



## Joseph George "Joey" Spinelli

April 26, 1976 - July 11, 2006

Mr. Joseph George "Joey" Spinelli, age 30, of Utica, passed away unexpectedly on Tuesday, July 11, 2006 as the result of injuries sustained in a motorcycle accident.

Born in Utica on April 26, 1976, Joey was the son of George D. and Francine K (Rappa) Spinelli. Raised and educated locally, he was a student at Utica Senior Academy at T.R. Proctor High School graduating in 1994. He continued his studies at North Country Community College.

Joey was employed by the Kaufmann Dept. Store where he worked in the Men's Suits Dept, a job for which he was well qualified at helping others choose the right attire. He was next employed for a number of years as an installer for Eastside Glass. He then spent some time with the Utica City School District, working as a Teacher's Assistant at JFK. He currently was working with Pleeter Sheet Metal, a craft that gave him great satisfaction and a sense of enjoyment. In addition, he was a seasonal employee of the Sandstone Hollow at the Turning Stone Resort where he worked as a pro shop attendant.

Possessing a high degree of self-confidence, Joey was a true free spirit who lived both "in the moment" and "for the moment." He was open to new experiences and always aspiring to be accepting and understanding of others. One of his defining characteristics was his strong sense of determination and adventure, qualities that were significant in all aspects of his life. Joey was deeply proud of his Italian heritage. Accorded a preeminent place in his

household, he was “the King,” deeply admired and loved by his family and friends. He was a communicant of St. Anthony of Padua Church.

Joey was a lifelong hockey enthusiast, sportsman, and fan. He played from his earliest years when he first learned to skate right through high school. He also coached in the Rome Youth Hockey League. His favorite professional player was Wayne Gretzky who played for the Oilers, the L.A. Kings, and the NY Rangers. Joey also played golf from the age of 6, learning his love for the fairways from his dad. In addition, he loved the water and water sports, especially boating. He was fascinated by sharks and whales. Anyone who knew Joey knew that he had a passion for motorcycles; in fact, he had attended the Myrtle Beach Bike Week on several occasions. He especially enjoyed the friendship and camaraderie he shared with his fellow bikers. Another of Joey’s interests was electronics: he had an intuitive gift for disassembling and then reassembling any device or system.

Joey is survived by his devoted and supportive parents, George and Francine Spinelli of Utica; and his sisters, Candace Spinelli and her fiancé, Don Martin of Deansboro, and Mary Catherine Spinelli-Preston and her husband, David, of Lake Placid. He was preceded in death by a sister, Pamela M. Spinelli, who passed away on March 7, 1987; and an infant brother, George Joseph Spinelli, who passed away on December 7, 1973. Joey is also survived by his companion, Jen Fitzgerald, for whom he cherished a special love and devotion; his best friend and childhood buddy, “Little Joe” DeTraglia; and longtime family friend, Mary “Mar” DePalma. Additional survivors include his aunts and uncles, Joseph and Arlene Rappa of Buffalo, Benny and Antoinette Rappa of Utica, and Tony and Pauline Spinelli of GA; a number of cousins; his special friend and mentor, Bruce Pleeter, who was both an influence and an inspiration; all his friends at Thunder Valley, as well as those he rode with. Throughout his life, Joey was blessed with many wonderful friends, especially acknowledging Mike Peters and family, Mark Barbato and family, and Joe Loiacono all who affectionately called him “Spinotz.” He was predeceased by his paternal grandparents, Candido and Catherine Spinelli; and his maternal

grandmother, Mary Rappa.

The family offers its heartfelt thanks to the officers of the UPD, the EMT's, and the personnel of the St. Elizabeth Medical Center, especially the physicians and nurses of the ER, all of whom attended Joey and his family with every kindness and with deep compassion.

Visitation will be held today (Friday) from 4-8 at the Eannace Funeral Home, Inc., 932 South St., corner of Hammond Ave. Please omit floral offerings.

Joey's funeral will commence on Saturday afternoon at 1:00 at the funeral home and at 2:00 at St. Anthony of Padua Church where his Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated. Interment will take place in Calvary Cemetery at the convenience of the family.

