

Mr. Joseph E. "Joe" Albanese, Jr.

July 19, 1937 - August 29, 2025

CLINTON/UTICA – Mr. Joseph E. “Joe” Albanese, Jr., age 88, was surrounded by his family as he went home to be with the Lord on Friday, August 29, 2025.

Born in Peekskill, NY, on July 19, 1937, Joseph was the son of the late Joseph E. Sr. and Grace M. (Pronesti) Albanese. The family later settled in Canastota prior to relocating to Utica. He was a graduate of New Hartford High School/Class of 1955 and began his collegiate studies at Utica College of Syracuse University. Subsequently, he served in the U.S. Army National Guard during the Cuban Missile Crisis.

Joe married the former Susan Biederman on April 29, 1960. They met as students at Utica College, where Susan was charmed by Joe’s talents as a pianist. Together, they built a family and instilled in them strong values. Their home on Sunset Avenue became a beloved gathering place for family, friends, and neighbors—everyone was welcome. Joe and Susan loved to entertain and were known for being fun-filled hosts. The culmination of all these factors made for a great marriage and an even better family life.

Joe was widely respected for his service as a Patrolman with the Utica Police Department. He could often be found walking the beat on South Street, where he was well-known and appreciated as a calm and skilled conflict negotiator

within the neighborhoods. Following his time with the department, Joe served as Chief Investigator for the Public Defender's Office, where he earned a reputation for being fair, unbiased, and deeply trustworthy. His gift for communication and his steady demeanor made him a natural liaison for the Oneida Indian Nation, whom he faithfully served as a probation officer for over 25 years. His dedication to justice and community left a lasting impact on all who had the privilege of working with him. The common denominator throughout Joe's career was his unwavering oath to protect and defend people.

Joe was also a talented and passionate musician. He accompanied the singing group, the "Daytones," on the piano and he was proud of having made a musical recording. After his time with the Daytones, Joe formed the band, "Everyday People," entertaining crowds at weddings, parties, and community events throughout Central New York for over 20 years. Joe was frequently sought after by those who had seen him play, and he brought joy to many through his music. Some of his favorite venues to perform at included Massoud's Oud Lounge, The Captain's Table, and The Leather Bottle. As a keyboardist and synthesizer player, Joe was a memorable entertainer whose music left a lasting impression on many.

Joe was known for his generous heart, quick wit, and talent for storytelling. He had a wonderful sense of humor and was a true straight shooter—honest, direct, and always sincere. His jokes and comments were never mean-spirited; they came from a place of kindness in his heart.

In his leisure time, Joe enjoyed golfing in local leagues on the fairways at Stonebridge and Valley View golf courses, where he was known for his powerful drives—often hitting over 300 yards. He was also an avid bowler and even worked as a pin setter in his younger years at the Aurora Bowling Alley. A passionate fisherman, Joe especially loved spending time casting his line

into the Salmon River. He also enjoyed playing cards with friends, cherishing the camaraderie that came with it. He and Sue also enjoyed spending time at the casino! A die-hard Yankee fan, Joe collected all of his greatest memorabilia and could often be found following their games and critiquing every call and play! Joe had a remarkable ability to connect with people—he had friends for every season of life. He was also incredibly handy, with a natural talent for building and fixing just about anything.

Following the heartbreaking loss of his son, Paul, Joe became a passionate advocate for improving emergency medical services in the region. Determined to make a difference, he fought tirelessly to bring Air Medical Evacuation Services to Central New York. In Paul's memory, he established the Paul Gregory Albanese Med-Evac Fund, Inc., with the goal of helping local hospitals provide critical care more quickly and effectively. Joe's dedication to this cause stands as a lasting testament to both his love for his son and his commitment to the well-being of others.

Joe had a personal relationship with the Lord in which he trusted and relied on Him. He was a member of Mary, Mother of Our Savior Parish, Lourdes Campus.

You could often hear Joe saying, "If you don't have your reputation, then you don't have anything."

