



## Mr. Joseph S. "Joe" Tahan

March 8, 1919 - February 18, 2015

Mr. Joseph S. "Joe" Tahan, a man who lived a happy and fulfilling life and kept his eye on the responsibilities of tomorrow, passed away peacefully at the St. Elizabeth Medical Center on Wednesday, February 18, 2015 at the age of 95. At the time of his passing, Joe was surrounded by his entire family.

Born in Utica on March 8, 1919, Joseph was the son of the late Albert and Genevieve (Srour) Tahan. He attended St. John's Catholic Church Elementary School. Joe was drafted into the United States Army in 1941 and honorably served his country during World War II until his discharge in 1945. During those years, he participated in the early campaigns in North Africa and he was in the front lines during the allied invasion of Italy at the Battle of Anzio. He also fought in battles at Naples, Foggia, Rhineland, Rome, Arno, and Southern France. He was awarded the American Defense Service Medal, the European African Middle Eastern Service Medal, the Good Conduct Medal, and the Purple Heart for wounds he sustained during battle. On November 19, 1949, Joe married the former Violette Hajjar with whom he shared 65 years; they were true companions, loyal, well-matched, social, and very much in love. On every card Joe gave to Violette he inscribed the sentiment "still crazy about you".

As a boy, Joe sold newspapers and worked alongside his father at Tahan Brothers Grocery Store, a family concern located on Bleecker Street. After the war, he sold household items door-to-door and neighborhood patrons knew that whatever you wanted, Joe would get it for you. He referred to himself as a

peddler and through his honesty, ingenuity, and get-up-and-go, he formed many friendships that he never forgot. It was in 1966 that he established a furniture store on Dominick Street in Rome. After a tragic fire, the store was lost and Joe returned to his expertise in personally providing goods and services door-to-door. In 1975 he had the resources to reopen Joe Tahan's Furniture on Ridge Street in Rome, and in 1980 relocated to Henry Street in Rome which is still in operation today. In 2005 he established Joe Tahan's Furniture on Commercial Drive in Yorkville, and in 2007 he launched Joe Tahan's Furniture Outlet on Campion Road in New Hartford. Joe saw the wisdom of the big picture and he knew the joy of creative thinking. The business remains strong under the guidance of the present generation of his children, grandchildren, and a team of loyal employees; a blessing that made him so proud. The right thoughts in collaboration with the right people gave him the realization of outstanding results. The fabric of Joe's life was woven with humor, creativity, honesty, passion, and generosity. He was the source of many acts of kindness that were only known to the Lord. Central to his life was his love of family, and he will be remembered as an honorable man. He always thanked his children for completing even the smallest of tasks. He was gentle, forgiving, and he never held a grudge. He was a man of few needs, but he gave in so many ways. The strength of his work ethic was exemplary and he was a gentleman in the truest sense of the word. Unflinching, he was the rock of the family. He was an outstanding listener and treated everyone with dignity. He was a man of few words, but once spoken, they had great weight. During the years he raised his family, Sunday picnics at Verona Beach and Delta Lake, were exciting and fun-filled. On Christmas Day he was always together with his children. He was a voracious reader and rooted for the NY Mets and the NY Yankees watching every baseball game of the season. Joe was a faithful parishioner of St. Louis Gonzaga Church and a member of its Holy Name Society. He was a founding member of the Syrian/American Club, the Knights of Columbus 4th Degree, and the Nocturnal Adoration Society. With his wife by his side, Joe traveled the world and amassed many

memories. What touched his heart the most was the Papal Blessing he received from Pope John Paul II at the Vatican --- he was honored, humbled, and in God's grace "he glowed".

