



Mr. Matthew Joseph Niznik

May 29, 1924 - January 26, 2017

Mr. Matthew Joseph Niznik, age 92, peacefully went home to the Lord when he passed away on Thursday, January 26, 2017 in the dignity of his home with his loving family by his side.

Born in Utica on May 29, 1924, Matthew was the son of the late Felix and Mary (Gacek) Niznik. He was raised and educated locally. A valiant veteran of World War II, Matt honorably served his country from 1942-1945 as a Corporal in the United States Marine Corps stationed in the Asiatic/Pacific Theater of Operations. He participated in action against the enemy at the Battle of Iwo Jima. Matt was humbled and proud that he and his brothers all served our country at the same time in the United States Armed Forces. Born into the Greatest Generation, Matt lived up to the principles that defined it; he was patriotic, hardworking, faithful, responsible, and humble. On August 31, 1946 he married the former Marion E. Wright with whom he shared 38 years. Matt maintained that he married the right girl, for so many reasons. They were truly a unique team who completed each other in heart and mind, and he affectionately called her his "darling". Marion passed away on June 27, 1985. Matt worked in his profession as a precision grinder at the Bendix Corporation for over 40 years, the position from which he retired. During his yearly 5-week vacation, he continued to work by selling fruits and vegetables in Gloversville, out of the trunk of his car, all for his family's wellbeing. He also sold homegrown braided garlic strings, earning the nickname "The Garlic Man". Matt was a gentle soul and a gentleman. He was absolutely one of the most

selfless of people, and the likes of this kind man will not be seen again. He has been referred to as “an angel on Earth”, and his devotion to the Lord made it easy for him to live by the values and virtues of a Christian. As a father, he was a treasure, and a true gift from God. He did everything in his power to provide for his children, his most cherished gifts. He was greatly admired and will be truly missed. But he leaves behind a lifetime full of memories of his exemplary life that will be a guide for his children and grandchildren to live by.

Musically inclined and self-taught, Matt picked the strings of his folk guitar while singing his favorite songs. Music lifted his soul and he appreciated all genres from old country tunes to the big band sounds of Lawrence Welk that were broadcast on television every Saturday night. Matt made the most of simple pleasures, like a long ride in the country with a stop to have a bite to eat and a cup of coffee, with his sister Jenny. Always ready to go for a ride, he enjoyed his last road trip to Poolville with his sister and his niece Cheryl. He was also a junk food junkie with chocolate at the top of his list. Matt’s social life consisted of family gatherings and church activities that he attended religiously and with great enthusiasm. He was a member of the Nocturnal Adoration Society; the Walter Skiba Post #20, and the Marine Corps League in Ilion. Matt was old-school in his religious beliefs instilled in him by his parents who loved the Lord and taught their children to have faith in knowing that God will guide them. He was a communicant of the former St. Stanislaus Church and a longtime parishioner of St. Anthony & St. Agnes Church. He believed that prayers count, so please pause and say a prayer for Matt; he will be perpetually grateful!

With his joyful smile, Matt met each day as a blessing. He coined a phrase that he often spoke: “Have I told you lately that I love you? I surely do! But, remember, the Lord loves you more”.

Matt is survived by his twin daughters and their spouses, Dorothy and James “Jim” Acquaviva of New Harford/Port Orange, FL, and Deborah “Debbie” and Peter Wyborski of Deerfield; his son and daughter-in-law, Richard and Vicki

Niznik of SC; his grandchildren, John T., Jr. and Cathy Wyborski, Melanie and Christian Pogoda; Joseph Wyborski and fiancée Amber Soriano, Mary and Jason Waters; Ricky and Stephanie Niznik, Nichole and Christian Coster, Cory Niznik and fiancée Kayla Moynihan, and Randy and Denise Niznik. He held close to his heart the memory of his grandson, John David Wyborski who passed away in infancy. In addition, he leaves 20 great-grandchildren, including those who live locally and who lit up his life: Alexis, Christian Jr., Connor, Angelina, Isabella, Vita, and Julian; and his devoted and cherished sister, 'Jenny' Biernat. He was blessed with the love and care of his niece, Cheryl Macera whom he loved as a daughter, and her children Chastity and Steve Magnussen, and Ron and Erica Macera whom he loved as grandchildren. He will also be remembered by his many nieces and nephews, with special mention of Ray Niznik, Carol and Chuck Murzin, Eileen Damanda, and Joe Spine; his great-nieces, great-nephews, cousins, sister-in-law, Patricia Niznik, and his late wife's family; and his longtime friends, Dani and Lily Daniel and their children, Ambi and Neal who called him "grandpa". He was predeceased by his sisters and brothers-in-law, Ann and George Bowers, and Sadie and Matthew Haligowski; his brothers and sisters-in-law, John J. "Pete" Niznik, Joseph and Marion Niznik, Stanley "Steve" and Thelma Niznik, Chester "Chet" and Theresa Niznik, Walter J. and Shirley Niznik, and Stephen S. "Vonnie" Sr. and Hazel Niznik; and his in-laws.

