



Mr. Leonard A. Vetere

March 18, 1930 - April 28, 2020

UTICA - Dad was a fighter. He amazed his doctors with his ability to overcome many health challenges for over 20 years. After a valiant fight of three weeks, his trademark “left hook” just wasn’t strong enough to defeat the one-two punch of the coronavirus. On the morning of April 28, 2020, we knew he was tired and gave the battle all he had. We gave our blessing to stop fighting and sleep peacefully. He accepted and left us to rejoin his mom, dad, brother, and many cherished aunts and uncles who went before him.

Leonard Anthony Vetere was born in Utica to Dominick and Philomena (Marrone) Vetere on March 18, 1930. Dad celebrated his 90th birthday last month at the nursing home in royal style as we visited through his window. Leonard was affectionately known to many as “Lep”. He grew up in Utica and attended local schools. He served in the US Army. He married his wife of 67 years, Theresa R. Lombardo, on April 11, 1953. Mom dedicated her entire life to caring for him and supported him in good times and bad as she promised. They practiced their faith at St. Mary of Mt. Carmel Church where Dad was an usher for many years. Together, they raised their five children. His family and friends meant the world to him, and there was nothing he wouldn’t do for any of them. Dad never said “no” to anyone who asked for his help. Dad worked hard. He often worked more than two jobs to support his family. He began his career at the former Griffiss Air Base where he made many lasting friendships. He looked forward to his frequent visits with former co-workers, Nanette and Lorrie. Dad ultimately returned to Griffiss after working

for the FX Matt Brewing Co. for a number of years and retired in 1990. Dad felt very much a part of the family at the brewery. He thought the world of the Matt's and told stories of his time there with great pride. Up until the time he entered the hospital three weeks ago, his daily Utica Club was the highlight of his day.

Civic responsibility was very important to Dad. He was a dedicated member of the Oneida County Republican Committee and spent countless hours supporting many local politicians he believed were honorable women and men. He was proud to serve on the Zoning Board for the City of Utica. Dad met a special person in the civic arena, Lou Parrotta, who never failed to check in on him with a phone call or card.

Leonard leaves his wife Theresa; his beloved children, Dominick "Dick" Vetere, John (JoAnn) Vetere Sr., Theresa Ann Vetere, Rosemary (Pat, Sr.) Morrissey, and Christine Vetere. He was Pa and Poppy to his grandchildren and great-grandchildren, who brought much joy to him: John Jr., and Joseph Vetere; Patrick Jr. (Dielle), Jenae, Danielle (Denvil), Maria, and Michael Leonard Morrissey; great grandchildren, Patrick III, and Kelsey Morrissey. He also leaves his niece and nephew, Philomena (Frank) Marrotta, and Vincent (Colleen) Vetere and their families, as well as many cousins of the Marrone and Leone families; godchildren, and friends. He was especially close to his cousins, JoAnn (Mike) Jones, and Grace (late Charlie) Smith and their families; his lifelong friend, Rock Summa, who was the best man at his wedding; special friend Frankie DeBrango; and close friends of the LaBella, Caruso, Mott, Gentile, and Siracusa families.

He was predeceased by his parents and his brother, Vincent F. Vetere Sr.; his in-laws, John and Rose Lombardo, Vincent and Carmen Lombardo; and his sister-in-law, Carmella Vetere. Dad missed his buddies, Nick LaBella, his friend since childhood, and Dick Ambruso, and thought of them every day. We are eternally grateful to the ICU nurses at Rome Memorial Hospital who cared for Dad as if he were their own, in our place. We are also thankful that our sister Rosemary and niece Danielle were able to be with him on behalf of

all of us during Dad's last days. Dad's go to response to all of his doctors who asked him a medical question was "ask my daughter Christine...she knows more about me than I do". It was Christine's attention to every detail of Dad's care, in conjunction with his doctors, that allowed him to enjoy his family for 20 years longer than most expected. Dad was so appreciative and so are we. We remain grateful to the caring and skilled team of doctors, nurses, and staff at St. Joseph's Hospital, as well as to the members of the Utica Fire Department who served Dad with dedication and kindness over the years.

