



Lillian J. (Alfano) Tomaino

February 3, 1921 - February 18, 2024

VALATIE, NY/NEW HARTFORD, NY – Lillian J. (Alfano) Tomaino passed away on Sunday, February 18, 2024, with her cherished family by her side, after a huge milestone of 103 years young.

Born in Utica on February 3, 1921, Lillian was the daughter of the late Carmine and Angeline (Del Grande) Alfano. She was a proud graduate of T.R. Proctor High School. During World War II, Lillian worked as a secretary at Griffiss Air Force Base.

On July 6, 1946, Lillian wed Anthony M. Tomaino. Their love grew over correspondence during the war, and they truly knew each other's hearts, remaining in love and connected throughout their time together. Lillian and Anthony shared 55 years together prior to his passing on December 22, 2001.

In the 1980's, Lillian found a new way to connect with people to help those around her. She became a school assistant at Higby Road Elementary School. Working revitalized her spirit and she adored her work with children.

Lillian's greatest priority was to be a mother and that brought her two beautiful children. She fostered the value of togetherness in her family and relished the times they spent together. Lillian was a meticulous homemaker. Her and Anthony's home became the go-to place for many gatherings; they constantly

made the comfort of all important and created traditions which made for many fond memories.

Lillian was graced with a personality that was admired for her genuine kindness and her absolute inner and exterior beauty. She had such a deep faith, which was one of her legacies she bestowed upon her family. She consistently prayed for them and many others. Over her lifetime, Lillian amassed a library of books and a wealth of knowledge. She immersed herself in books of faith and the Spirit lived in her heart. She went through the journey of life with trust in the Lord and lived her life as child of God. Always thinking of others, Lillian often sent cards and notes to those she loved to uplift their souls.

Lillian had a true affection for animals, especially her cockatiels, Nelson, who was followed by her Sweetie, and she possessed an affinity in her heart for cats and dogs that just seemed to flock to her. Lillian was an excellent gardener and longed to be close to the earth. She spent hours tending to her garden and the beautiful flowers and wonderful colors that inhabited her yard evidenced her skill. Not only did Lillian enjoy gardening with plants, but she was rooted in the rock gardens that she created amidst her home.

Much of their family time was spent with “the in-laws,” which always made for fun and exciting times. She was truly inspired by those relationships. Easter was a special holiday for Lillian because it celebrated the resurrection of our Lord and renewed her connection with her faith. Lillian was a wonderful cook and baker who loved to share and receive recipes that allowed her to create her own dishes that soothed her palate.

Lillian was blessed whenever she was in the House of the God. She knew the Lord’s Word and lived a very productive life because she believed.

Lillian is survived by her beloved children and their loves, Lorraine and Tommy McTague, and Fredric "Fred" and Adele Tomaino; and grandchildren, Giacomo, and Theodoros "Theo" Tomaino. Lillian fondly remembered her siblings and their spouses who preceded her, Florence and Carl Pecheone, Mary and George Hoagland, Anna and Delos "Red" Thurston, Angeline Alfano, Patsy and Alice Alfano, and Carmen, Jr. and Margaret Alfano. Her memory will live on in the hearts of her many nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, and cousins. Lillian cherished the memories she shared with her dear friends, Helen and Richard "Dick" Ambord, and Philamena and Frank Convertino. Lillian was additionally predeceased by her father-in-law and mother-in-law, Antonio and Adelina (Leone) Tomaino; and her in-laws, Ferdinand "Fred" and Dorothy Tomaino, Joseph A. and Teresa Tomaino, Frank and Theresa Tomaino, Dominick Tomaino, Mary Nucci, Angelina Tomaino, and Helen Krieck.

