



## Mr. Joseph R. DeCola, Sr.

March 19, 1926 - July 12, 2025

E. UTICA – Joseph R. DeCola, Sr., age 99, peacefully passed away on Saturday, July 12, 2025, on he and his beloved wife Gloria’s 73rd wedding anniversary. At the time of his passing his loving family was by his side.

Born in Utica on St. Joseph’s Day, March 19, 1926, Joseph was the son of the late August and Maria (Tomassi) DeCola. He was born in the family home and remained there for the entirety of his life!

On July 12, 1952, Joseph wed the former Gloria A. Nalli. The couple shared in a loving and devoted union. He proudly claimed that she was the love of his life.

Joseph worked for Utica Corporation as a polisher for blades used on jets, the position from which he retired.

A family man at his core, Joseph relished time spent with his family and friends. He was a selfless man who made any and all sacrifices for his family. He did all that he could for them, and he was immensely proud of his children and their accomplishments. Joseph also volunteered annually for the Boilermaker Road Race. A creative man by nature, Joseph could be considered as the best tomato pie maker. He dabbled in making root beer and also took pride in his father’s homemade wine that he helped him make. He

even made and delivered bleach to the neighborhood!

A parishioner of St. Anthony & St. Agnes Church, Joseph was actively involved in parish activities, including volunteering for their annual feasts and acting as an usher during masses.

Joseph is survived by his beloved wife, Gloria; children and their loves, Maria and Bob Gregorka, Jackie DeCola and Mike Giacotti, and Joseph R. Jr. and Terry DeCola; grandchild, Joseph Luke and Jessica DeCola. He held close to his heart the memories of his siblings and their spouses who preceded him, Angelo DiSpirito, his twin Jack DeCola, Henry and Isabel DiSpirito, Marie and Joseph J. Dote, Jr., Viola Benner, and Emma Lou Richard. He is further survived by many nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, and cousins. He is additionally predeceased by his father-in-law and mother-in-law, Frank and Elisabetta A. Nalli.

“Dad, we hope you are still kicking like a horse!”

The family extends their gratitude to the nurses and staff of MVHS Rehabilitation and Nursing Center for their care and compassion.

Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend Joseph’s Mass of Christian Burial and Celebration of Life, which will commence on Friday, July 25, 2025, at 10:00 a.m., at St. Anthony & St. Agnes Church, 422 Tilden Ave. There will be an opportunity to greet the family at the conclusion of Mass. In lieu of floral offerings, please share in an act of kindness. Interment will take place in Calvary Cemetery.

Arrangements have been entrusted to the Eannace Funeral Home, Inc., 932 South  
St., corner of Hammond Ave.



# Cemetery Details

## Calvary Cemetery

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

# Previous Events

## Funeral Service

JUL 25. 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Anthony & St. Agnes Church  
422 Tilden Ave.  
Utica, NY 13501  
(315) 732-1177  
<https://www.stanthonystagnes.com/>

# Tribute Wall

AP

“ I went to school with Jackie since Kindergarten...I always remember Mr. DeCola and I shared the same birthday! 99 years ! what a nice long life! May he rest in peace. Deepest Sympathy to the DeCola family.

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**ANNA MARIE POLICINO** - July 21, 2025 at 01:58 PM

MS

“ Joe was a kind gentleman, who loved his wife and family fiercely. I got to know him from church and my dad who was his first cousin. He and Gloria would come to the 4 at St Anthony and we always exchanged pleasantries. I will never forget the day he told me stories about the family home. So interesting. He will be sorely missed by everyone who knew him and his family. Though his passing will leave a hole, I pray the family can celebrate his life and let all the good memories sustain them.

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**Maria DeCola Salamida** - July 16, 2025 at 06:23 PM

RL

“ I never had the opportunity to meet Joe. However knowing Maria and Jackie, it was very clear to me how much they loved their father. Hearing some stories from Maria and reading this obituary you know he was a great man and left a mark on his family and community over the wonderful 99 years he walked this earth. God Bless Joe.  
*Dick Laubenstein*

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**Richard Laubenstein** - July 15, 2025 at 08:07 PM

DS

“ So sorry to the entire family. Joe was one of the kindest gentleman I have ever known. May your wonderful memories help you during this difficult time.

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**Doreen Schilling** - July 15, 2025 at 07:02 PM