Dad always loved a good party and it was his wish that we have one. We will honor him privately and celebrate his life with all of you when we are able to gather. Messages to the family can be left on the Eannace Funeral Home website or mailed to the family in care of the Eannace Funeral Home, Inc., 932 South St., Utica, NY 13501. We appreciate the many kindnesses extended to us this past week. Since we are unable to gather at this time, we lovingly ask that in lieu of floral or food offerings, those who wish, may make a donation to the family which will be used for memorials and charitable contributions in Dad's memory. This obituary was affectionately written by Leonard's family.

Tribute Wall

JT

“ If anyone didn't like or love Lenny,,than something was seriously wrong with them..I knew him very well,and he was a tremendous guy, the very best,nobody better, R.I.P. Lenny

Joseph A. Tresoline - August 07, 2020 at 09:39 PM

RC

“ Dear Christine, I was so very sorry to hear of the loss of your beloved father. My deepest condolences, thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. May God bring you all comfort and peace during this difficult time 🙏 Roxanne Ciccone-Johns

Roxanne Ciccone-Johns - May 20, 2020 at 02:56 PM

PK

“ So sorry to hear of your Dad passing.Our thoughts and prayers are with you at this difficult time. Sincerely George and Phylis Korrie

Phylis Korrie - May 18, 2020 at 07:49 PM

RO

“ Rosemary lit a candle in memory of Mr. Leonard A. Vetere



Rosemary - May 13, 2020 at 07:19 PM

RO

“ One Week Ago Today Daddy, We Laid You To Rest. It Still Doesn't Seem Real. Part Of My Heart Went With You And Will Be With You Always! I Will Forever Treasure All The Time We Spent Together! Whether It Was Going Out To Eat Or Getting Your Soft Vanilla Ice Cream, Attending A Party, Fundraiser Or Just Simply Coming To Our Busy, Crazy House To Just Sit And Watch Your Grandchildren And Their Friends Coming And Going! It Didn't Matter If You Were Sitting At The Dinning Room Table, In The Recliner Or On The Back Deck, You Were Happy Just Being With Us! You Told Us Endless Stories Of Your Life Events About The Good Old Days, Our Family Tree, Work, Friends, Politics, Etc. And Pat Always Had A Thousand Questions For You Like He Was Writing A Book! I Told Him He Should Write A Journal Of Your Life Events While They Are Still Fresh In His Mind So We Will Always Have Them And We Can Give Them To Your Grandchildren And Great-Grandchildren! We Love And Miss You So Much! You Will Always Be My Hero And The Wind Beneath My Wings!



Rosemary - May 13, 2020 at 07:19 PM

MH

“ To the Morrissey family,
I am so sorry for the loss of your father and grandfather. Just want you to know the DeSantis family is thinking of all of you during this difficult time. May you find peace and cherish all of the wonderful memories that you have with him. Love,
Margaret DeSantis Harmon and family💕

Margaret DeSantis Harmon - May 11, 2020 at 10:32 AM

DD

“ John , Wishing you and your family the very best during this time of sorrow .
We are keeping your family in are thoughts and prayers .He was a good man!

David ,Carmen & Rosalie D'Ambro

David D'Ambro - May 08, 2020 at 12:06 PM

RF

“ I first met Leonard at Daw Drug Store on Mohawk st. I had just gotten my pharmacy license in 1961, We've been good friends ever since! He was truly a gentleman!
Rocco(Rock)Femia

Rock Femia - May 07, 2020 at 12:57 AM

MM

“ I had the pleasure of growing up on Brinckerhoff Avenue just down the street from the Vetere residence. The neighborhood was such a nice place to live and play. Your dad was always so friendly and kind. He would gladly stop and ask how you were doing and was always busy working around your home. As I recall, he carpooled with my dad to Griffiss Air Force Base for many years. What a wonderful gentleman. Sorry for your loss.

My condolences to your family, Mike Murphy

Mike Murphy - May 06, 2020 at 11:39 AM

MS

“ Mr. Vetere was so kind to me when I was young and living in Utica. He had such a welcoming spirit about him. I was blessed to have known him, and his wonderful family.