The family will honor and commemorate Lillian's life at a private time. Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend Lillian's Mass of Christian Burial and Celebration of Life, which will commence on Saturday, March 2, 2024 at 9:30 a.m. at Historic Old St. John's Church, 240 Bleecker St. There will be an opportunity to greet the family at the conclusion of Mass. In lieu of floral offerings, memorial contributions in Lillian's honor may be made to Anita's Stevens Swan Humane Society online at <https://www.anitas-sshs.org/donate>, or to the Thea Bowman House online at <https://www.theabowmanhouse.org/donate>; envelopes will also be available at the service. Interment will take place in Calvary Cemetery.

Cemetery Details

Calvary Cemetery

2407 Oneida Street
Utica, NY 13501
(315) 735-2727

Previous Events

Funeral Service

MAR 2. 9:30 AM (ET)

Historic Old St. John's Church
240 Bleecker Street
Utica, NY 13501
(315) 724-6159
<https://www.historicoldstjohnschurch.com/>

Tribute Wall

MC

“ Dear Lorraine and Fred, I'm was so sorry to hear of the passing of aunt Lillian. I have many fond memories of her from when we were kids. I always remember her as being kind and gentle. I love the video of her dancing. I hope you find comfort in many more memories of her. Condolences to you and your family. Love,
Melanie Coiro

Melanie Coiro - March 17, 2024 at 07:41 AM

KG

“ Dear Lorraine and Fred...I am so very sorry to hear about the passing of your mom. She was a beautiful lady with a beautiful heart. Her smile would light up a room! My parents loved spending time with your mom and dad. Your parents will always be “Aunt Lillian and Uncle Tony” to me. I am so sorry I will not be at the service to pay my respects to you as I am in NC visiting my grandsons. I will be thinking of you both. My thoughts and prayers are with you. Kim Ambord Godfrey

Kim Ambord Godfrey - March 01, 2024 at 09:34 PM

FT

Dear Kim - So good to hear from you and thank you for your kind words about our mom. I also have really nice memories of the special relationship my parents had with yours. Our best to you and your family. Take care - Fred and Lorraine

Fredric Tomaino - March 02, 2024 at 07:48 PM

MB

“ Michael and Eileen Beresheim planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Lillian J. (Alfano) Tomaino.

Michael and Eileen Beresheim - March 01, 2024 at 01:03 PM

MB

“ Michael and Eileen Beresheim purchased the *Sentiments of Serenity Spray* for the family of Lillian J. (Alfano) Tomaino.



Michael and Eileen Beresheim - March 01, 2024 at 01:03 PM

LA

“ Love, Arlene, Elizabeth, and Abby planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Lillian J. (Alfano) Tomaino.

Love, Arlene, Elizabeth, and Abby - February 29, 2024 at 07:30 PM



“ *Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet* was purchased for the family of Lillian J. (Alfano) Tomaino.



February 29, 2024 at 07:30 PM

CG

“ Dear Lorraine and Fred, This is such a beautiful obituary for your mom. It brought me back to our childhood and all of the wonderful times we had at your home. Your mom was always very kind and your home was beautiful. I think for a while I wanted to live there with you. You could probably tell. A few of my fondest memories are of the huge weeping willow tree in the back yard, how funny your dad was, and your mom’s cookies!

I know your parents are resting in peace.

Take care, Cynthia (Moses) Gadra

Cynthia (Moses) Gadra - February 27, 2024 at 12:35 PM

FT

Hi Cynthia,

Thank you so much for this message and for thinking of my mom--and Dad--in this way. I just read it to my family. I have similar fond memories of our Sedgewick Park days--and playing hide and seek in your house.

*Take care,
Fred and Lorraine*

Fredric Tomaino - February 27, 2024 at 07:52 PM


Christop
Jones

Hello Fred & Lorraine...so very sorry about your Mom...she lived a good life...103 is amazing..hope you both find peace with all your memories

Christopher Jones - February 28, 2024 at 03:55 AM

FT

Thank you for this message Chris - I couldn't agree more, my mom lived a good long life--we were all blessed. Really good to hear from you--hope you and your whole family are doing well.

