

Mr. John J. Scarfo

December 9, 1925 - February 2, 2020

UTICA - Mr. John J. Scarfo, age 94, departed peacefully on Sunday, February 2, 2020 at the Masonic Care Community with those he loved most in his heart.

Born in Utica on December 9, 1925, John was the son of the late John M. and Alice (Marino) Scarfo. Raised and educated locally, he attended T.R. Proctor High School. A profoundly patriotic man, John proudly enlisted in the United States Marine Corps before he was old enough at the age of 17. He honorably served his country during World War II from 1943-1946 stationed in the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations, 2nd Battalion 5th Marine Division. A survivor of the battle of Iwo Jima, wounded in war, John was the recipient of a Purple Heart Medal and a first-hand witness as his comrades in arms raised the flag on Mount Suribachi. John lived by the code, "Once a Marine, always a Marine".

On May 22, 1948 he wed the former Josephine Bruno in a marriage of their era: he was the patriarch and provider, and she was the matriarch and maintainer of the home. Together, they loved, laughed, and lived a beautiful life during their 64 years together. The three most triumphant moments in John's life were marrying his Josephine, surviving the injury of war, and being blessed with the love of his three children, Joanne, Anthony, and Donna. His light and love, Josephine predeceased him on April 2, 2013. He had a far reach, was well liked and well known, and he was always thankful for the love

of his family, and his many multi-generational friendships that kept him going.

John's first place of employment was at American Emblems. He later worked at the Regal Dye Tool Company, and Durr's Packing Company. Later landing on a career path he truly loved, John aspired to become a pastry chef. He was employed at Florentine Pastry Shop on Bleecker Street, and continued there for the next 18 years. Pusties (pasticciotto) were his specialty.

A combat Marine turned pastry chef who retired in 1982, he did not stay idle for long. His expertise and experience remained actively at work when he was called upon by Dean and Jason Nole of Càfe CaNole for his mentorship. He affectionately called them the "kids", and was profoundly honored to be able to pass down his experience and knowledge as they launched their business. They always said he did the work of 4 young men at the age of 70. His extraordinary work ethic and commitment were integral parts of this local treasure and he was always so proud to be a part of it.

John was the cornerstone of the family. Everyone around him was drawn to him. He was a headstrong, determined man, softened with sharp wit, humor, and a huge compassionate heart. He would command a room with his full repertoire of jokes and stories that he could recite at any given time, no matter the occasion or the appropriateness. They would always be delivered to a captivating audience but often interrupted by his vintage John Scarfo chuckle and cheeky grin. He never failed to fill a room with roaring laughter.

He was known for his unforgettable thick crop of white hair, flawless skin - most women envied - and a signature cigar in his mouth.

He was a man of high principle, deep character, and always shared the wisdom of experience. He came from a time when life was slower, and every relationship was meaningful; he put all his effort and love into everything he did. He was always aware that time was precious and made sure to take

advantage of every moment. Holidays were always at his home, and food was a focal point. He was known for his hot peppers and often gave them as gifts. They were “dynamite” and could cure any ailment! In his younger years, he enjoyed fishing, league bowling, hosting card games at his home on Monday nights, and watching old Westerns and war movies. He and his gracious wife Josephine turned the upper level of their home into a Bed and Breakfast for war buddies and traveling veterans and their families. His patriotism, love of country, and camaraderie were evident in every aspect of his life.

He was a member of the Disabled American Veterans (DAV), the Purple Heart Association and as a member traveled across the country to attend annual meetings with his 5th Marine Division, and the Tau Phi Zeta Briscoles. He was honored with several trips to Washington, DC, to visit the Iwo Jima Memorial statue near Arlington Cemetery, and another to be a part of an NBC documentary depicting WWII. John was often interviewed and commemorated. While he was reticent to mention his accomplishments, his family is so grateful for the many documented recollections of his life. For the most recent print compilation we thank Joseph Bottini of the writers project for the last piece written that we will hold close to our hearts always.

John is survived by his son, Anthony “Scarf” Scarfo; his daughters, Donna Cardillo, and the memory of his son-in-law Victor F. Cardillo who preceded him on July 16, 2019, and Joanne French and Peter Cucci; his grandchildren, Mark and Katie French, Michael and Carrie French, Rob and Jamie French; Victoria Cardillo and Anthony Mangano, and Patrick Cardillo and Cheyenne Hawkins; great-grandchildren, Jordan, Emily, and Kaylee; Matthew, and Alex; Robbie, Jason, and Julie; his “Grand-Dog”, Bailey; and his brother, Phil Scarfo. He also leaves many nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, cousins, and brother-in-law, George Pavese. A special thank you to those Johnny considered family: Joe and Rosemary Caruso for their beautiful

friendship, and Joe Priore (and family). He was grateful for neighbors that turned into family. A heartfelt thank you to Joe Fraccola for all his support and involvement with military recognitions, and many friends too numerous to mention. His wish was to thank all of them for their love and loyalty. He was predeceased by his brothers and sisters-in-law, Francis and Virginia Scarfo, Joseph and Harriet Scarfo, and Anthony "Tony" and Florence Scarfo; and sisters and brothers-in-law, Theresa and Frank Audino Sr., Marie and George Didio, and Louise Pavese.

The family is grateful to the staff of the Masonic Care Community and notably the entire Raquette Household who were always outstanding. Thank you for learning John, and personalizing his care. Thank you for not only being his caregivers but his friends. He always said how special he felt with this team of people by his side.

Visitation will be held Thursday from 5:00-7:00 at the Eannace Funeral Home, Inc., 932 South St., corner of Hammond Ave. In lieu of floral offerings, those wishing to express an act of kindness in John's memory may make a donation to the Central New York Veterans Outreach Center online at <https://www.ucdevelopment.org/veterans-outreach/>. Envelopes will be available at the funeral home.