Michael Snyder - May 06, 2020 at 11:35 AM

PC

“ So sorry to learn of Leonard's passing. Losing a parent is never easy but cherishing the many years of memories will help during the difficult days. Our thoughts and prayers are with the entire family.

Sincerely,
Pam and Jim Casamento

Pam Casamento - May 06, 2020 at 10:51 AM

CP

“ We are do sorry for your loss, peace to your family 🙏
The Picente's

Cathy Picente - May 05, 2020 at 08:48 PM

JL

“ An amazing tribute to a wonderful, kind man. Although it's been years, I can still hear his voice and will never forget "Lep" or daddy, as Christine would lovingly refer to him. Sending my love and prayers to all of you, in hopes that you find the strength to celebrate the life of your husband and father.

Jayne Lang - May 05, 2020 at 03:49 PM

CC

“ TO THERESA , JOANN. TERESA ANN, ROSEMARY AND PAT
AND FAMILY
SO SORRY TO HEAR OF YOUR LOSS MR V WAS ALWAYS NICE
TO ME. MY PRAYS ARE WITH YOU ALL

CARMELA DE CARLO

CARMELA DE CARLO - May 05, 2020 at 03:17 PM

AM

“ *All the Morrissey's purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Mr. Leonard A. Vetere.*



All the Morrissey's - May 05, 2020 at 12:38 PM

MA

“ *To my Utica family,*

My thoughts and prayers are send from Rochester, we loved Uncle Leonard and wish we could have seen more of each other.... he was always smiling...

*Love you all,
Cousin Maritrese Vito*

Maritrese - May 05, 2020 at 12:01 PM

DA

“ *Danielle lit a candle in memory of Mr. Leonard A. Vetere*



Danielle - May 05, 2020 at 11:03 AM

DM

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Danielle Morrissey - May 04, 2020 at 05:43 PM

ES

Beautiful girl and her Pop ❤️ Love you. I'm thinking of you always. Mrs Scalise

erin scalise - May 09, 2020 at 05:39 AM

MK

“ *Rosemary Pat Christine and family we are so very sorry about your Dad . He brought up a beautiful family and you girls did a wonderful job taking care of a kindhearted beautiful father . Our prayers are with you always . Your Dad will be with you always . Take care of Mom . She is a beautiful mother*

Maria and Matthew Kozak - May 04, 2020 at 04:01 PM

RT

“ *John and family so sorry for the loss of your Father. He always made me laugh when he would be delivering beer to out store with Franny. He will be missed. RIP*

Ray Tantillo - May 04, 2020 at 03:05 PM

CC

“ To Rosemary and the entire Vetere family. I am so very sorry to hear about the circumstances and the passing of your Dad. My deepest condolences are being sent your way during this difficult time.

Connie Citriniti - May 04, 2020 at 01:46 AM

GO

“ To Rosemary and the entire Vetere family so sorry to hear of the loss of Leonard he was a great man and will be missed by so many. Rest in peace Leonard

gary ollerenshaw - May 03, 2020 at 07:21 PM

GO

“ Gary Ollerenshaw lit a candle in memory of Mr. Leonard A. Vetere



gary ollerenshaw - May 03, 2020 at 07:18 PM

EL

“ Mrs Vetere, Dick, John, Theresa, Rosemary, Christine, and family,

I am so sorry to hear about my buddy Len. I always enjoyed his visits into my office, and our lengthy conversations. He was a great guy and a true gentleman. I know all of you have great memories and stories of him you will never forget. My heart and prayers are with Len and all of you. God bless.

*Sincerely,
Ed Lasek*

Ed Lasek - May 03, 2020 at 05:18 PM

RB

“ Dear Rosemary, Pat and family
We are so very sorry to hear about your dad’s passing.
He was a wonderful man and loved by many . Please know you are
in my prayers. Love you all .

Rosemary Brown - May 03, 2020 at 04:54 PM

ED

“ John, JoAnn and family, please accept our heartfelt sympathy for
the passing of your Dad. You are all in our thoughts and prayers.