# Tribute Wall



“ To my little brother who I could always talk to. You will always live in our hearts forever. You where one in a million who always got along with any age group. You will always be miss by us. May God be with you and your family. Love you forever.##imported-begin##Marta Mike Keith Zarnoch##imported-end##

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July 02, 2007 at 07:43 AM



“ Mary Catherine and family,  
I only now heard about Joey today. I am deeply saddened at the world's loss of such a sweet soul.  
I have many fond memories of Joey visiting Lake Placid as a little boy, and years later driving down Main St. (in his Cadillac!) One of my favorite memories of Joey is in Mary & Dave's house on Averyville, listening to his remarkable recitation of every Italian movie ever made :)  
Joey, may you rest in peace and know only joy.  
Love,  
Liora ("Laura / Lori") Greenberg##imported-begin##Liora Greenberg##imported-end##

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September 30, 2006 at 01:14 PM



“ Dear Mr. & Mrs. Spinelli, Candace and Mary Catherine,  
  
Please accept my sincerest sympathies on the loss of your son. I remember when Joey was born, when Pamela and I were in 8th grade. She has always been in my thoughts and prayers and now Joey will be too.##imported-begin##Anne Marie (Longo) Daley##imported-end##

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July 20, 2006 at 11:42 AM



“ On behalf of the Union College community, please accept our deepest sympathies. Joe worked on our fire systems here at Union. I always looked forward to his visits and his sense of humor. He will be missed.##imported-begin##Michael Hilton##imported-end##

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July 18, 2006 at 11:20 AM



“ Dear Francine and George, Our cousin Fran Willsey told me about your son Joey's death. I am so sorry. This is a sad way to re-connect. Love, Ginger##imported-begin##Ginger Rappa Teller-Schloemer##imported-end##

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July 17, 2006 at 11:25 PM



“ I love you Boy,  
Candace xxoo##imported-begin##Candace##imported-end##

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July 17, 2006 at 06:37 PM



“ Love you Joe##imported-begin##mary preston##imported-end##

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July 17, 2006 at 06:21 PM



“ To the Spinelli family.....my heart goes out to you at this time of sorrow.  
How did I know Joey? I really didn't know him too well at all, but I saw him everywhere over the years and we always said hello. Mostly Kaufmanns and the school.....He was always smiling and gracious.##imported-begin##Michele DiNardi Fields##imported-end##

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July 16, 2006 at 10:53 PM



“ Dear Francine, George and family,  
I am so sorry to hear of Joey's passing. He was always such a loyal friend to me. I have such wonderful memories of him from our school years, especially his great sense of humor. We shared so much laughter together. I hope that these are the thoughts that now comfort you and bring a smile to your face.  
With love, sympathy and prayers,  
Leona Romanelli-Dedrick##imported-begin##Leona Romanelli-Dedrick##imported-end##

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July 16, 2006 at 10:24 AM



“ Dear Francine, George, and Family,

*My deepest sympathy for your loss.*

*No words can express how devastated I feel for the loss of such a special young man.*

*I will keep you in my prayers with wishes for all of you to have the strength to take one day at a time in accepting this tragedy.*

*Joey can never be replaced, but I am sure that his spirit is there with you at all times trying to console you and reminding you to remember the precious memories and happiness that he gave to all of you.##imported-begin##Jeanette Commisso##imported-end##*

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July 15, 2006 at 07:57 PM



“ To the Spinelli Family , I am so sorry to hear about your loss, Joey will be missed.##imported-begin##Antonio and Benedetta Riccardo##imported-end##

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July 15, 2006 at 09:49 AM



“ To the spinelli family, i am so sorry to hear of your loss. Joey will be missed.##imported-begin##Anthony Joesphine zenzillo Antonio and Jean Riccardo##imported-end##

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July 15, 2006 at 09:48 AM



“ We will miss Joe very much. Whenever he walked in our home or whenever you saw him, you automatically put a smile on your face. He was not just a friend he was family!!!!!!Thanks for the memories Joe.... We Love You and God Bless You.##imported-begin##Andy, Diane, Nicole and Michelle Peters##imported-end##

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July 15, 2006 at 08:03 AM



“ Francine...I am so sorry to hear about the loss of your son:( I did not know Joey but when I heard about the accident I only hoped that it was NOT your son. My deepest sympathy goes out to you & your family in this difficult time. God Bless. (Deb from Deb's Upholstery)##imported-begin##Debra LaMondie##imported-end##

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July 15, 2006 at 12:15 AM



“ Dear Francine and George,

Dick and I send you our deepest sympathy and our prayers for you to be comforted at this time. We just found out tonight about your son. Francine we're so very sad for you and George and for "Joey". Please take care of each other. Will talk to you soon.

