



Mr. Kenneth J. "Kenny" Mariano

August 17, 1954 - January 24, 2020

N. UTICA - Mr. Kenneth J. "Kenny" Mariano, age 65, passed from the arms of his wife to the arms of the Lord when he left this earth on Friday, January 24, 2020 in the comfort and dignity of his home. He is now free from pain. When he passed, he took a piece of his wife's heart with him.

Born in Utica on August 17, 1954, Kenneth was the son of the late Thomas A. Jr. and Carmelita (Valenti) Mariano. He was a graduate of Utica Free Academy/Class of 1972 and continued his education at MVCC. On August 28, 1976 he married the former JoAnn M. Kennedy. They were in love; they were soul mates. They shared common values, work ethics, and many happy memories. During their 43 years together, times were not always easy, but they persevered. JoAnn and Kenny spent the last 5 years, 5 months enduring an unsolvable illness, but their combined strength of mind and body gave them the will to carry on.

Kenny was a young man who knew the value of hard work, and it continued throughout his career with the Department of Transportation Tree Crew. His precision was also evident in his position with the New York State Thruway Authority where he was a Heavy Equipment Operator promoted to Foreman. He retired in 2010. Though Kenny, not known to many, in his youth was shy yet carried himself with a unique style. He had an affinity for art, painting, and photography; he saw life through his own lens. He had a heart of gold and thought of others first, a quality that garnered him a million good friends.

When he fell in love with JoAnn, friends and family found that Kenny

blossomed into an extrovert-plus person. Very often, dinners turned into parties, trips into adventures. He became a socialite and a dancing machine! Kenny could fit 48 hours into a 24-hour day. JoAnn rarely wanted to correct Kenny but one thing that definitely got under her skin was his addictive OCD Samsung phone that was permanently attached to his ear. Details to follow... He was intuitive by nature when it came to the upkeep of his home, which both he and his wife assisted in building. He never missed a moment in trying new things. He detailed his cars, as well as many other people's vehicles, to perfection. Physical fitness was important to him. He was a Halloween enthusiast, a Christmas decorator, and a New Year' Eve celebrator. When it came to hobbies, Kenny was passionate about boating and riding his burgundy motorcycle and was involved in many charitable rides and great friendships. A politically-minded citizen, he served as a committee man along with his brother, in District 6-2. He strove to implement change and be a voice for the people. He supported many local candidates from various political arenas.

One of Kenny's keenest talents was "playing match-maker". Even in his illness FTD (Frontal Temporal [Lobe] Dementia), he was persistent and his character shone through. He lived a great life, made the most of everything, and did things his way. He leaves a legacy of "Kenny-isms", many acts of kindness, and blessings. Departure from this world was not easy; there were long days, and long nights, but his courage and will kept Kenny on this earth and sustained him, until the Lord called him home.

Kenny is survived by his cherished wife, JoAnn; his brother, John A. Mariano, who had a significant role in caring for Kenny which he did out of love; his cousins, in-laws, Joseph F. and Waiyee Kennedy, and Michael and Robin Kennedy; a nephew, two nieces, several great-nieces and great-nephews; uncles and aunts, Robert Mariano, Frances Mariano, Devina and Jack Giambrone, Kathleen and Thomas Bifarella, George "Marty" Kennedy, Angelo Giacovelli, Patty Kennedy, and Jack and Susan Kennedy; and a multitude of special friends who filled the seasons of his life. He also had the affection of

Daisy, his feline friend who was conveyed to him by his mother-in-law as a source of comfort. He was predeceased by his father-in-law and mother-in-law, Joseph G. and Mary Ann (Jarema) Kennedy.

