



## Mario J. DiFondi

August 22, 1927 - December 20, 2009

Mr. Mario J. DiFondi, age 82, formerly of Utica and currently of Rochester, passed away on Sunday, December 20, 2009 at the St. John's Nursing Home in Rochester. He was a longtime resident of Utica until 2005 when he and his wife relocated to the Rochester area to be close to their daughter, Grace. Born in Utica on August 22, 1927, Mario was the son of the late Nicholas and Gemma (Villa) DiFondi. Raised and educated locally, he was a graduate of T. R. Proctor High School. A proud veteran of the U.S. Army, he served his country at the Pentagon where he worked as a cartographer for 18 months for President Dwight D. Eisenhower, and was honorably discharged on September 15, 1947. On August 28, 1948 he married the former Marie D. Pagliaro with whom he shared 61 years.

Mario was employed for 37 years as a tool designer at the Chicago Pneumatic Tool Company, the position from which he retired. He was a man blessed with a tremendous work ethic which he instilled in his children. Kind and loving by nature, he will be remembered as a mild-mannered, easy-going man, well-liked by everyone who knew him, and always with a smile on his face. He loved to eat, especially his favorite fare, "coffee and a donut". He was a skilled woodworker who did all his own carpentry, repairs, and maintenance on his home. As a pastime, he enjoyed the sport of bowling and participated in several leagues. He was a communicant of St. Mary of Mt. Carmel/Blessed Sacrament Parish and most recently attended St. Joseph's Church in Penfield, NY.

Mario is survived by his wife, Marie; his daughter and son-in-law, Dr. Grace M. and Nicholas Centola of Macedon, NY; his sons and daughters-in-law, Robert J. "Bob" and Deborah A. DiFondi of Utica, and Steven and Deborah N. DiFondi of Cary, NC; his grandchildren, Robert and Tara DiFondi of Seaford, NY, Ryan and Katie DiFondi of New York, NY, Michael and Erica Centola of Webster, NY, Melissa and Matthew Kretiv of Apex, NC, Matthew DiFondi of Utica, and Jennifer DiFondi of Cary, NC; and his great-grandchildren, Taylor Marie DiFondi, Jack Valentino Centola, Carlina Rose DiFondi, and Alexander Michael Centola. Survivors also include his sisters and brother-in-law, Anna Iannone of New Hartford, and Sylvia and Jerome Dunnigan of Dayton, OH; many nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, cousins, and in-laws, Louise DiFondi of Rome, NY, Jeanette and Mario Macera of Oriskany, and Peter and Barbara Pagliaro of New Hartford. He was predeceased by his sister, Grace DiFondi; his brother, Nicholas DiFondi; and his in-laws, Sylvia and Joseph Pagliaro, and Edward Iannone, Sr.

The family offers special thanks to the staff at the St. John's Nursing Home in Rochester for their compassionate and kind care; and the personnel at Atria Senior Living Community in Penfield, NY where Mario resided with Marie for the past two years.

Visitation will be held Wednesday (today) from 4:00-7:00 at the Eannace Funeral Home, Inc. 932 South St., corner of Hammond Ave. For those wishing to do so, please consider memorial donations in Mario's honor to Hildebrandt Hospice Center, 2652 Ridgeway Ave., Rochester, NY 14626; envelopes will be available at the funeral home. Mario's funeral service will commence on Thursday morning at 8:30 from the funeral home and at 9:30 at St. Mary of Mt. Carmel/Blessed Sacrament Parish where his Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated with Military Honors. Entombment will take place in the Calvary Cemetery Mausoleum at the convenience of the family.

# Tribute Wall



“ Dear Marie, Grace, Bob, Steve and Family,  
My deepest sympathy for your loss. Mario was definitely quiet, kind and gentle. Thoughts of him bring memories of the beautiful wood staining he so meticulously did in our home, the evenings he helped me with my math, Sunday morning coffee after mass with all of you. I know you will find comfort in your many memories for years to come. My thoughts are with all of you. God Bless.  
Fondly,  
Debbie (Kirk) DiPierro##imported-begin##Deborah DiPierro##imported-end##

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December 26, 2009 at 11:55 PM



“ Bob, Deb and Family~  
Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this most difficult time. This holiday season will be an especially difficult one for you and your family. You'll draw strength from one another and from the wonderful memories you have of your father...and you'll come together as a great family. God bless you  
Mark & Chris Leogrande##imported-begin##Mark Leogrande##imported-end##

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December 23, 2009 at 06:42 PM



“ Dear Marie & Family -  
My deepest sympathy. When we spoke last week, you said he was not doing well, but I never expected to be reading his obituary. I am so glad I was able to visit with you both when you were in North Carolina last year. Mario was a real gentle man and good friend to Dean and me.

Love & Prayers

Carol###imported-begin##Carol Kirk###imported-end##

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December 23, 2009 at 05:06 PM



“ Marie - it is with great sadness I read of the passing of Mario. Even tho we have lost touch with each other, I still of you and Mario with fond memories. For the past several years I have lived fulltime in Florida and did not know where you had moved to. Please know that my thoughts and prayers are with at this time.###imported-begin##Pam Wehby###imported-end##

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December 23, 2009 at 11:42 AM



“ Growing up I never met Mario, but I was told many nice things about him.  
Our condolences to the DiFondi family.###imported-begin##Gene & Valeri DiFondi ###imported-end##

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December 23, 2009 at 08:18 AM



“ I was sorry to read about Mario. Please except my condolences. It has been years since I have been in touch with anyone in the DiFondi family. My husband, Carmen Rico, was Mario's cousin.##imported-begin##Eva J. Rico##imported-end##

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December 22, 2009 at 11:45 PM



“ Our prayers are with all of you during this difficult time.##imported-begin##Joanne Centola Zennamo##imported-end##

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December 21, 2009 at 02:03 PM



“ I'm so sorry to hear about Mario. He was such a gentle soul. I am sure he is happy and content in heaven.

*My thoughts and prayers are with you.##imported-begin##Mary Jane Centola##imported-end##*

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December 21, 2009 at 12:10 PM