



Mr. Leon J. DeBernardis, Sr. Esq.

December 1, 1928 - May 17, 2013

Mr. Leon J. DeBernardis, Sr., Esq., age 84, passed away on Friday, May 17, 2013 in the comfort and dignity of his home with his loving family by his side. Born in Herkimer on December 1, 1928, Leon was the son of the late Anthony and Vivien (Harper) DeBernardis. Raised and educated locally, he graduated from St. Francis De Sales High School and later attended Syracuse University School of Law in 1956. A proud veteran of the United States Army, he honorably served his country until May of 1952. On September 6, 1954 he married the former Carolyn "Carol" Giannatelli and together they shared not only a 58-year union of matrimony, but also an alliance of their professional lives. He affectionately referred to Carol as "Mother".

Leon began his practice of Law working for the late John Tierney, Esq. for a number of years. He later established his own practice specializing in Matrimonial Law and Bankruptcy. He was a man of true worth and compassion, always looking out for the best interests of his clients during his practice of over 50 years. Leon put others before himself, often not accepting legal fees and in addition, providing families with food and presents during the holidays. A simple man, Leon would spend Saturdays at the car garage with his friends. He cherished his family and made it a point to see his own mother every day. He enjoyed going to his camp at Caroga Lake every weekend where he held a great passion for the serenity and beauty of the water and the natural environment. He was a keen car enthusiast. He cherished his canine companion Charlie. Leon had a lifetime affiliation with Boys Town, a charitable

organization dedicated to the housing and education of at-risk children, founded by Father Flanagan, and he was a member of the Knights of Columbus. He was a parishioner of the Church of Our Lady of Lourdes where he served as the Head Usher for nearly 50 years.

Leon is survived by his wife, Carolyn; his daughters and son-in-law, Susan G. Augusto, and Patty and Harry Scaramella, all of Utica; he cherished the memories of his daughter, Celeste Ann, and his son-in-law, David A. Rositano, who preceded him; and his son, Leon Jr. and Mia DeBernardis of Utica; his grandchildren, Matthew David and his wife Sara Rositano, Valerie Grace and Mike Tomaselli, Amanda Marie Rositano and her husband Tony Lawrence, Thomas John DeBernardis, Alison Augusto, Eric Augusto, Carolyn and her husband Matthew Montalbo, Alexandra Scaramella, Matthew Stevenson, and the beloved memory of his grandson, Marcus Joseph Rositano, who passed before him; and his great-grandchildren, Isabella, Alexis, Lucy, Ollie, Charles, Alexander, and Sofia. Also left to mourn his passing are his sisters and brother-in-law, Anna Trevisani of Utica, Regina Belt of Chicago, and Angela and Richard Zarski of CA; many nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, and cousins. He was predeceased by his brothers and sister-in-law, Claude and Beverly DeBernardis, and Anthony Albert DeBernardis; and his brothers-in-law, Frank Trevisani, and Ralph Belt.

The family sends heartfelt appreciation to Leon's personal caregivers, Rebecca Potter, and Judith Rositano for their timely response to the family's needs; and the nurses and staff of Hospice & Palliative Care, Inc., for their care and concern.

Visitation will be held Monday from 4:00-7:00 at the Eannace Funeral Home, Inc., 932 South St., corner of Hammond Ave. Memorial contributions in Leon's honor may be considered to Hospice & Palliative Care, Inc.; envelopes will be available at the funeral home. Leon's funeral service and Celebration of Life will commence on Tuesday morning at 10:00 from the funeral home and at 11:00 at the Church of Our Lady of Lourdes where his Mass of Christian Burial will be offered by Rev. Joseph Salerno. Interment with Military Honors will

follow graveside at Forest Hill Cemetery.

Cemetery Details

Forest Hill Cemetery

2201 Oneida Street
Utica, NY 13501
(315) 735-2701

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 20. 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
<https://www.eannacefuneralhome.com>

Tribute Wall

EL

“ Your Dad helped so many, many people that you will never know about because I am certain he never talked about it to anyone. He is with the Lord and was a Saint of a human being. When I was a teenager we had a conversation that may have saved my life. I have thought of that chance encounter many times. I wish I had reached out and called to say thank you. I did not. He made the world a better place.

Elaine Darman Levitt - May 25, 2013 at 06:51 PM

RZ

“ Rhonda Zangrilli-Russell lit a candle in memory of Mr. Leon J. DeBernardis, Sr. Esq.



Rhonda Zangrilli-Russell - May 20, 2013 at 03:05 PM

NP

“ Nancy & Jordan Polizzi lit a candle in memory of Mr. Leon J. DeBernardis, Sr. Esq.



Nancy & Jordan Polizzi - May 20, 2013 at 10:41 AM

SR

“ Steven Russo lit a candle in memory of Mr. Leon J. DeBernardis, Sr. Esq.



Steven Russo - May 20, 2013 at 09:45 AM

SR

“ Mrs.D,Susan,Patty and Leon Jr, What can I say I will always remember the years I spend with your family. Your Dad was like a second father to me back then,had great times and memories of all time I spent up at Caroga Lake and at the home on Van Vorst St./Bradford Ave. He will be missed by me. "God Bless You MR.D" my love and prayers, to all! STEVEN S. RUSSO

Steven Russo - May 20, 2013 at 09:34 AM

TR

“ Tracey lit a candle in memory of Mr. Leon J. DeBernardis, Sr. Esq.



Tracey - May 20, 2013 at 05:20 AM

JJ

“ Carol, Susan, Patty and Leon, Jr. all of heartfelt our prayers and love. Janice and Samuel L. Russo, Jr. (Utica, NY)



Janice and Samuel L. Russo, Jr. - May 19, 2013 at 07:54 PM

LI

“ *Lindsey lit a candle in memory of Mr. Leon J. DeBernardis, Sr. Esq.*



Lindsey - May 18, 2013 at 06:32 PM

CR

“ *Our deepest sympathy to the family of "MR. D." ~ he was an amazing man with an amazing sense of humor. You will be missed. So many memories...*



Carol & Rocco Rositano - May 18, 2013 at 10:08 AM

SR

“ *RIP Leon you will be missed by all. My favorite memory of you will be Stevie I need you on my side today. Thank you for all the great memories & your family that you shared with our family. The Rositano Family*

Steve Rositano - May 18, 2013 at 10:04 AM

SR

“ *Steve Rositano lit a candle in memory of Mr. Leon J. DeBernardis, Sr. Esq.*



Steve Rositano - May 18, 2013 at 10:00 AM

LC

“ *Lisa Carzo lit a candle in memory of Mr. Leon J. DeBernardis, Sr. Esq.*



Lisa Carzo - May 18, 2013 at 08:57 AM