The family extends their gratitude to Dr. Scott Brehaut for his endless efforts to keep Kenny in a good place; and the staff of Hospice & Palliative Care who were a godsend. They were always encouraging and were collectively a bright spot during a challenging time, through their vigilance and personalized care. Visitation will be held Wednesday, from 4:00-7:00 at the Eannace Funeral Home, Inc., 932 South St., corner of Hammond Ave. Expressions of sympathy in the form of donations may be directed to Hospice & Palliative Care, Inc., online at <https://hospicecareinc.org>. Envelopes will be available at the funeral home. Kenny's funeral service and Celebration of Life will commence on Thursday morning at 10:00 from the funeral home and 11:00 at St. Mary of Mt. Carmel/Blessed Sacrament Parish where his Mass of Christian Burial will be offered. Interment will follow graveside at St. Agnes Cemetery.

Cemetery Details

St. Agnes Cemetery

601 Arthur Street
Utica, NY 13501
(315) 732-8588

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN **29**. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

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

Funeral Service

JAN **30**. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Mary of Mount Carmel / Blessed Sacrament Parish
648 Jay St
Utica, NY 13501
(315) 735-1482

Tribute Wall

LF

“ JoAnn & Family...my thoughts and prayers are with you! May Kenny rest in eternal peace now...God Bless, Lynette

Lynette Franco - January 31, 2020 at 11:29 PM

SC

“ Joann,
I am so sorry to hear that Kenny has passed away. I have not seen you two in so many years. After I moved to Syracuse after the days of "Partners Choice" and Jerry playing in the band with Bob Lynn, I ran into the two of you at events in Syracuse in Clinton Square and you were always the sweetest couple ever! I will keep you in my thoughts and prayers during this dark time!
Sharon Carrow

Sharon L Carrow - January 30, 2020 at 08:15 PM

LF

“ Lynette Franco lit a candle in memory of Mr. Kenneth J. "Kenny" Mariano



Lynette Franco - January 28, 2020 at 10:48 PM

YD

“ Joann,
So sorry to hear of Kenny's passing. I know that you are heartbroken and lost. Cherish the many happy memories you have with each other. I can remember some happy fun times out with you and kenny. If anyone wanted to know what was going on and what to do Kenny always had the answer and we always had a great time. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family Joann. Kenny's obituary is beautiful and the love you have for one another shines thru. My thoughts are with you. Love
Yolanda



Yolanda Dischiavo - January 28, 2020 at 05:29 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mr. Kenneth J. "Kenny" Mariano.



January 27, 2020 at 11:49 AM



“ Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mr. Kenneth J. "Kenny" Mariano.



January 26, 2020 at 05:31 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mr. Kenneth J. "Kenny" Mariano.*



January 26, 2020 at 04:09 PM



“ *Cathy Shaw lit a candle in memory of Mr. Kenneth J. "Kenny" Mariano*



Cathy Shaw - January 26, 2020 at 12:25 PM



“ *Kenny you were a special person and everyone who knew you was blessed with your friendship and understanding what life was all about, your giving and sharing was a true representation of who you were.. JoAnn our Hearts go out to you.. Kenny may you rest in peace, God Bless, Sharon and Andrew...*

Andrew and Sharon Slade - January 25, 2020 at 11:07 PM



“ *I am so sorry to see that Kenny has passed. I remember his kindness and smile. My condolences to JoAnn, John, and the Mariano family ...*

Lynn (Abraham) Slosek - January 25, 2020 at 05:11 PM

JH

“ To my friend Kenny sorry I could not be there at the end of your life , I left in early December for Florida with many commitments with family members from Italy. We said our goodbyes early with a heavy heart.. you were always there to lead a helping hand. I had a hard time excepting your illness and tried to encourage you myself. You got mad at me at times but I couldn't let you go. I will truly miss our Sunday dinners even though you were not feeling well you felt comfortable laying on my couch and circling when I was cooking. Going to miss you Kenny. I will be here for your wife with all my heart. Rest In Peace love Joann and George

joann haley - January 25, 2020 at 04:29 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mr. Kenneth J. "Kenny" Mariano.



January 25, 2020 at 04:07 PM