*Take care,
Fred and Lorraine*

Fredric Tomaino - February 28, 2024 at 07:30 PM


Christop
Jones

Hope to show my respects tomorrow at St. John's..will be really nice to see you all

Christopher Jones - March 01, 2024 at 11:29 AM


Christop
Jones

Your Mom was such an extravert... Your Mom and Dad raised you both to be the best you could be....it was so nice to see you both Lorraine and Fred...I understand that Lorraine cared for your Mom for a long time after your Dad's passing...TRULY PROFOUND. Your memories are endless and a blessing. Fred...your family is beautiful. It was a pleasure to be part of your love and respect for Mom & Dad. I will pray for your PEACE!!!

Christopher Jones - March 03, 2024 at 03:48 AM

SG

Yesterday's service was beautiful, befitting the life of a genuinely and thoroughly beautiful person. I have never forgotten, and never will, Mrs. Tomaino's endless kindness and her beautiful welcoming smile. Like Mr. Tomaino, Mrs. Tomaino was wonderful in every way. Your house always seemed full of love and warmth; parents can give no greater gift and leave no more important legacy. Honored that via the Thea Bowman House yesterday. Yours, Steve Grygiel

Stephen Grygiel - March 03, 2024 at 07:10 AM



“ 1 file added to the album *Lillian and Family*



Rick Wolslayer - February 27, 2024 at 11:35 AM



“ 1 file added to the album *Lillian and Family*



Fredric Tomaino - February 26, 2024 at 08:21 PM



“ *Dear Lorraine and Fred,*

It is with fond memories that I recall the kindness, happiness and vibrant smile that radiated from your mom. She was the pleasant neighborhood mom that everyone enjoyed seeing. God truly blessed her with a long, beautiful life. Sending our condolences to you.

Danese Hanna, Keith & Kevin and mom Jeannine

Danese Hanna - February 26, 2024 at 07:00 PM

FT

Dear Danese,

Just seeing your name here put a smile on my face - thank you so much for this kind message about my mom. I also have great memories of hanging out at your house with your family. And please thank Kevin, Keith and your mom that Lorraine and I appreciate your condolences.

*Sincerely,
Fred Tomaino and Lorraine McTague*

Fredric Tomaino - February 26, 2024 at 08:06 PM

 Rick
Wolslayer

“ 6 files added to the album *Lillian and Family*



Rick Wolslayer - February 26, 2024 at 02:27 PM

FT

Hi Rick,

These are great pictures of my mom! - thanks so much for thinking of our family and posting these. Hope all is well for you and your family.

*Sincerely,
Fred and Lorraine*

Fredric Tomaino - February 26, 2024 at 08:11 PM

SH

“ Dear Lorraine, Fred and Family,

What a wonderful life lived. Love the picture you posted in your mom's obituary. That is exactly how I remember your mom, young and smiling. She (and your Dad) were always so "hip" and kind. They never had a bad word to say about anyone. I remember summer nights, as kids, sitting around the table near your front walk listening and talking to your parents. They were a good influence on all of us. Many, many good memories from Sedgewick Park days at the Tomaino house.

*My condolences.
Sharon (Moses) Halpin*

Sharon Halpin - February 24, 2024 at 08:06 PM

FT

Hi Sharon,

So good to hear from you! Thank you for sending this message and your thoughts on our Mom. Lorraine and I really appreciate it. I have the same fond memories of our Sedgewick Park days. I hope you and your family are well.

*Sincerely,
Fred Tomaino and Lorraine McTague*

Fredric Tomaino - February 25, 2024 at 07:39 PM

DC

I'm so sorry to hear about your Mom, she was a very special lady. Even though its been many years, I still remember visiting your house when I was a kid and how welcome Aunt Lil always made me feel.

*Sincerely
Don Coiro*

Donald Coiro - March 11, 2024 at 02:45 PM