Joe is survived by his beloved wife, Suzy; children and their spouses, Joseph E. III and Mary Albanese, Jennifer and Michael French, Natalie Albanese, and Stephanie and Daniel Pope. He treasured in his heart the memory of his son, Paul Gregory Albanese, who preceded him on December 29, 1984. He will be deeply missed by his grandchildren, Louisa and Shannon Bertelsen, Joseph P. Albanese, Victoria Albanese and her fiancé Garrett Boone; Lauren and

Alexis Lyndaker, Carly French and Michael Abreu; Griffin Wendt; Ashley Pope, and Ethan Pope; great-granddaughter, Miss Lyla Rae Lyndaker; brother Gerald A. "Jerry" Albanese, Sr. (the late Maureen (Cain) Albanese); many nieces and nephews, including Pamela and Scott "Yabo" Ellis, Michele Albanese, Gerald "Jerry" Albanese, Jr., and Jeffrey S., Esq. and Christyn Albanese; many cousins; and in-laws.

The family extends special thanks to dear family friend Linda Hughes, who served as Joe's primary caretaker and cherished friend. Joe felt secure in her presence, and the bond they shared brought him comfort and peace. Her kindness, patience, and care meant the world to both Joe and his family, and her support will always be remembered with deep gratitude.

Visitation will be held on Sunday, September 7, 2025, from 3:00-5:00 p.m. at the Eannace Funeral Home, Inc., 932 South St., corner of Hammond Ave. In lieu of floral offerings, memorial contributions in Joe's honor may be made to the Paul Gregory Albanese Medical Scholarship at Utica University; envelopes will also be available at the funeral home. Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend Joseph's Mass of Christian Burial and Celebration of Life which will commence on Monday, September 8, 2025, at 11:00 a.m. at Mary, Mother of Our Savior Parish, Lourdes Campus, 2222 Genesee St. Interment will take place in Calvary Cemetery.

Cemetery Details

Calvary Cemetery

2407 Oneida Street
Utica, NY

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP 7. 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

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

Funeral Service

SEP 8. 11:00 AM (ET)

Mary, Mother of Our Savior Parish, Lourdes Campus
2222 Genesee St.
Utica, NY 13502
<https://www.motherofoursavior.org/CatholicChurch.php>

Tribute Wall

JL

“ Sue, all my love to you, Joey, Jennifer, Natalie and Stephanie. You all were my second family on Sunset Ave, surrounded by 3 generations of Albaneses. Not that you needed another kid in your station wagon, but I always felt welcome to tag along! Joe held us all together in between his many hats he wore, and always had a kind and level-headed words for us. It was a wild ride and grateful I got to be a part of it. He now is reunited with Grace, Joe (senior) and Paul. <3

John Learned - September 14, 2025 at 06:55 PM

CM

“ I'm so sorry Sue. I know he was the love of your life. Prayers for you and your family.
Love cherie



Cherie Matthews - September 09, 2025 at 08:27 PM

RF

“ Lifting up the Albanese family in prayer and thoughts. You are loved!
Ron and Elaine Freed



Ron and Elaine Freed - September 07, 2025 at 10:06 AM

KD

“ *Karrie DiNigro lit a candle in memory of Mr. Joseph E. "Joe" Albanese, Jr.*



Karrie DiNigro - September 06, 2025 at 07:21 AM

JB

“ *Sue, I am so sorry to hear of Joe's passing. I always loved visiting with Joe, what a special couple you were!*

Judy Balch - September 04, 2025 at 10:59 PM

JS

“ *Sue I am so sorry to hear about Joe. He introduced Donna my wife at Cavallos in 1956. (deceased 2024) and called us on our 60th anniversary. Came to my brother's funeral mass.... I was so pleased. Over the years we kept in contact. As you know wonderful man and will be missed*



John Spring - September 04, 2025 at 08:10 PM

TF

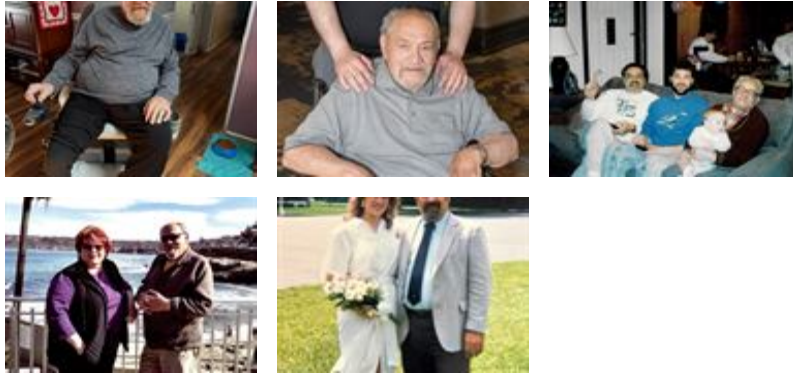
“ *Please accept our sincere condolences on Joe's passing. Peace & prayers to you all.*



Tim & Colleen Moylan Family - September 04, 2025 at 07:21 PM



“ 54 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Eannace Funeral Home, Inc. - September 04, 2025 at 06:15 PM

JT

“ Hey Susie: so sad to learn of Joes death. I will never forget our times together fighting for that helicopter service. He was a profoundly decent human being, who made the earth a better place in so many ways.