Love Dick and Carol Ambrose##imported-begin##Dick and Carol Ambrose##imported-end##

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July 14, 2006 at 07:15 PM



“ Joey and I practically grew up together. We played hockey together and went to high school together. He was a great person and will be sadly missed. Our deepest sympathy goes out to his family, girlfriend, and friends.##imported-begin##Andrea(Grabski) Pastorelli & Ralph Pastorelli##imported-end##

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July 14, 2006 at 07:10 PM



“ Dearest George, Francine, Candace and Mary:

*What does one say during such a trying and difficult time. Life is not always fair and it is difficult to see the people you care about and love suffer such tragic losses.*

*Take comfort in the fact that everyone who knew and shared in Joey's life will forever keep those memories tucked safely in our hearts to share with you in the difficult days ahead. He will surely walk in peace with the angels. He was greatly loved and admired by all who knew him. The void left by his passing will be filled with remembering the joy he brought to all he knew. May God bless you all in this difficult time. Our hearts and prayers remain with you always.*

*All our love,*

*Linda, Kip, Calyn, Chad and Esther##imported-begin##Linda Maske and Family##imported-end##*

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July 14, 2006 at 02:49 PM



“ To the Spinelli Family... I am truly sorry for your loss. I have been friends with Joey for several years and I can't say enough about him. A wonderful person and trusted friend, he will forever be in my heart. I have many, many fond memories of Joey and I am a better person for having known him. He helped me in so many ways. God blessed me with his friendship and I will cherish him always. I will miss him dearly and remember him always. God Bless Joey and his family. Kelly###imported-begin###Kelly Skermont###imported-end##

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July 14, 2006 at 01:15 PM



“ You'll be greatly missed, see you when i get there###imported-begin###Cano Davy###imported-end##

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July 14, 2006 at 11:19 AM



“ MC and family,  
I'm so sorry to hear about joey. I still remember him running around the rink while MC and I were skating, and I still remember Mrs. Spinelli's voice carrying through the Aud....."Joeeeeey!!!" Oh my gosh, I have nothing but fond memories of your whole family! I have you in my thoughts and close to my heart during this tragic time. I'm so very sorry for your loss of Joey.###imported-begin###Jeni Flock###imported-end##

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July 14, 2006 at 10:41 AM



“ To the Spinelli family....I am so sorry for your loss. I have known Joe for many years and was grateful to have him as my friend. He will be sadly missed by all people he touched throughout his life. God Bless Joe and the Spinelli family....Mena###imported-begin###Mena (Testa) Raspante###imported-end##

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July 14, 2006 at 08:07 AM



“ As Joey's past baseball coach at Mt.Carmel Little League. I'd like to say sorry to his family for there loss . Joey was a great person who will be missed by all that knew him. May he rest with god in heaven .###imported-begin###Richard A.Valente###imported-end##

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July 14, 2006 at 06:05 AM



“ Joe,  
You will be deeply missed. God bless.  
Mark T###imported-begin###Mark Tartaglia###imported-end##

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July 14, 2006 at 12:19 AM



“ To the Spinelli family, I just want to say that I am so so sorry for the loss of your son, Joe. He was a very good friend of my Sister in law and Brother in law, Mike and Claudine Peters. He was such a nice kid and he adored my nieces sooooo much. I am truly truly sorry you are in my thoughts and prayers.....###imported-begin###Lisa Castardi###imported-end##

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July 14, 2006 at 12:15 AM



“ Spinotts we will miss ya alot, we know you are in a better place now. And Joes family sorry for the loss. LOVE YOU  
SPINNOTS!!!##imported-begin##Audrey Zito##imported-end##