Joseph is survived by his beloved wife, Violette; his children and their spouses, Mary M. Tahan, Bernadette and James Quenneville, Genevieve M. Tahan and fiancé Kirk Parham, Albert J. "Al" Tahan and Theresa Devereux, and George P. and Siobhan (Sweeney) Tahan; his grandchildren, Milton Barell and fiancée Alia Little, Jason and Katie Barell, and Matthew Barell; Margaret Tahan and Ebun Okubanjo, twins Joseph H. Tahan and fiancée Veronica Mudge, Albert G. Tahan, and their mother, Patricia J. Tahan; and Jack O., and Tate N. Tahan; his great-grandchildren, Violette Barell, and Jack S. Barell; and his sister, Emma Winn. He will be remembered by his many nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, cousins, in-laws, Alice Tahan, Niam Hajjar, Mickey Gulla, and William Kowiatek; many extended family members, and a host of friends. He was predeceased by his sisters and brother-in-law, Sister of Charity Rita born Mary Tahan, Elinor Tahan, Susan Kassis, and Jeanette and Jewell Robert; his brothers and sister-in-law, Anthony Tahan, James A. and Rose Tahan, and John George Tahan; his brother-in-law, George Winn; and his in-laws, George and Anita Hajjar, Maggie Kowiatek, and Nadia Gulla. The family is grateful to Dr. Bhisham Garg, a great physician who personally watched over Joe; the staff of the Veterans' Administration in Syracuse and Rome; the doctors, nurses, and staff of the St. Elizabeth Medical Center who were outstanding and genuinely polite to Joe and his family, as well; Chorbishop John Faris for his blessings and visits; and his home caregivers, niece Lisa, Medina, and Brittney.

Visitation will be held Sunday from 2:00-6:00 at the Eannace Funeral Home, Inc., 932 South St., corner of Hammond Ave. The Prayer of Incense will be offered at 5:45. Memorial contributions in Joe's honor may be considered to the Juvenile Diabetes Research Association (111 Huntington Avenue, Boston, MA 02199) or the Feed Our Vets food pantry (205 Genesee Street, Utica, NY

13502); envelopes will be available at the funeral home. Joe's funeral service and Celebration of Life will commence on Monday morning at 10:00 from the funeral home and at 11:00 at St. Louis Gonzaga Church where his Divine Liturgy of the Faithful Departed will be celebrated by Chorbishop John D. Faris with Military Honors conferred. Interment will take place in Calvary Cemetery at the convenience of the family.

"My kids will be looking for you."

"God Bless America!"

# Cemetery Details

## Calvary Cemetery at the convenience of the family

2407 Oneida Street  
Utica, NY

# Previous Events

## Funeral Service

FEB **23**. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Louis Gonzaga Church  
520 Rutger Street  
Utica, NY 13501  
(315) 732-6019

# Tribute Wall

PM

“ *Paul Mangano sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Joseph S. "Joe" Tahan*



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**Paul Mangano** - February 26, 2015 at 11:26 AM

NM

“ *Dear Jenny,*

*Big hugs and much love.*

*XOXO*

*Nancy Cox Marafioti*

*John F. Marafioti*

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**Nancy Cox Marafioti** - February 22, 2015 at 07:47 PM

PH

“ *I remember Joe coming to my Mom's house ( Rose Vescio) when I was very young and then to my home after I married when he sold things door to door.He has been a long time family friend and to this day I have furniture purchased at his store. To all his family ,my deepest deepest sympathy...RIP Joe*

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**Patricia Vescio Hemmes** - February 22, 2015 at 10:20 AM

PM

“ *We all enjoyed the "Words of Wisdom" at the end of his commercials. He was a good business man and family man. He will be an inspiration for all of us. Rest in Peace.*

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**Peter Maneen** - February 22, 2015 at 10:19 AM

DL

“ *A wonderful neighbor when the Tahan family lived on Conkling Ave. Joe was always respectful of his neighbors and their children. Although it has been several years of seeing Joe, always admired his dedicated business adventure. May he RIP*



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**David (Lee) Lia** - February 22, 2015 at 07:12 AM

FA

“ *Dear Tahan Family,  
Our sincerest thoughts and prayers are with you. May our Lord's peace and love surround all of you and provide comfort. May Joe's memory be eternal.*

*Love,  
Fred & Martha Ajaeb*

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**Fred & Martha Ajaeb** - February 22, 2015 at 07:00 AM

DK

*Dear Violet & Family, We are so sorry of your loss of Joe. We all shared so many good times and memories. With our prayers and condolences. May his memory be eternal !!! With our love Deacon Dan & Cindy*

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**Deacon Daniel A Klockowski** - February 22, 2015 at 06:08 PM

DD

*“ I didn't know Mr Joe personally, but what I understand from my family history is that he was buddies with my dad, Louis Tahan (no relation) when they were kids.  
I think they sold newspapers together and the families knew each other well.  
My deepest condolences, from what I've heard, he was an amazing man!*

desma tahan dunne - February 21, 2015 at 11:26 PM

AM

*“ Art Grazioso and Mastercraft purchased the Blue & White Sympathy Basket for the family of Mr. Joseph S. "Joe" Tahan.*



