



## John J. Velletto, Sr.

December 4, 1927 - January 18, 2007

Mr. John J. Velletto, Sr., age 79, of Frankfort, passed away unexpectedly on Thursday, January 18, 2007, at the St. Elizabeth Medical Center with his loving family by his side.

Born in Buchannon, West Virginia, John was the son of the late Dominick Velletto and the late Laura (Barbino) Velletto Elacqua. He was also blessed with the love and guidance of his step-father, Anthony Elacqua. He was raised and educated in Utica, and as a veteran of the Korean Conflict, he served his country in the U.S. Army. On October 14, 1950 he married the former Joan Balsamo with whom he shared 56 years in a loving union.

John's career as a truck driver and operating engineer spanned many years. He was a member of the Teamsters Local 182. For leisure pursuits he enjoyed bowling and golf.

Mr. Velletto is survived by his wife, Joan; his step-father, Anthony Elacqua; his daughter, Lisa Velletto of Frankfort; his sons and daughters-in-law, John and Valerie A. Velletto, Jr. of Utica, Gary Velletto of Utica, and Anthony and Crystal Velletto of California; and a special daughter-in-law, Thalia Hunter of Whitesboro. Also surviving are his grandchildren, Jon David Velletto and his fiancée Arifa Pehlic, Carin Velletto and her fiancé Frank Crouse, Gary Velletto and Reesa Hodge, Christopher Velletto, and Anthony, Andrea, and Abraham Velletto; and his great-grandchildren, Tiana, Gary III, Mariana, and Giana. His extended family includes several nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, cousins, and his in-laws, Felix Colosimo and Raymond and Sally

Arcuri. He was predeceased by his sister, Mary Colosimo, his nephew, Joseph Colosimo, and his in-laws, Joseph and Mary Balsamo, and William G. "Bill" and Rosemary P. (Balsamo) Meola.

Heartfelt thanks are extended to the doctors, nurses, and staff of the St. Elizabeth Medical Center, and to John's special friends and neighbors especially acknowledging Benny and Kelly Rotundo and Rock and Lena Carzo for all that they have done to assist the family.

Visitation will be held Monday (today) from 4-7 at the Eannace Funeral Home, Inc., 932 South St., corner of Hammond Ave. By family request, please omit floral offerings. Mr. Velletto's funeral will commence on Tuesday morning at 9:30 from the funeral home and at 10:30 at St. Anthony of Padua Church where his Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated. Interment will take place in Calvary Cemetery at the convenience of the family.

# Tribute Wall



“ i love you poppie @ i can't wait to be up there with you##imported-begin##abraham velletto##imported-end##

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October 17, 2007 at 02:58 PM



“ still missing you papa##imported-begin##lisa##imported-end##

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October 08, 2007 at 06:09 PM



“ iMdx1x bhsdrjkbvfjksbhfsvkbdfkv##imported-begin##John##imported-end##

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June 17, 2007 at 09:09 AM



“ dsgsdg##imported-begin##dsg##imported-end##

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June 14, 2007 at 04:36 PM



“ higuys!What yourblog powered by?##imported-begin##aarst##imported-end##

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May 07, 2007 at 04:08 PM



“ Nice site!##imported-begin##Soneib##imported-end##

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March 10, 2007 at 10:35 PM



“ in honer of my father inlaw john velletto.

*thankyou, john for loving me bye loving my children. every time you called and ask about my childern or asked to talk to them you were loving me, everytime you encoraged them or teaching them you were loveing me. everytime you were holding them, and hugeing them and playing with them you were loveing me, everytime you were looking at them with that sparkle of joy and love in your eye, and that smile of of great pleasure and the laughter of pure joy , you were loving me. thankyou john i could have not ask for a better poppie for my children . you gave them your heart and they received it, and my children gave you there heart and you treasured it and cared and protected , and valued there hearts. in this john you were truly loving me thankyou. the futher gatherings of this family will never be the same without you the memory of you well comfort us, and keep you alive. i can only hope that when its my chikdrens turn to be a poppie, they will reflect on you and how you were and the things you said and did, and in memory use you to help giude them to give to there grandchild the same , as what you have freely given them thankyuo john for loveing me , i love you and i cant wait too see you again in the preance of our god lord and savoier jesus christ.. p.s john i only wished i would have shared these things with you while you were still here so that you would have known how i vauled and loved you...love crysat###imported-begin##crystal velletto##imported-end##*

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January 22, 2007 at 01:59 PM



“ Carin and family, Im so sorry to hear about your loss. I know how tough it can be. If you need anything I am here for you.##imported-begin##Lori Hobaica##imported-end##

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January 22, 2007 at 10:11 AM



“ *Joan and family,*

*I am so, so sorry for your loss. I'm sorry too that I will not be able to make it up from Virginia for the funeral. John was always a very special man in our neighborhood and will be greatly missed!##imported-begin##Florence Carzo Passante##imported-end##*

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January 22, 2007 at 10:00 AM



“ *John,*

*I was sorry to hear about your father passing away. My condolences to you and your family.*

*Tom Gaziano##imported-begin##Tom Graziano##imported-end##*

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January 22, 2007 at 08:51 AM



“ *Carin, Juice and Family,*

*I am so sorry for the loss of your Dad and Poppy. I have known your Poppy since I was a little child, when I would go to my Aunt's house and he would be there, and talk to us kids all the time. He was a part of my family as well.*

*So sorry that we will not be able to make it to the services. God Bless, and our prayers are with you and your family.##imported-begin##Debbie Barbero and Bob Crouse##imported-end##*

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January 22, 2007 at 08:46 AM



“ To the Veletto Family;  
Unfortunately I cannot be there to attend the wake or funeral as I am out here in California on a business trip. Uncle John was like part of our extended family and I am deeply sorry to hear about your loss. He will be missed by all. He was a man of character and you should all be proud of what he stood for and how he lived his life. May God give each of you the strength and courage to carry on.##imported-begin##Bob Emilian##imported-end##

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January 21, 2007 at 08:38 PM



“ I was formally a resident of Utica.