Ed and Mary DePalma - May 03, 2020 at 04:29 PM

 Regina
Bonacci

“ John, I am so sorry to read about the death of your father. My
condolences to you and your family

Regina Bonacci

Regina Bonacci - May 03, 2020 at 02:34 PM

PS

“ John & Joann and the Vetere family, we send our condolences for
the loss of your loved one, Leonard. We hope the great memories
and love you all shared will help you through this difficult time.
Sincerely, Pat and Colleen Sparacino

Pat and Colleen Sapracino - May 03, 2020 at 12:31 PM

CR

“ Rosemary, Pat, Dick and all the family Chris and I were sorry to hear about your dad's passing. Will always remember the kidding and great conversations we would have especially those when he came to the school. He always made it a point to find me and say hello. Great guy!
Our sympathy and prayers are with you and your family.

Chris & Dick Rasi

Chris & Dick Rasi - May 03, 2020 at 12:27 PM

NP

“ I knew Leonardo for over 50 years, always a smile on his face and he say to me nick, what can I do for you. He was a great friend of my uncle Rock Parrotta, working at Griffis airbase for many years.
May you rest in peace my good friend,

Nick Parrotta

Naples, Florida

Nick Parrotta - May 03, 2020 at 12:21 PM

JP

“ My sincere condolences on the passing of your father, Dick. Prayers and thoughts for you and your family.

John Pitarresi - May 03, 2020 at 11:49 AM



“ I wish I could give you a hug. I was glad you took him to my house so we could talk of old times , he loved my cookies I was glad to make them for him, my prayers are with you every day. Terry

Theresa Aliasso - May 03, 2020 at 10:38 AM

CV

Terry,

*Thank you so much! I will never forget the visit, the conversation of reminiscing the many memories from the past of mutual people you knew, the "good ole days" from East Utica. I loved hearing those stories-I will miss him everyday-hope he is visiting with our angel your beautiful Julie..Love you and so Blessed to have you in my life! XO
Christine*

Christine Vetere - May 11, 2020 at 11:19 AM



“ I worked across the hall from the base motor pool for many years and remember Lennie as a great guy that was loved and respected by all those that he worked with. I never knew his age. I am sorry to hear of his passing. Sending prayer for strength and peace as you go through the coming days. May he rest in peace.

*Dick Naegele
Bristol Tennessee*

Dick Naegele - May 03, 2020 at 10:20 AM

LE

“ So sorry for your loss. Leonard was a wonderful man who loved his family. He always made me feel welcome when I would come over as Theresa was my best friend through school. Anytime I would see Rosemary I would always ask how her mom & dad were doing. He overcame many health obstacles over the years. RIP 🙏

Linda Jackson Eller - May 03, 2020 at 09:42 AM

CT

“ So sorry for your loss. I remember the days we were at republican functions Len was always the life of the party.

cindy testa - May 03, 2020 at 09:22 AM

MM

“ Rosemary,
My prayers go out to you and your family for the loss of your loving dad. I remember meeting him at school during some of the events you attended for your children.
With sincere sympathy,
Martha Mancuso

Martha Mancuso - May 03, 2020 at 09:15 AM

BO

“ My condolences and prayers for the entire family and your father. Mt. Carmel lost another pillar of our family and has joined those he knew all his life in our heavenly Father's Mt. Carmel. Keep all the memories going thru your mind to get you thru this time of grief. Those memories will put smiles on your faces. God bless and may he RIP .

Bobby Ollerenshaw - May 03, 2020 at 08:06 AM

JM

“ John I'm am so sorry to hear of your father's passing. My thoughts and 🙏 prayers 🙏 are with you in this difficult time.

JoAnn Mariano - May 03, 2020 at 07:11 AM

DN

“ My condolences to the family. Cherish great memories from youth with John God Bless.

D Rich Nicotera - May 03, 2020 at 06:46 AM

VD

“ My deepest sympathy to the Vetere family. I worked with Lenny at the base and he had a great personality. Remember Lenny and Dick Ambroso always being together since they were best friend's. RIP my friend you were a good one. Vic Diodato Warner Robins, Ga

Victor Diodato - May 03, 2020 at 06:38 AM

BC

“ Rosemary, Patrick & family,
So very sorry for your loss.
With our deepest condolences,
Patrick & Brenda Castelli



Brenda Castelli - May 02, 2020 at 11:19 PM

EE

“ Leonard was a very good man. Always ready to help anyone. He will be sadly missed. Not only be his family but be everyone know hom. He was a great example to follow.

