! We are all so blessed to have been born into the incredible POTENZA family! We will always be able to look to our wonderful memories and reflect on the good old days! It is up to all of us cousins now to carry on our grandparent's and parent's legacy that was left for us.

Although our lives get busy and the years go by it is up to us to remain close and get together whenever possible.

Cousins, please know our thoughts and prayers are with all of you as we say goodbye to the "baby" of our amazing family. May our beautiful uncle John rest in peace and may our Lord comfort all of us through this difficult time

*With my sincerest sympathy, prayers and all my love,
Cousin Mary & "Always" My Bob*

Mary Beth Hughes - November 17, 2016 at 07:40 PM

MS

Mark, Theresa and Family - We were sorry to hear of the loss of your father/grandfather. Our thoughts and prayers are with all of you. Mary Ellen and Tony Scott and family

Mary Ellen Scott - November 29, 2016 at 10:16 AM