Art Grazioso and Mastercraft - February 21, 2015 at 10:08 AM



*“ Blue & White Sympathy Basket was purchased for the family of Mr. Joseph S. "Joe" Tahan.*



February 21, 2015 at 09:44 AM



*“ Peace, Prayers & Blessings - Blue and White was purchased for the family of Mr. Joseph S. "Joe" Tahan.*



February 21, 2015 at 07:56 AM

CK

“ Carol Kaminski lit a candle in memory of Mr. Joseph S. "Joe" Tahan



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**carol kaminski** - February 20, 2015 at 10:57 PM

LT

“ I will always remember Uncle Joe's advice to me when I married his nephew Albert. He told me to learn one Arabic word a day and soon I would be able to communicate with all the Tahans! What a wise caring family man. We will all miss you greatly. I have already shared your words of wisdom, though not in Arabic with my friends and family.

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**Laura Tahan** - February 20, 2015 at 07:45 PM

LT

“ Laura Tahan lit a candle in memory of Mr. Joseph S. "Joe" Tahan



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**Laura Tahan** - February 20, 2015 at 07:40 PM

KM

“ Jenny - My deepest sympathy is with you & your family. God Bless.

*Karen Moylan*

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**Karen Moylan** - February 20, 2015 at 07:29 PM



“ *Healing Tears - Lavender and White was purchased for the family of Mr. Joseph S. "Joe" Tahan.*



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February 20, 2015 at 05:26 PM



“ *Healing Tears - Blue and White was purchased for the family of Mr. Joseph S. "Joe" Tahan.*



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February 20, 2015 at 05:17 PM



“ *Bernadette and family -- I am so sorry to hear about your father's passing. I have very happy memories about the time I spent at your home on Jewett Place and how welcome your mother and father made me feel. Please express my condolences to your entire family. Sincerely, Marion Swan*

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**Marion Swan** - February 20, 2015 at 03:32 PM



“ *Tahan Family,  
So sorry for your loss, may all his wonderful words of wisdom & great family memories fill your hearts with joy. My parents still recall Joe's early business days in Utica!  
Elaine DePerno-Brown  
Captain John's & Family*

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**Elaine DePerno-Brown** - February 20, 2015 at 12:27 PM

BJ

“ Joe rest in peace you were a good man I truly loved listening to your stories of course you told them to me when I was supposed to be working and that made it even better LOL you will surely be missed God bless the family you are all wonderful people I am so sorry for your loss Bernie drake Jr

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**bernie drake jj** - February 20, 2015 at 12:07 PM

LC

“ were are sorry to hear of joe's passing, he was a great asset to the community, and will be dearly missed. we didn't know him that well, but we be thankful for the time we did get to spend with him. our heart felt sympathy goes out to his whole family. may god give you all peace at this time of your loss.

*sincerely lyle & debra compo (rome)*

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**lyle compo** - February 20, 2015 at 11:38 AM

BP

“ Jenny and family:  
So sorry for your loss  
With deepest sympathy, barbara j prumo

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**Barbara J Prumo** - February 20, 2015 at 11:37 AM

DB

“ Dear Violet and Family,

*I am so sorry to hear of your loss. Joe was a fixture in so many lives. My Dad, Sal just loved the man. He enjoyed their many visits and treasured his true friendship for many years. We all were truly blessed to witness this beautiful friendship.*

*I am sorry to be unable to be with you at this time, as we are wintering in New Mexico.*

*Our heartfelt sympathy is with you and your family.*

*Sincerely,*

*Diane (Cifonelli) and Edward Bielejec*

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**Diane Bielejec** - February 20, 2015 at 11:06 AM

JH

“ We extend our deepest condolences to Mrs. Violette Tahan and her wonderful children and grandchildren during this difficult time. May God bless your wonderful husband and you together in marriage for 65 wonderful years. We are praying for you all.  
Love The Hawthorne Family

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**Jacquelyn Hawthorne** - February 20, 2015 at 10:58 AM

DF

“ Joe Tahan was a wonderful man. We loved him dearly and we will hold on to all of the beautiful memories that we shared with him and his family. To the Tahan family, our hearts are with you!