Joe Tierno - September 04, 2025 at 05:01 PM

AC

“ We are so sorry for your loss, Our thoughts and prayers are with the family, Andy & Linda Convertino

Andy & Linda Convertino - September 04, 2025 at 04:32 PM

RR

“ Rocco And Carol Rositano lit a candle in memory of Mr. Joseph E. "Joe" Albanese, Jr.

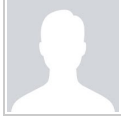


Rocco and Carol Rositano - September 04, 2025 at 10:00 AM

TP

*Sue I am so sorry to hear about Joe, god I remember him and his band playing at my 10 year class reunion. I remember him coming by the ED to visit he will really be missed. Tell your kids I will pray for them and you to go on as you should never ever forgetting Joe all my prayers
Terry L Poissant.*

Terry L Poissant - September 04, 2025 at 05:23 PM



*To the Albanese family,
I am so sorry to hear of Joe;s passing. He was a one of a kind honest person. He was so fair and down to earth that I looked up to him in many ways.I will always remember the great times at Massouds Lounge and his great band. Rest in peace my friend.
Tony Domanico
Tucson,AZ*

Tony Domanico - September 21, 2025 at 10:11 PM

RL

“ *Sympathy and condolences to the Albanese family. Joe was one of a kind who I always had a great time with. He will not be forgotten for all that he has accomplished.*

ralph lupia - September 04, 2025 at 08:38 AM

KD

“ *Today I reread my memory of Joe & realized I left out a very important part. When Joe came back to Canastota to visit he never left without playing the piano. He was still in high school at the time. He was a wonderful musician at a very young age.* 🎹🎹🎹🎹
Kathryn Capparelli DAngelo

kathryn DAngelo - September 04, 2025 at 08:23 AM

DS

“ Jennifer....So sorry for the loss of your Dad. May your memories help you and your family during this time. Sending prayers and hugs.

Doreen Diodato Schilling - September 03, 2025 at 07:19 PM

KD

“ I was saddened to hear of Joes passing. We grew up together in Canastota & we're good friends. He left in 8th grade but came back a few times to visit. We ran into each other a few times here in Utica, mostly when he was playing at Massouds. My deepest sympathy to all the family. 🙏🙏🙏
Kathryn Capparelli DAngelo

Kathryn DAngelo - September 03, 2025 at 06:20 PM

DO

“ Jennifer and family, so very sorry for your loss. Your parents were always so welcoming to us when we were younger 🙏

Don Oyer - September 03, 2025 at 06:06 PM

SD

“ To Sue, and all of the Albanese family. My sincerest, and deepest condolences to you all. I don't know where to begin. Let me start by saying that I was very fortunate to have known, laughed, performed with, and played antics no one will ever know or understand with this funny, and talented man. We spent many years as one of the best bands in the area, with some of the most talented, and dedicated musicians, and Joe was our leader, as well as negotiator, who always looked out for us. Our time at "Massouds", was utterly the best years we all had. Working with Tony, Bill, Scott, and Joe taught me a lot, and I listened, and admired them all for their views. We had an instant chemistry between us, and I sensed it the first time I met him, and heard him play, and I knew we would become good friends. Joe had a nick name for me, he always called me "Lovely" for reasons I will never know. I took that in stride, as well as his antics of throwing me across the dance floor, letting the car go down the road, and then locking the doors so I couldn't get back in, and me running down the road hanging on to the door handle. So much more, I just don't have the space to detail. I will say this, there were many times at weddings when we all sat down to eat, and because I don't eat when I am singing, all of my food was scarfed up by Joe, Scott, and Bill. I looked like I was starving. I am glad that we did see each other for the last time, when I was performing, and I had asked Scott to see if Joe and him could be there. It was such a good feeling to have them there. Even in his condition he and Scott showed up. God bless Scott, a real, and true friend. Joe, May you rest in peace, and may he be welcomed to that great band above. Love ya man, God bless Joe
Sonny Dee (Lovely)

sonny Dee - September 03, 2025 at 03:57 PM