Elaine & Michael Elefante - May 02, 2020 at 11:02 PM

MM

“ Very sorry for your loss especially at this difficult time. Our thoughts and prayers are with all of you 🙏



Michelle Franco Mancuso - May 02, 2020 at 10:40 PM

LF

“ *Lynette Franco lit a candle in memory of Mr. Leonard A. Vetere*



Lynette Franco - May 02, 2020 at 10:37 PM

LF

“ *Dear John & Family, I am so sorry to hear of the passing of your father! My thoughts & prayers are with you all during this difficult time. God Bless...Lynette Franco*

Lynette Franco - May 02, 2020 at 10:21 PM

MD

“ *God has taken another kind gentle soul. My heart goes out to the family, I am praying that you can get through this difficult time.*



Michele DiNigre - May 02, 2020 at 06:36 PM

M(

“ *I remember Visiting Utica with my parents (Frank and Angela Torre) My mother's maiden name was Defemio. My Grandmother's maiden name was Vetere. Josephine Vetere. That's when I met Dominick and Philomena Vetere my mother's cousin Dominick. I want to express my deepest sympathies to all the family. Sincerely Marie Torre Defemio Vetere (DellaSorte)..*

Marie DellaSorte (Defemio) - May 02, 2020 at 06:29 PM

MA

“ *My condolences to Dick and the Vetere Family in the loss of you Dad. Blessings and prayers for all of you. In Sympathy. Mary Jo Arcuri*

mary jo arcuri - May 02, 2020 at 05:57 PM

MT

“ *Rosemary, and family. My deepest condolences for the loss of your father. May he be at peace. Prayers for you and all your family. With sympathy, Mary Teti 🙏*

mary teti - May 02, 2020 at 05:28 PM

SD

“ *Dear Dick and family, know you all are in our thoughts and prayers at this time. May he rest in peace! Love, Terry and Sue Daniels*

Sue Daniels - May 02, 2020 at 05:14 PM

FS

“ *Very sorry for your loss. May Lenny Rest In Peace. My prayers for his family. ❤️🙏*

Francine Sansone - May 02, 2020 at 05:03 PM

JD

“ *Dick and family ... it was always a pleasure to see your dad with you or your sister. He was loved and will never be forgotten. Sending love and comfort as you mourn this wonderful gentleman. 💙*

Joanne Donaruma - May 02, 2020 at 05:01 PM

MA

“ *Much love to Lenny! I was his Sharky! RIP my friend!*

Markie Armstrong - May 02, 2020 at 04:39 PM

CM

“ Lenny said I was his number 1 nurse and that he prayed to god to send him someone good so he sent him me, he will always hold a place in my heart. My condolences to his entire family.
Crystal Marshall and family

Crystal Marshall - May 02, 2020 at 04:37 PM

PR

“ Rosemary and family so sorry to hear this . I remember going to your home in high school and hanging out . I'm sorry fore your loss and send prayers and hugs . Paula Ciccarelli Richardson.

Paula Richardson - May 02, 2020 at 03:53 PM

LZ

“ Our thoughts go out to you during this time. So sorry for your loss.
Tony and Lisa Zumpano and family.

Lisa Zumpano - May 02, 2020 at 03:09 PM

KS

“ Theresa, Dielle, and Pat and families. So very sorry for your loss. Theresa I know how close you were with your Dad. We talked about our parents often while working at JCP. PLEASE KNOW MY THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS ARE WITH YOU AND DIELLE AND PAT. I AM SOO SORRY ABOUT YOUR GRANDFATHER. MUCH LOVE AND PRAYERS. 🙏❤️❤️❤️❤️

Kathie Scalise - May 02, 2020 at 02:38 PM

JG

“ *To the Vetere family ,
We are so sorry for your loss ...God Bless you and our prayers are
with you at this difficult time ...Janice and Fred Greer, and the
Stemmer family*

Janice Greer - May 02, 2020 at 01:22 PM

Lisa
Fitch

“ *Lisa Fitch lit a candle in memory of Mr.
Leonard A. Vetere*



Lisa Fitch - May 02, 2020 at 12:33 PM