



Mr. Lawrence A. "Larry" Saponari

November 2, 1944 - September 8, 2020

YORKVILLE - Mr. Lawrence A. "Larry" Saponari, age 75, passed away on Tuesday, September 8, 2020 at peace with his loved ones by his side. Born in Utica on November 2, 1944, Lawrence was the son of the late Bruno and Helen (Gadziala) Saponari. He was educated in the NY Mills School District and graduated with the Class of 1962. In school, he was active in athletics, including football, baseball (which was his passion), and track. A proud veteran of the United States Air Force, Larry enlisted at the age of 18 and honorably served his country from 1962-1967 stationed overseas as well as stateside.

Initially, Larry worked for the United States government in the Finance Department. He was later employed as a substitute teacher and tutor in local school districts, affectionately known as "Mr. Larry".

Larry's family and his grandchildren knew his unbounded love. He saw his grandkids off to school each morning and would be waiting for them when they came home. He was a fun and playful Poppy Larry. The kids uplifted his soul and applauded his "Big Kid" and entertaining nature. His nieces, nephews, great-nieces, and great-nephews also knew his love and affection. A free spirit, Larry never lingered in one place too long; he had to go, ...and everyone came to accept his imminent mobility. But his transitory nature did not affect his close friendships of a lifetime with Butch, Danny, and Stan. If you saw Larry on the street, he was always attired in a high turtleneck and sport coat, an old-school look and a style he embraced. The Top of the Morning

Cafe on Trenton Road was a meeting place for Larry and friends of recent years with whom he loved spending time. He also frequented Friday brunch at the Turning Stone and Sunday morning at Panera's for breakfast. He kept active and involved. He was a die hard NY Yankee fan, and there are many memories of him and his father, from opposite rooms, bantering over players, coaches, and calls; Larry would come out in his "Yankee Robe" to make sure his father saw all the plays! His passion for baseball led him to serve as an umpire for Babe Ruth League baseball at Wankel field. His vehicles were also important to him, and his pristine cars were detailed to perfection. He especially enjoyed the performance of his Mustangs.

Larry never stayed long at one place, but his presence was felt and will never be forgotten by those who called him friend, and all who loved him as family. Larry is survived by his daughter and son-in-law, Valerie and Gary DeStefanis; his grandchildren, Isabella, Madison, and Mathew; and sisters and brothers-in-law, Rosie and Rich Zajac, Patty and Jimmy Derella, and Kathy Saponari. He also leaves his adored nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, godchildren, and cousins. He was predeceased by his loving aunts, uncles, and cousins.

Larry's daughter and her family are grateful to the Syracuse VA Medical Center nursing staff of 7B for the compassion and dignified care rendered to Larry, especially Wendy who was a godsend. Their communication with his daughter was outstanding and so admirable. He received 5-star treatment. A Memorial Gathering in Larry's honor will be held Sunday afternoon from 1:00-3:00 at the Eannace Funeral Home, Inc., 932 South St., corner of Hammond Ave. Due to the current restrictions, we will be operating at a limited occupancy. We ask for your patience as we try to accommodate those coming to support the Saponari family. Face masks must be worn and contact tracing will be implemented. Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend Larry's Memorial Service and Celebration of Life which will commence at 3:00 at the funeral home at the conclusion of visitation. Inurnment will take place in Resurrection Chapel Mausoleum at Holy Trinity Cemetery at the

convenience of the family.

Please take a moment to connect with Larry's family through the "Memories" section of his obituary. Our prayers go out to all as a sign of our continued support.

Cemetery Details

Resurrection Chapel Mausoleum at the convenience of the family

1500 Champlin Avenue
Utica, NY

Previous Events

Memorial Gathering

SEP 13. 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

Eannace Funeral Home, Inc.
932 South Street
corner of Hammond Ave.
Utica, NY 13501
(315) 724-6714
eannacefh@roadrunner.com
<https://www.eannacefuneralhome.com>

Memorial Service

SEP 13. 3:00 PM (ET)

Eannace Funeral Home, Inc.
932 South Street
corner of Hammond Ave.
Utica, NY 13501
(315) 724-6714
eannacefh@roadrunner.com
<https://www.eannacefuneralhome.com>