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July 14, 2006 at 12:12 AM



“ To the Spinelli family,  
There are no words that one can say, please know that my thoughts and prayers are with you thru this difficult time.- Carrie and family##imported-begin##Carrie "Rondeau" Furmanski##imported-end##

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July 13, 2006 at 11:37 PM



“ To te Spinelli family, I am so sorry to hear of your loss. I always thought of him as my little buddy when he worked at Eastside Glass. He will be truly missed.##imported-begin##Al Zito##imported-end##

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July 13, 2006 at 11:18 PM



“ I was SOOOOO fortunate to have Joe as a student while he was in high school. I can't say enough how much I enjoyed Joey for his wonderful personality and his attitude towards life. He was so fun loving in the classroom and such a joy to see each day. As a teacher, I was blessed to have Joey in my classroom and my life. As a parent and a teacher, I am heartsick to learn of Joe's passing. My prayers go out to Joe's family during this most painful time. God Bess You and especially Joey!!!##imported-begin##Veda Candeloro##imported-end##

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July 13, 2006 at 11:03 PM



“ *Candace and Family,  
I am so sorry to hear of your loss. My heart and prayers go out to  
you and your family.  
Love,  
Maria###imported-begin##Maria LoConte Kinville###imported-end##*

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July 13, 2006 at 10:20 PM



“ *I first met Joey at Pleeters when I started working there about 2 and  
half years ago, he was a great person. Then I got a new job and I  
didnt see him too much, unfortunetly. He was one of those people  
who would truly do anything for anyone. I don't think I ever smiled  
and laughed so much in my life. Every moment I was working with  
him was a great experience. I truly miss him and I feel horrible  
about your loss, I just wish I had a chance to stop by and say hello  
before his passing. RIP JOE. I miss ya brother!!!!*

*Your Friend,*

*Bryan.###imported-begin##Bryan Zakala###imported-end##*

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July 13, 2006 at 10:08 PM



“ *To the Spinelli family.....I am so sorry to hear about Joe. I knew Joe  
back in highscool and he was always a great guy who could  
always make me laugh. He will be greatly missed.*

*My thoughts and prayers go out to all of you!###imported-  
begin##Tammy (Passante) Butera###imported-end##*

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July 13, 2006 at 09:19 PM



“ George, Francine, Mary Catherine, Candace, and family: I'm so sorry to hear about Joey. As a parent and sibling, I cannot find words to fathom what this means, and the pain that you must be feeling. The older that I get, the more precious the childhood/"coming of age" memories from our homes on Lansing Street become for me. Joey will always be an important part of those memories... from our daily Wiffle Ball game marathons, boating trips, house parties, swimming, bike-riding, cruising Genesee Street, playing an ice-hockey version of miniature golf at the Dunes, and so much more. Those sure were the days! I can only hope that my own children are blessed with the friendship of someone like Joey. My thoughts and prayers are with you. May you find the strength and perserverence to get through this terrible tragedy. Joey will live on in our hearts, and in our warmest memories. I'm so, so sorry. ~ Steve Aceto###imported-begin###Steve Aceto###imported-end###

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July 13, 2006 at 08:00 PM



“ My deepest sympathies to the Spinelli family. I am truly sorry for this terrible and unexpected loss.

Joey and I went to high school together and he was a dear childhood friend of my husband, Steve Aceto. He was a wonderful person and he will be missed by many. I am so sorry and words cannot express the knot in my heart right now. :(###imported-begin###Elise Kamin Aceto###imported-end###

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July 13, 2006 at 01:44 PM



“ *Joey will be truely missed.....*

*Joey, Sheridan and I coached hockey together and have many great memories.*

*I wish the Spinelli family the best in these hard and sad times...*

*Paul Keator##imported-begin##Paul Keator##imported-end##*

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July 13, 2006 at 12:12 PM



“ *Sorry for your loss. You are all in our thoughts and prayers. Love, Bubby and Catherine##imported-begin##Bubby and Catherine Preston##imported-end##*

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July 13, 2006 at 11:16 AM



“ *Our love and prayers are with you in these very difficult times. Keep your eyes on Jesus, He wants to comfort you with His love.##imported-begin##Ralph and Melinda Preston##imported-end##*

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July 13, 2006 at 08:41 AM