I knew John from Maugeri's Auto Repair were I frequented. I also worked with him on Construction during the late 1960s'.

John was a wonderful man. I was fortunate to have met and known him.

Myself and my family would like to convey our sincere condolences to the Veletto family.

Francis & Bonnie Fragola

P.O. Box 1940

Eules, Texas 76039##imported-begin##Francis "Franny"

Fragola##imported-end##

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January 21, 2007 at 03:56 PM



“ Joannie, John, Gary, Lisa and Anthony,  
There are no words for this time. If I could be there, I would look you all in the eye and cry with you. You all were such an important and integral part of my childhood that many of my clearest and fondest memories revolve around you. The Velletto family was a gift I never imagined being taken away. Know that "Big" John and his family are a bright spot in the lives of those they touch and that we will miss him too. I am so sorry I cannot be there to say goodbye with you.  
Monica Ward###imported-begin###Monica Ward###imported-end###

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January 20, 2007 at 04:07 PM



“ Lisa, Joan and Gary:

*You have no idea how sorry I am for your loss! I truly loved John and I will never forget how wonderful he (and you Joan) was with my mother and our entire family when she needed support; he was a true friend.*

*I am so sorry that I am not there to comfort and support you; like you were for my family. I want you all to know that my prayers are with you and I love you.*

*May God Bless and comfort you all knowing that John is now resting peacefully.*

*Love always,*

*Lisa###imported-begin###Lisa Carzo###imported-end###*

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January 20, 2007 at 09:52 AM



“ Growing up at 1612 Rutger Street was one of the best childhoods a kid could have. For almost twelve years I was blessed with having two families - my biological family and the Vellettos. The day they moved in to the apartment upstairs I instantly gained a 'twin' brother in Johnny - we shared birthdays in the same week, school rooms, friends, family - just about everything. I also gained a couple of little brothers in Gary and later Anthony, and a sister in Lisa. And a huge extended family. Most of all I gained a "second mother and father" in Joan and John. "Big John", as we had to refer to our fathers as. After all, there were four Johns living at 1612.

"Big John" was always exciting to be around. He was a 'man's man', back then, in the late 50's and 60's. I guess I envisioned him as my personal James Dean (if I would have known who James Dean was then). I knew Big John as a race car driver and enthusiast, motorcyclist, mechanic, truck driver - you name it - he could fix it, drive it, stand up to it. You could count on him showing up on a Harley or in the coolest Caddy on the streets (I hope he really did forgive my sister for backing out of the driveway and into that beauty. I'm not sure I would - or have !), or occasionally with a trailer and stock car in tow on his way to Fonda with one of his buddies.

Big John was always a big kid to me as well. If there was a new toy his boys had, most of the time you could find him playing with it. He was always setting up a train set, racing electric cars around the endless track or trying to teach us how to play a guitar. (He seemed to be teaching himself as well. I remember him getting more time on an old resonator than either of the boys.) I also remember him teaching me how to kick a football. I didn't want little John to know it at the time. I guess I felt a little inadequate. (I hope he kept that secret.)

Big John was also a helper and a doer. If the snow was deep - and it was during the blizzard of '66 - Big John was out there shoveling. If something needed fixing, he fixed it. If something needed to get done, he made it happen.

*But more than that, Big John was a second father to me. He shared his sense of "fatherhood" with me on many levels. I never felt like anything but a son when I was around him. I was always included in whatever was happening at the time. It didn't really ever occur to me that I might just be "the kid downstairs". Sometimes this 'father' had to jack me up, as they say in Texas. Sometimes I got yelled at, and deservedly so. Little John and I managed to find our fair share of trouble. Big John wasn't afraid to let us know when we were wrong. Nor did Joan or my mom and dad. It was a mutually exclusive club at 1612 Rutger Street. We watched out for each other, loved each other, fought with each other and caught hell from each other's parents when the situation dictated.*

*My family moved to Texas the day after Johnny and I graduated from high school. It was a horrible, painful, tearful experience. I felt like my world was being ripped apart. Leaving the Vellettos was like having my arms and legs amputated.*

*I didn't last the summer before I was back for a visit the first time. And just about every time I go home, I feel like I am going home to the Velletto's. Just about every time my first stop has been to either Joan and John's or in more recent years, John and Valarie's - if only because John and Val are closest to the Thruway. It may be a day or two but Banek Road is always high on my priority list of stops.*

*I have to admit my jealousy here - especially in recent years - I have always admired and have been a little envious of Joan and John's love of family. I can't remember a time in the last twenty years - or longer - when I didn't pull up in their driveway - always to be greeted by Big John at the front door ("Come around the back, John !) and find grand kids running around. And John was always in the midst of playing with one of them. "Isn't she beautiful !" he would say, and then make some wise-ass remark to get her goat.*

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January 20, 2007 at 02:13 AM



“ Love you Dad###imported-begin##Anthony Velleto##imported-end##

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January 19, 2007 at 08:33 AM