



Mr. Joseph F. "Joe" DiColla

August 30, 1920 - November 16, 2020

UTICA - Mr. Joseph F. "Joe" DiColla, went to heaven and was reunited with his wife Millie on Monday, November 16, 2020 when he passed away at the Masonic Care Community of NY with those he loved most in his heart. He was blessed with 100 years of life.

Born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on August 30, 1920, Joseph was the son of the late Pasquale and Chiara (Zenoble) DiColla. He was educated in West Philadelphia schools. Joe was so proud of Philadelphia for its uniqueness. As a young man, he delivered ice, and through his fascination and knowledge of motors and his persistence, he won over the owner of the neighborhood corner garage and they finally hired him! He learned through observation and intuition, and his entire life revolved around electrical circuits and mechanics, an interest that was paramount in his conversations. A veteran of World War II and a member of the Greatest Generation, Joe enlisted in the United States Army where he honorably served his country from 1941-1946 stationed in England and Northern France as a 3-Stripe Sergeant in the Signal Corps, designing, maintaining, and repairing communications systems. Joe experienced a memorable moment during his military service when he was selected as an American Ambassador to the American-French Consulate Ball in Paris.

Knowing he and Millie loved each other prior to his military service, she waited for Joe, and when he returned home after the War, on September 2, 1946, he married Carmella M. "Millie" Paneghello and shared with her a strong, loving

marriage of nearly 64 years prior to her passing on May 13, 2010.

When Joe transitioned back to civilian life in West Philadelphia, he joined the workforce at General Electric's Switch Gear Division, working initially as an assembler. He was later promoted to lead a team that manufactured industrial scale capacitors, so customized and detailed, that he could describe them to a tee to the end of his days. After Joe retired in the early 1980's, he became Mr. Fix-It for his church, neighbors, friends, and family...all from his heart, never for reimbursement.

He also looked forward to meeting with co-workers from the Quarter Century Club for lunch. In preparing for the summertime feasts at his Philadelphia church, Joe was the go-to person from an electrical perspective. He set up the equipment to light up the activities area, and built and coordinated the game booths with precision. He was a member of the VFW Post in Marple Township, Pennsylvania.

Joe loved his life. He was a hard worker and he looked at life through the lens of grateful eyes and love. He was not pretentious or judgmental, and he enjoyed meeting and talking with people.

In 2006, Joe and Millie moved to Utica not only to spend time with their loving daughter Donna, and son-in-law Mario, but now to make Utica their home. They had great admiration for their son-in-law Mario, and Joe "Pop Pop" and Millie "Mom Mom" were "over the moon" for their grandson, Mark.

And it wasn't soon after that Mario's parents, Mario Sr. and Marie, became their best friends, enjoying so many wonderful times together.

Joe's leisure activities included reading Popular Mechanics, and Popular Science magazines, and making calls to friends and family back in Philadelphia to touch base and "chit-chat". He always gave his time unconditionally if anyone needed his help. Joe loved to listen to the Italian/American radio hour on Sunday morning and often dedicated songs. He became a fan and friend of Joe Putruele and along with Joe's nephew, Anthony Battista, they were a trio who enjoyed the precious times they shared as good friends. Sunday afternoons were spent at the Pin-O-Rama teaching

his grandson Mark how to bowl. The odds of him becoming a more precise bowler were against him, but it was his Pop Pop's patience and enthusiasm that allowed Mark to succeed. He knew the art of "tipping", and many knew his generosity in appreciation for the service they rendered. Joe appreciated all genres of music and was happiest when he was on the dance floor; when he and Millie were dancing, their steps were memorable.

He was a member of the American Legion New Hartford Post #1376, and practiced his Catholic faith as a parishioner of St. Anthony & St. Agnes Church. Making Utica his home undoubtedly led to his longevity; the familiar environment, lifelong friendships, and loving family made for a good life. Joseph is survived by his daughter and son-in-law, Donna M. and Mario L. Rocci Jr.; and his grandson, Mark J. Rocci. He also leaves his nieces and nephews, especially acknowledging Anthony Battista, and the late Gabe Battista; great nieces, great nephews, his late wife's beloved cousins and the memory of many wonderful times together; Mario L. Rocci, Sr., and the entire Rocci family where Joe "fit right in". He was predeceased by his siblings and their spouses, Emma and Tony Battista, Guido and Natalie DiColla, Vincent and Anne DiColla, and Ercole and Lillian DiColla; his mother-in-law, Florence Paneghella; and his in-laws, Joseph S. and Teresa Paneghella, Vincent Paneghella, Louis H. Jr. and Phyllis Paneghella, Rose and Nunzio "Jack" Fesi; and Mario's mom, Marie Rocci.