Tribute Wall

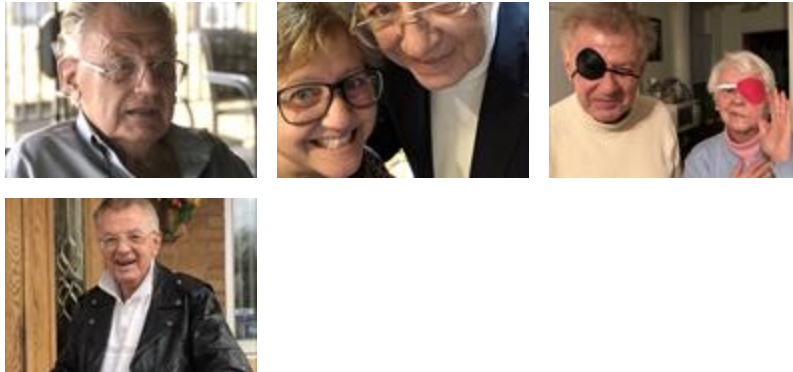
TA

“ *I know him from Turning Stone where he would come to our Swinging Senior Friday dance event every week. He was always very kind too us with a smile on his face. He will surly be missed.*

Tara - September 15, 2020 at 05:28 PM

SC

“ I knew Larry from Pounder Hall, where he lived near my parents. He was one of my favorite people because he was so loud and you knew anything he told might be a bit exaggerated. He was the only person who I liked to talk politics with because he made me laugh. During one spirited argument he said, “Oh Hilliary is smarter than Donald, but she’s a woman, she can’t be president.” I laughed so hard during these conversations, because who says that? One time I reminded him of this story and he said, “Hell, I’m smarter than Donald.” (He truly did love him, though.) He was always a good sport and gladly put on his eye patch to make my mom feel better when she had to wear one. This year he held the title of the King of the Winter Snowball at the Eastern Star home and sadly I missed the crowning-an absolute perfect photo opportunity . My sister used to call him the Fonz of Pounder Hall, which was pretty accurate. We were all sure he could jump the shark.
Today we raise our chocolate pusties to you, Larry!



Susan Carney - September 12, 2020 at 10:48 AM

NR

“ Val, Gary and the family
Please know that my prayers and thought are
with you at this time
Norma



Norma Ruskey - September 11, 2020 at 10:07 AM

DG

“ Valerie, I'm so sorry to hear of your loss. My sympathy to you and the rest of your family. Please stay well. Stay safe. Take good care.
Diane Goldin (aka Mrs. Goldin)

Diane Goldin - September 11, 2020 at 05:57 AM

JW

“ JoAnn Saponari Whitaker lit a candle in memory of Mr. Lawrence A. "Larry" Saponari



JoAnn Saponari Whitaker - September 11, 2020 at 04:43 AM

MT

“ Val, Patty, Kathy, Rosie and the rest of the Saponari family I am so sorry for your loss. I have really enjoyed our Sunday breakfasts the last few years. Larry was full of stories and was always fun to be with. Joann and I are sending prayers for the entire family. Because of covid and Joann's immune system we will not be able to attend the services.

michael Tomassetti - September 10, 2020 at 08:00 PM

JL

“ Uncle Lar, you were one of a kind! You always made sure you called for birthdays, and Anniversaries, or even if it was just a drive by with a honk and a wave just to check up on us and tell us you loved us. Your visits were so appreciated and the kids always enjoyed the surprise doughnuts too!! Rest easy Unc. Give some love to Gram and Gramp for us! We will miss you! Love you forever!
xo

Jamie Lynn - September 10, 2020 at 06:52 PM

CR

“ I was known to hang out at the Zajac household while growing up , they treated me like family included with them was Uncle Larry . He was always the life of the room , we would talk baseball, cars or anything that would spark conversation. He was everybody's Unc, he always had a youthful exuberance about him . He will be missed, RIP Uncle Larry ...

Chris Reese - September 10, 2020 at 03:43 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Mr. Lawrence A. "Larry" Saponari.



September 10, 2020 at 02:25 PM

GI

“ Gina lit a candle in memory of Mr. Lawrence A. "Larry" Saponari



Gina - September 10, 2020 at 09:48 AM

KM

Patty,
My thoughts and Prayers are with you & your Family.
Kathy Sinnott Mathews

Kathy Sinnott Mathews - September 11, 2020 at 10:26 PM

CA

Dear Patty and Family,

I'm so sorry to hear about the loss of your brother. May he RIP and may God bless you all at this time of sorrow. My prayers and thoughts are with you at this time.

Carol Abiusi

Carol Abiusi - September 11, 2020 at 11:58 PM

DG

Larry and I were cousins by marriage (Penie and Helen) but we were cousins for life...

Thoughts and prayers for your family

Don and Carol Giannotti

Don and Carol Giannotti - September 14, 2020 at 09:55 PM

AC

Dear Saponari Family,

So sorry to hear of your loss. May memories of time spent together help you through your grief. You are in our prayers.

Millie and John Comenale

Amelia Comenale - September 16, 2020 at 10:23 AM