The family extends their heartfelt gratitude to Dr. Thomas John and his wonderful staff, especially Janet, who were always available in their time of need; Judith Schipper/NP for her professional guidance and the arrangement of Hospice to be involved in Matt's needs and offer palliative care which was a true blessing. As life would have it, Matt was able to remain in the comfort of his home because of the devoted care of his great-niece Chastity, her husband Steve, and their boys, Cameron and Vonnie; his niece Cheryl, The General!; and his grandson Joe and his fiancée Amber. A special thank you to Stacy Leone who gave so diligently of herself in caring for Matt. His home was

once again filled with laughter and love when Angelina, Vonnie, Vita, and Julian came to visit. The Nizniks believe in love of family and God, and this was the inspiration that guided everyone through this difficult time.

Visitation will be held Monday from 4:00-7:00 at the Eannace Funeral Home, Inc., 932 South St., corner of Hammond Ave. Expressions of sympathy in the form of donations may be made to the Abraham House in honor of Dr. A.L. Shaheen and his vision of providing care for those who are at the end of life's journey; envelopes will be available at the funeral home. Matthew's funeral service and Celebration of Life will commence on Tuesday at 12:00 noon from the funeral home and at 1:00 at St. Anthony & St. Agnes Church where his Mass of Christian Burial will be offered by Fr. Mark Kaminski; and concelebrants Fr. Arthur Krawczenko and Deacon Bill Dischiavo, with Military Honors conferred. He will be laid to rest next to his wife in St. Stanislaus Cemetery at the convenience of the family.

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 30. 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

Tribute Wall

FK

“ sorry for your loss. Matt was one of the many people that helped me when I first started at Bendix in the late 70's. He and some others to help us resolve problems with some new parts for the Navy's F-18 or the Minuteman missile as well as the Apache helicopter. Such a kind, calm and gentle man, he was in the Marines and was on Iwo Jima as was my father-in-law (didn't know each other back then). I remember seeing Matt with a woman (I don't remember if it was a sister or sister-in-law) as they visited someone at the Folts Home in Herkimer after he retired

Frank Kucerek - February 02, 2017 at 05:20 AM

DD

Thank you so much.

Dorothy and Debbie - February 10, 2017 at 10:33 AM



“ *Simply Lily was purchased for the family of Mr. Matthew Joseph Niznik.*



January 31, 2017 at 02:35 PM

TG

“ *Dorothy and family,
So sorry to hear about your Dad's passing. Thinking of you all at this difficult time.*

Tommy and Susan..

TOM GUIDERA - January 31, 2017 at 09:47 AM

DD

Thank you both so much.

Dorothy/ Debbie - February 10, 2017 at 10:35 AM

MA

“ dear Debbie, Dorothy and family,
so sorry for your loss may he rest in peace
Maryrose Gagliano Abdo

MARYROSE GAGLIANO ABDOO - January 30, 2017 at 06:34 PM

DD

Thank you Maryrose.

Dorothy/ Debbie - February 10, 2017 at 10:36 AM

JN

“ Dorothy, Debbie, and Richie,

*Our thoughts and prayers go out to you and
your families in
the loss of your father and our Uncle Matt. I
still have the tape of
our wedding in 1985 with Uncle Matt and Aunt Marion on it.
Love, John and Citlali, JohnJr., Patricia, and Caitlin Niznik*



John Niznik - January 30, 2017 at 11:47 AM

DD

Thank you all so much.

Dorothy/ Debbie - February 10, 2017 at 10:36 AM

LK

“ Love The Kullmann's purchased the Peace, Prayers, & Blessings- Lavender and White for the family of Mr. Matthew Joseph Niznik.



Love The Kullmann's - January 30, 2017 at 07:52 AM



“ Healing Tears - Blue and White was purchased for the family of Mr. Matthew Joseph Niznik.



January 30, 2017 at 12:07 AM

RM

“ What a pleasure it was to know and talk to Mr Niznik; we so looked forward to talking to him at Christmas Eve. He will be truly missed.

Rick and Deb



Rick Parker, and Debbie Milicich - January 29, 2017 at 11:13 PM

DD

Thank you both so much.

Dorothy/ Debbie - February 10, 2017 at 10:37 AM



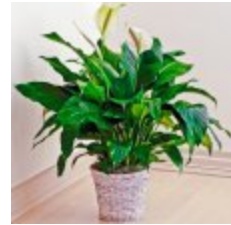
“ *Classic Sympathy Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Mr. Matthew Joseph Niznik.*



January 29, 2017 at 04:00 PM



“ *Floor Plant for Sympathy was purchased for the family of Mr. Matthew Joseph Niznik.*



January 29, 2017 at 11:34 AM