While still at home, in addition to family, Joe was graced with the assistance of Robin who made sure he was well cared for. A special note of great appreciation to his longtime physician Dr. Kevin McCormick, and the nurses and staff at the Masonic Care Community/Buffalo Household for providing Joe with dignity, quality of life, and the ability "to dance whenever he wanted to". There was no finer place to complete his journey these last years. A special thank you to Monica/Activities Director who facilitated FaceTime family sessions for Joe each week.

Visitation will be held Friday morning from 10:30-11:30 at the Eannace

Funeral Home, Inc. 932 South St., corner of Hammond Ave. Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend Joe's funeral service and Celebration of Life which will commence on Friday at 11:30 from the funeral home and at 12:30 at St. Anthony and St. Agnes Church where his Mass of Christian Burial will be offered with Military Honors conferred. Face masks are required and social distancing and contact tracing will be implemented at both locations. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions in Joe's memory may be made to the Masonic Care Community of NY online at <https://www.masonichomeny.org/ways-to-support/donations/>. Envelopes will be available at the funeral home. Interment will follow graveside in Calvary Cemetery.

During this time of social distancing that we are all experiencing, please take a moment to connect with Joe's family through the "Memories" section of his obituary. Our prayers go out to all as a sign of our continued support.

In memory of Joe, his family would like you to smile, dance, and be generous to someone in need, and kind to make someone's day.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n-XQ26KePUQ&list=TLPQMTgxMTlwMjAUzwPzZrR1nw&index=1>

Cemetery Details

Calvary Cemetery

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

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV **20**. 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM (ET)

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

Tribute Wall



“ *Eannace Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Mr. Joseph F. "Joe" DiColla*



Eannace Funeral Home, Inc. - November 18, 2020 at 11:54 AM

MC

I'm sorry for the lose. In recent years I've lost touch with my northern family but always think about them. I'll always cherish the memories spending time with my Uncle Joe. He was always so kind and loving and just a joy to be around.

Matthew Di Colla - January 23, 2021 at 09:47 PM

LT

“ *Donna, We are so sorry of your dad's passing. His obituary was inspiring as I'm sure he was. Laura and I have you in our prayers.*

Louis and Laura Tehan

Louis Tehan - November 23, 2020 at 04:41 PM

MS

“ I am proud to say I had the pleasure of taking care of this man! He was one of kind! Always humble and kind very grateful for the love and care he revived on a daily. Not one day did he ever not have a smile on his face and would always dance his way to the dinningroom. Staff and I are going to miss him terribly! Rest in peace Joe we love you and will speak of you every day❤️❤️❤️



Mindie Schaffer - November 21, 2020 at 11:16 AM



“ I would like to extend my deepest condolences the family of Mr Joseph DiColla.I have spent time with Joe since 1995 and to say he was a pleasure during this time is an understatement ,,Joe was a people person always full of life and smiles .Joe loved to sing ,dance and created many memories with his friends on Friday nights at the American Legion in New Hartford ,N Y ,I had the pleasure of being able to laugh smile and dance with Joe ,especially at his 95 th beautifull birthday party .Joes favorite song was Save The Last Dance For Me .and I was fortunate to be able to dance with him to this song at his party. Joe you will be missed but will live forever in thoughts ,prayers .but most of all our thoughts and our hearts. Your friend Lydia

Lydia Cervo - November 19, 2020 at 11:17 PM

SM

“ Dear Donna, Mario and Mark,

Please accept my sincere condolences. Your Dad was a treasure. I will never forget his zest for life, music and dance. His stories were wonderful! He will truly be missed. It was my pleasure to have known him. While I will not be able to attend his services, please know that my love, thoughts and prayers are with you all.

*Love,
Sherry Morosco*

Sherry Morosco - November 19, 2020 at 08:07 PM

RM

“ *Although I did not know Joe personally, I used to see him every evening when I went to visit my mother in the Erie Household at Masonic Home.*

Joe had a dinner table all to himself and always had a smile on his face and would always say hello to me with a thumbs up.

Rest in Peace Joe

Rob Munson

Rob Munson - November 18, 2020 at 02:57 PM

JO

“ *Donna, Mario, and Mark,*

I am so sorry to hear of the passing of your Dad...but my he seemed to have enjoyed life to the fullest.,God bless him. You are all in my thoughts and prayers.

*Always
Joannie Grande*

joan - November 18, 2020 at 01:15 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Mr. Joseph F. "Joe" DiColla.*



November 18, 2020 at 09:36 AM