



Honorable Matthew S. Ogonowski Jr.

January 21, 2015

Honorable Matthew S. Ogonowski, Jr., age 86, went home to the Lord when he passed away unexpectedly on Wednesday, January 21, 2015 in the privacy of his home with the love and support of his family by his side.

Born in Utica on August 2, 1928, Matthew was the son of the late Matthew S., Sr. and Adelaide (Pawlowicz) Ogonowski. Matthew was a graduate of Utica Free Academy/Class of 1945. He continued his studies at Utica College where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1951. He began his post-graduate work at Albany Law School where he was awarded his J.D. degree (juris doctor) and his licensure as a practicing attorney in New York State in July of 1956. On May 9, 1959 he married the former Angela Tomaselli with whom he shared 55 years; their marriage was a union of a combination of her kind and gentle soul and Matthew's trait of being a true gentleman; this made for unlimited memories of a wonderful life graced with great love.

Matthew served as Assistant Oneida County Attorney from 1963-1971 and in that capacity was trial counsel for the Board of Elections, Workers Compensation Office, Oneida County Sheriff's Department, County Highway Department, Civil Defense, and Family Court Juvenile Delinquency cases. He taught Criminal Law to members of the Utica Police Department at M.V.C.C. and served as a law guardian in the Family Court of Oneida County for several years. In 1985, he was appointed Utica City Judge by Mayor Louis LaPolla and in 1986 was elected to the position, retiring in 1998. As a judge, he was a man of integrity. He lived by the virtue of honesty which was inherent

in his rulings. His judicial precepts always reflected his humanitarian interest in his fellow man and his love for serving his community. His numerous affiliations in civic and community concerns included the Citizens Association for Greater Utica, Committee to make Utica College a City College, Attorney for the City of Utica Department of Building and Codes, Planning, and Zoning; Advisory Committee of the Marcy Psychiatric Center School of Nursing, Third Degree Member of the William Burke Utica Council #189 Knights of Columbus, Delegate to Judicial Conventions in Syracuse, co-organizer of the Utica Bowling Association Hall of Fame, original incorporator of the Utica Recreation Facilities Association, Inc., Legal advisor to the Polish Legion of American Veterans Athletic Committee, Chairman of the Utica Charter Revision Committee, member of the Sons of Italy Lodge #2054, Board member of M.A.M.I, a legal and medical interpretation and translation organization which was a truly memorable time for Matthew; Republican Party of Oneida County, and the City Club of Utica. He was a longtime member in good standing of the Oneida County Bar Association and the New York State Bar Association.

Although Judge Ogonowski's career was eminent and extensive, he was first and foremost dedicated to his family. Within the tapestry of his life is woven Matthew's image as a great husband and an outstanding dad. He was a parent who charismatically, confidently, and enthusiastically took the time to instill in his children the importance of education and hard work. He advised them that they could accomplish almost anything if they were willing to put their heart and soul into their endeavors. He was passionate and perseverant at imparting to his sons the virtues of being kind to others and becoming the best men they could possibly be. Whether in the role of family man, father, or friend, he had a great sense of humor and a great delivery, often making others feel at ease. He balanced his life with his wisdom and light-hearted nature. He was exceptionally expressive in his writing and editing which made him a consummate communicator. He kept abreast of current events and was concerned about the state of our country and global issues. A sports

enthusiast, many will remember Matthew as a passionate golfer often frequenting the fairways at the Crestwood Golf Course and the Valley View Country Club. He also had a hand in the sport of bowling, participating in many area leagues, and had a command of the game of chess. He loved to travel with his family and held fond memories of their trips to Canada, Cape Cod, the West Coast, and his most memorable journey to the majestic Grand Canyon. Matthew's appreciation of nature's wonders was commensurate with his admiration of his canine companion, Fred, and the special times he shared with him.

Matthew is survived by his beloved wife, Angela; and his greatest blessings of which he was so proud, his sons, Mark Ogonowski, and David Ogonowski, both of California, and Matthew P. Ogonowski of Washington, DC. He also leaves his sister, Adelaide Johnson of the Albany area; many nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, cousins, in-laws, Lawrence and Patricia Tomaselli, and Donald A. Gigliotti. He was blessed with many friendships and colleagues through the years. He was predeceased by his niece, Susan V. Siegel; his brother-in-law, Harvey Johnson; and his sister-in-law, Mary Gigliotti.

Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend Matthew's funeral service and Celebration of Life which will commence on Wednesday at 12:00 noon at the Church of Our Lady of Lourdes, 2222 Genesee Street, Utica, where his Mass of Christian Burial will be offered by Rev. Joseph Salerno. The family will receive visitors at the conclusion of the service. Expressions of sympathy in the form of donations may be directed to the American Foundation for AIDS Research (amfAR), 120 Wall Street, 13th Floor, New York, NY 10005, the American Lung Association, 55 W. Wacker Drive, Suite 1150, Chicago, IL 60601, or the Children's Cancer Fund, 10300 N. Central Expressway, Suite 463, Dallas, Texas 75231; envelopes will be available at the service. Interment will take place privately in Calvary Cemetery at the convenience of the family. Arrangements have been entrusted to the Eannace

Funeral Home, Inc., 932 South St., corner of Hammond Ave.

Tribute Wall

DI

“ I worked for Matt as a legal secretary thirty years ago. I remember him as a kind and gentle man and he cherished all of his children. He could not have been prouder of his sons. I also worked with his Mom for a period of time and I know that his work ethic came directly from her. All these years later, I am sorry for his leaving this world because he made it a better place to be. He made a lot of contributions to a lot of people and he always loved his clients. I ended up in a law enforcement career and I always remembered Matt's wisdom during that career. Part of the reason that I loved law was because of things I learned from him. I send prayers to the family and know that they will carry on with many wonderful memories of him. The world was a much better place because he was here. Diane Leshinski

Diane - April 27, 2015 at 10:43 AM

CS

“ Christina and Mark Siegel purchased the Healing Tears - Blue and White for the family of Honorable Matthew S. Ogonowski Jr..



Christina and Mark Siegel - January 27, 2015 at 08:25 AM

BU

“ Angela and Boys. So sorry for the loss of Matt. We will be unable to attend the funeral as we are in Florid! But our prayers will be with you. Great memories. Remember him teaching us how to playBridge and sharing some great times. God bless Bobni and Don Urbanke

Bobbi and Don Urbanke - January 26, 2015 at 06:51 PM

MS

“ Angela, Mark, David and Matt... I am so sorry for your loss. He was a wonderful man. Many memories from my childhood.

Mark Salamida - January 25, 2015 at 01:39 PM

CS

“ Matt was so kind and helpful to me when I was a member of the Common Council. I never forgot his warmth. The world was definitely a better place with this gracious and honorable man in it.

Cynthia S'Doia

Cynthia S'Doia - January 24, 2015 at 05:34 PM

FS

“ Dear Angela, Very saddened & with Heartfelt Sympathy for your Loss of Matthew. He was a great Human Being & compassionate. Remembering him when he came to City Hall & the Water Board. A very Special Person. My Grief goes out to you & Family. Sincerely Francine & George Spinelli



Francine spinelli - January 24, 2015 at 02:00 PM