John's funeral service and Celebration of Life will commence on Friday morning at 10:30 at the funeral home with Military Honors conferred. Entombment will take place in Resurrection Chapel Mausoleum at Holy Trinity Cemetery at the convenience of the family.

Lastly, thank you John Scarfo for your service, for telling your stories and for instilling the importance of sacrifice, respect, honor, and all your love to everyone you have touched. Thank you to all the John Scarfos of our nation, truly The Greatest Generation. Semper Fi!

Cemetery Details

Resurrection Chapel Mausoleum at the convenience of the family

1500 Champlin Avenue
Utica, NY

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 6. 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

Celebration of Life

FEB 7. 10:30 AM (ET)

Eannace Funeral Home, Inc.
932 South Street
corner of Hammond Ave.
Utica, NY 13501
(315) 724-6714
eannacefh@roadrunner.com
<https://www.eannacefuneralhome.com>

Tribute Wall

MA

“ So very sorry, sending love from the old Hammond Ave Arrigo family.

Maria Arrigo-sequin - February 07, 2020 at 12:10 PM



“ To Joanne, Donna and family, I am so very sorry for your loss, your dad was a gem, so easy to love, always with a smile on his face, I will miss seeing him around the community. Thinking of you all at the difficult time, Debbie Acker, RN.

Debra Acker - February 07, 2020 at 08:45 AM

DE

“ Johnny was wonderful to work with at Cafe Canole. I was just a young teen at the time and it was my first job. It was a great first job opportunity and it was because of the people I worked with, Johnny was the greatest. I remember him telling his stories and they were with great passion and pride, he was an inspiration. God Bless his family at this difficult time, may he reunite with family and friends above keeping you all safe here on earth.

-Deanna

Deanna - February 07, 2020 at 07:03 AM

DA

“ Tony

I am so sorry for your loss .. my thoughts are with you.

Danielle Coco-Brucker

Danielle - February 06, 2020 at 07:48 PM

GC

“ To the Scarfo family, John was wonderful to our dad while they were at Masonic Home together. He was a kind heart and had some great stories he shared with us. Always smiling and greeting our kids with a joke. Thinking of you all at this difficult time. Sending our love.
Pat and Gina Corridori



Gina Corridori - February 06, 2020 at 10:28 AM

SA

“ So sad for us here but lucky for those in heaven to have him. Such a lovely man. He was my partner for coffee and a smoke!

Sandie Aurilio

Sandie - February 06, 2020 at 06:16 AM

JA

“ To the family of John Scarfo “my boss” it was a pleasure and a privilege to take of your loved one. John was a great man and will live on in all of our hearts. Raquette will never be the same, we are all saddened, as John has become family to so many if us. May God Bless all if you 🙏 Jamie Corbett LPN

jamie - February 05, 2020 at 10:05 PM

JL

“ My condolences to John's family. I was so saddened to read of his passing. John was one of the best. John drove at my wedding to Dominick Rocco, Jr. I am happy that I have photos of him. He was just the nicest, caring man ever. We kept in touch all these years. He is reunited with Josephine.

Jessie Lechevet - February 05, 2020 at 11:50 AM

SB

“ I always enjoyed visiting with John, and earlier with Josephine when I did their nails. They were interesting and enjoyable people. Miss tem dearly. Sharon Burkert Sharon's Nails

Sharon Burkert - February 05, 2020 at 11:11 AM

CG

“ Dear Joanne and Donna, I am so sorry for your loss. Your father was a truly remarkable man. God Bless him.

Carm Guarnieri - February 05, 2020 at 09:31 AM

JO

“ Dear Joanne and Donna,
Thinking of you with love and sympathy.

Jody Guarnieri

Jody - February 05, 2020 at 09:07 AM

AU

“ To John's friends, family and loved ones, please know the entire extended Eannace family sends our warmest thoughts, wishes, and prayers to you all. Our patriarch, Ralph J. Eannace and John shared an amazing friendship. That meant that John was present for so many of our lasting memories. We are so thankful to have known him and share his warmth, joy, and humor. We sincerely hope the two of them get to share many laughs now that they have aspired to the same higher ground. Semper Fi, John, and please tell our grandfather we send our love.

Warmly,
Adam Ullman (Eannace)

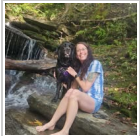
Adam Ullman - February 05, 2020 at 07:44 AM

SS

“ Words can not express how saddened I was to hear about John's passing. I will miss spending time with him chatting as he enjoyed his morning cookies and coffee. He loved chatting about the weather, his family, and joking. I was fascinated by the stories he shared about his experiences it was nothing a book could ever tell you. It was an absolute honor to have met him.

Sincerely,
Stena Swanson

Stena Swanson - February 05, 2020 at 03:50 AM



“ To Donna, Joanne, and family , thank you For being wonderful people , first and foremost. I am so glad I had the pleasure of meeting you all and your dad. He became a special part of my heart from the moment he came to the Raquette household. I loved him and sincerely learned the appreciation we should have for our respected military and local communities. I express my great gratitude to you all for your presence and knowledge you taught me and for the wonderful man your father (uncle, grandpa, etc.) was. I am blessed and honored To know a hero, and a friend. And the amazing family he had by his side. God bless. -Trista Fuller

Trista Fuller - February 05, 2020 at 03:21 AM

LB

“ So sorry to hear about your loss. Your dad was a gentle man with a warm smile. I have fond memories of living across the street from all of you and of course all those delicious pastries! May he Rest In Peace. Love Joe and Lu Buttiglieri (Monopoli)

lucille buttiglieri - February 04, 2020 at 08:03 AM