



## Mr. Joseph A. LaRocca

May 24, 1936 - March 8, 2020

UTICA/VERO BEACH, FL - Mr. Joseph A. LaRocca, age 83, went home to the Lord on Sunday, March 8, 2020, with those he loved most in his heart.

Born in Utica on May 24, 1936, Joseph was the son of the late Rosario and Anna (Puleo) LaRocca. Raised and educated in Utica, he attended St. Agnes Grammar School and graduated from Utica Catholic Academy/Class of 1954. He then entered St. Andrew's Seminary in Rochester where his spirituality was renewed daily and he never wavered in his devotion to his Catholic faith. He continued his education at Utica College of Syracuse University. Joseph shared 46 years with his life partner, Michael King. They were truly devoted to one another during the best and active years and they maintained their commitment to each other to the very end of his life.

Joseph worked for the New York State Unemployment Department and subsequently held a position with the Oneida County Health Department in the Environmental Health Division where he worked as an inspector and Senior Public Health Sanitarian for 25 years, retiring in 1982. Joseph was very perceptive and an extremely generous man. Joe could be remembered as quick-witted with a great delivery. It was not only through his commitment to another person but was with great fairness that he chose to live his life. Professionally and personally, Joseph truly was honest and looked for the good in others. When it came to looking after people's well-being, from a dear friend, to his beloved parents, family, and his partner, you could not find anyone who was more compassionate and gentle, and you were always in his

prayers and in his heart. He was knowledgeable in statistical planning, gardening, and planting. Joseph was a longtime parishioner of St. Agnes Church and more recently was a communicant of Historic Old St. John's Church. He ran the race of life and awaited the rewards of the afterlife. Joseph is survived by his partner and soulmate, Michael; his brother-in-law, Lynn Hyatt; several nieces and nephews, acknowledging John Ferriter and his wife Millie, Gina and Dan Thomson, Christopher and Heather Hyatt, and James Ferris and Emogene Catrombone; great-nieces, great-nephews, cousins, Mary Verni, Ralph Manfredo, and Kathleen "Kay" and Al DeSantis; and his godchild Colleen A. Gaetano. As Joe had blessed many in his life, he in turn had the respect and admiration of a host friends, including Ben DiOrio, Don Daniels, Frank Buttita, Anne and Dominick Massaro, Sam Garfola, and Wayne DeMedico. He was preceded by his sister, Jean Hyatt in 2019. Due to the Coronavirus pandemic and out of respect to the wellbeing of Joe's family and visitors, services have been postponed to a future date and time. In lieu of floral offerings, please consider a donation in Joseph's memory to the American Parkinson Disease Association online at <https://www.apdaparkinson.org/1907d3l>. Interment will take place in Calvary Cemetery at the convenience of the family.

# Cemetery Details

**Calvary Cemetery at the convenience of the family**

2407 Oneida Street  
Utica, NY

# Events

**Details are pending.**

# Tribute Wall

PD

“ *Michael and family,  
We are very sorry to hear about Joe's passing. We have many wonderful memories through the years with you and Joe. Always polite, caring, and a gentle man, he will not be forgotten. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all. Love, Patty DeStante Dennison and family.*

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**Patty Dennison** - March 30, 2020 at 03:56 PM

BE

“ *Michael and family,  
We are very sorry to hear about Joes passing. My mom and dad Jennie and Al had wonderful memories and good times with Joe and his family. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all. Love, Nikki (Belmont) and Tony Fraccola*

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**Belmont-Fraccola** - March 22, 2020 at 08:22 PM

MB

“ *Michael, I am so sorry to learn of Joe's passing. Have such wonderful memories of him and his Mom. Please accept my sincere condolences to you and rest of your family. May he rest in eternal peace. You take care of you now, love and miss you.  
Mary Ellen Belmont-Arcuri.*

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**Mary Ellen Belmont-Arcuri** - March 22, 2020 at 04:58 PM

PB

“ *Mike I am so sorry for your loss. Joe was a true gentleman, You and Joe were so kind to me when i needed, it. I'm glad we shared some laughter. Pat Bonomo*

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**patricia bonomo** - March 22, 2020 at 02:01 PM

BK

“ Joe and I went to St. Agnes school and UCA . He was a very good friend and deep faith in God. May he rest in eternal peace.

*Bob Kinsella*

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**Bob Kinsella** - March 22, 2020 at 11:37 AM

VE

“ Mike,

*I am so sorry to hear of Joe's passing. I know what a special person he was and what a overwhelming loss this is for you be. Mike - I can never fully express my gratitude to you and Joe for the great friendship you shared with my parents when they moved to the neighborhood. My parents loved both of you deeply, and so do all of my brothers , myself and our families. Flora and Joe truly enjoyed daily life with you, and in no time at all, you became a part of our family. You helped us to care for them when illness came to Flora and again when Joe was left alone, and your compassion and kindness touched all of us in ways that will never be forgotten. You really became a part of the fiber of our lives. Joe's generous approach to living made all of us better people. His welcoming spirit warmed our hearts again and again. It is very clear to me that Joe is immediately enjoying the great reward of heaven, and I highly suspect that Joe and Flora were among the many waiting to greet him with open arms. All our love to you, mixed with an uncommon gratitude we could never fully express.*

*Vincent Elacqua*

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**Vincent Elacqua** - March 22, 2020 at 11:23 AM

LD

“ Joe was wonderful to my mom, Lucy Duniec and my Aunt Phil Garfola. He treated them so well and they always spoke highly of him and Mike King.

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**Lucille Duniec** - March 17, 2020 at 10:07 AM

MV

“ My dear, sweet cousin who was like another brother to me. I will always hold him in my heart which is broken. My memories are filled with so much laughter and tears we shared as we said goodbye to our parents and his sister, Jean. Until we meet again, Rest In Peace in our Lord's arms dear Joe.

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**Mary L. Verni** - March 16, 2020 at 06:29 PM

SC

“ My memory of Joe is the fact that every time I spoke with him we laughed. Great person.

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**Stephanie Caroli** - March 16, 2020 at 03:45 PM