*Love always,*

*Diane, Michael, Alex and Annie*

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**diane fruchtman** - February 20, 2015 at 10:21 AM



JK

“ A PLEASURE TO WORK FOR AND AN INTELLIGENT BUSINESS MAN. HE WILL BE MISSED DEARLY BUT NEVER WILL BE FORGOTTEN. THANKS FOR CREATING OPPORTUNITY FOR SO MANY PEOPLE

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**JUSTIN KEYES** - February 20, 2015 at 10:01 AM

LS

“ To his family ! What a great honor to have such a wonderful smart man in your life to call husband , father, and grandfather ! He has such big shoes too fill!! God bless you all ! May he rest in peace!  
Linda Hanna Sciortino

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**Linda Hanna Sciortino** - February 20, 2015 at 07:50 AM

TD

“ My favorite memory of joe is sitting at his kitchen table and he would breakout into singing the song " Take me out to the ballgame!" He was one of the most loving wonderful people I have ever been blessed to know. Rest in peace Joe. Love tree

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**Theresa Devereux** - February 20, 2015 at 06:38 AM

DJ

“ I had the pleasure of visiting with Joe while shopping for furniture. He told me that he would see an interesting quote while reading a book and then would share it with listeners. He also shared the story of his life beginning in NYC...what a loving and wonderful man....God bless your lovely soul and thank God for the blessing you were in so many lives..Deborah Jones, Oneida, NY...

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**Deb Jones** - February 19, 2015 at 10:58 PM



“ *Fields of Europe was purchased for the family of Mr. Joseph S. "Joe" Tahan.*



February 19, 2015 at 10:00 PM



“ *Joe was a wonderful man. He was loved by all who knew him. Joe will be always be remembered for the great man he was. Rest in peace Joe. You are a special Angel in heaven watching over those you love.*

**Karen Casey** - February 19, 2015 at 09:58 PM



“ *Thank you , Joe, for helping this community become a better place by your thoughtful, loving reminders of humanity.*

**Staceylynn R.** - February 19, 2015 at 09:18 PM



“ *I didn't know him but i could here his passion for his business but mostly his family in his commercials*



**Daniel Bridgman** - February 19, 2015 at 07:01 PM

MG

“ Joe was such a class act. A sweet, family-oriented man. Rest in peace Joe. The Tahan family and our entire community has lost a legend.

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**Mary Lourdes Gurtowski** - February 19, 2015 at 06:58 PM

WC

“ Violet, and Joe's beautiful extended family, our condolences. Joe was not a big person in physical terms but in every other respect, this gentleman was a giant. His business acumen went beyond good pricing, value and those kind of things. Joe was straight arrow honest with all who had the pleasure to buy his furniture. He believed and has passed on to his progeny that integrity always shines through.

*There is more to Joe, he was a member of the greatest generation, an unsung hero in WWII of which he kept to himself. Rest in peace Joe, rest in peace. Bill & Janet Chanatry*

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**William Chanatry** - February 19, 2015 at 06:07 PM

RC

“ I remember him fondly from my childhood. He used to come with a truck and stop at certain houses and bring furniture. My parents bought many pieces of furniture from him that he brought to our home. He was very kind and generous. I am so very sorry for your loss.

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**Robin Rhinebold Carlson** - February 19, 2015 at 06:01 PM

CP

“ *Christen Purpura sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Joseph S. "Joe" Tahan*



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**Christen Purpura** - February 19, 2015 at 05:48 PM

PP

“ *So very sorry for your loss, Violet and family. The Harry Kaelin family knows how much Joe meant to everyone who came in contact with him. Having had an opportunity to work with him in the early years of his long career and being able to call him friend and pretty much family was a blessing. We're sure Heaven holds a special place for you. Until we meet again some day.....GO YANKEES!!*

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**Patricia Piperata** - February 19, 2015 at 05:24 PM

SC

“ *A great man and a solid business person...you will be sadly missed and fondly remembered.*

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**Scott Carpenter** - February 19, 2015 at 05:14 PM

JM

*I remember back in 1983 - I use to go with Norma Eilenberg with a small tape recorded back then and record Joe doing his commercials - we did this most every week for several years...a great man...*

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**Jack Moran** - February 20, 2015 at 04:58 AM

TB

*A Legend has passed, but he leaves behind cherished memories. It has been our privilege to have known him and his wonderful family. Namaste. Peace & love. Timothy & Rosalie Boulant*

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**timothy boulant** - February 20, 2015 at 05:51 AM

DM

*RIP JOE WE ALWAYS ENJOYED BUYING YOUR FINE QUALITY  
FURNITURE FOR YEARS. DANIEL P MUHA & WIFE JULIA*

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**DANIEL MUHA** - February 20, 2015 at 11:13 PM