



## Matthew E. Vittucci

March 5, 1948 - May 19, 2007

Mr. Matthew E. Vittucci, age 59, of Utica, passed away unexpectedly on Saturday, May 19, 2007, at the St. Elizabeth Medical Center.

Born in Ithaca, NY on March 5, 1948, Matthew was the son of Congetta (Callari) Vittucci and the late Raymond J. Vittucci. Raised and educated in Utica, he attended Blessed Sacrament Elementary School and T. R. Proctor High School, graduating with the class of 1966. He furthered his academic studies at Harpur College, a division of the State University of New York at Binghamton, earning a Bachelor's Degree in Math and Science in 1970. He then pursued his graduate studies at Syracuse University, SUNY Utica-Rome, Beaver College and in 1984 received a Masters Degree in Health Science Administration from the New School of Social Research in New York City. He also held New York State Certification in Biology, Chemistry, and Health. A proud US Army veteran, Matt served as a reservist with the 331st Medical Unit.

Early in his working life, Matthew held a summer job with the Niagara Mohawk Power Corp. He began his teaching career at St. Francis DeSales High School and subsequently took a position at John F. Kennedy High School in 1973. Mr. Vittucci dedicated his life to the students of John F. Kennedy High School, Middle School, and the Utica City School District. He had a natural ability to educate, mentor, and guide the children he instructed. He spent most evenings, as well as weekends, at school where he prepared his own class work and also much of what the Science Department needed regardless of

the hours required to accomplish this. Additionally, he volunteered to serve on curriculum revision committees, health and safety committees, as well as numerous other committees as requested due to his vast experience and expertise. He was the primary health teacher for the high school students. It was during those early years that he began his extensive curriculum work in health and his service on numerous district and regional health committees where he worked on grant appropriations and financial management. His prime objective as a teacher was to ensure his students' well-being and progress. He put the interests of his students first and even provided tutoring, free of charge, to those that were unable to attend school due to medical or emergency situations.

In September 2006, Matthew began the final phase of his 34 year educational career. He was appointed as an Academic Intervention Specialist and Project Alert Coordinator. In this capacity he was responsible for monitoring remedial programs resulting from the No Child Left Behind mandates. Also, he was involved in John F. Kennedy Middle School's testing coordination, preparation and administration of all New York State Assessment tests. He was responsible for managing the district's Project Alert – "Say No to Drugs" Program at the secondary level. When John F. Kennedy became first a Junior High School and then a Middle School, he served as Department Head and later as Team Leader. His meticulous attention to details served him well in these leadership roles. He was responsible for all science programs, staff members, and materials. The end of the regular school day was not the end of his. Matt was a source of pride and professionalism to the district and his colleagues. He will be dearly missed by the students, teachers, staff, and administrators of the Utica City School District. Matt was truly "one of a kind". Among his professional memberships, he was very actively involved in Phi Delta Kappa (PDK). Matthew currently was the advisor of this International Education Association, won the Distinguished Service Key award, and was the founder of the "Friends of Education" award. As a past president of PDK, he and his late father served as officers in this association, and were

dedicated advocates. At one time, he was a member of the American Red Cross.

A selfless and humanistic man, Matt always went out of his way for anyone who was in need. He valued the friends he made during his lifetime, and considered them extended family. Generous by nature, he was a loving uncle who always provided for his niece and nephew, Rachel and Peter. He guided them and helped them achieve their individual potentials. He was a communicant of St. Mary of Mt. Carmel/Blessed Sacrament Parish.

Matthew is survived by his mother, Congetta Vittucci of Utica; and his sister and brother-in-law, Annette and Peter Wizes of NC. He was preceded in death by his sister, Alice Hasemeier who passed away on November 17, 1989. Also surviving is his niece, Rachel Mae Alice Payne of NC; his nephew, Peter Ray Hasemeier of Portland, OR; his uncles and aunts, Paul and Pat Callari, Matteo Vittucci, Frances Vittucci, and Pearl Vittucci; and his cousins. He was blessed with many loving friendships, too numerous to mention. He was predeceased by his father, Raymond J. Vittucci; his brother-in-law, Larry Payne; and his uncles, Angelo, and Rocco.

The family offers heartfelt appreciation to the Utica Fire Department paramedics and the Utica Fire Ambulance staff for their timely response and valiant efforts. Thanks also to Utica Police Officer Joe Cucharale and Matthew's neighbors for their concern and attention.

Visitation will be held Tuesday (today) from 4:00 – 7:00 at the Eannace Funeral Home, Inc., 932 South St., corner of Hammond Ave. By family request, please omit floral offerings. For those wishing to do so, please consider memorial donations to the family, enabling them to establish a scholarship in Matthew's name; envelopes will be available at the funeral home. Matthew's funeral service will commence on Wednesday morning at 10:30 from the funeral home and at 11:30 at St. Mary of Mt. Carmel/Blessed Sacrament Parish at Mt. Carmel Church, where his Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated. Interment will take place at Calvary Cemetery at the

convenience of the family.

# Tribute Wall



“ i remember mr.vittucii he helped me alot in health ..he was a great teacher..the onli one that made it fun to do the work n laugh everytime u come into the class room..bless the family##imported-begin##Cassandra Ward##imported-end##

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May 29, 2007 at 09:07 PM



“ He was a nice man and an interesting teacher.##imported-begin##Kristen##imported-end##

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May 23, 2007 at 12:38 PM



“ Matt:

*Remembering the many political discussions Uncle Nick, you and I had at Captain Nicholas D. Russo's East End Barbershop.*

*May God keep you in the palm of His hand.*

*Sam Russo, Jr.##imported-begin##Samuel ##imported-end##*

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May 23, 2007 at 11:53 AM



“ Was shocked and saddened to learn of Matt's passing. Although I remember Matt from my MVCC days ( 1967-69 ) - he was a sweetheart. I'm sure he'll be deeply missed.##imported-begin##Linda ( Zebrowski ) Delaney##imported-end##

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May 23, 2007 at 10:25 AM



“ I was puzzled to find out that Mr. Vittucci passed away... He was the funniest teacher we had in JR High school..... He always knew how to make someone laugh even when they were blue... Yesterday I was talking with one of he fellow students and I was asking if he still did the HULK... omg he was halerious when he did the Hulk also used to do Steve Erkale...He will greatly be missed .... R.I.P Mr. Vittucci ... I pay my respect to his family sorry for your lost...##imported-begin##Iris mireya and Jose Colon##imported-end##

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May 22, 2007 at 09:51 PM



“ My wife and I were very sorry to hear of Matt's passing when we returned to Utica. He and his family were excellent neighbors. We will remember him in our prayers.##imported-begin##Sal & Karin Capuana##imported-end##

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May 22, 2007 at 08:00 PM



“ t.r.proctor grad and freind.##imported-begin##james mariani##imported-end##

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May 22, 2007 at 03:16 PM



“ I currently teach at Donovan Middle School, but taught with Matt for several years during my years at JFK. What a kind gentleman. He would go out of his way to help anyone. He always had on a smile and was truly devoted to his students and his friends. Matt has touched many lives and I am proud to say that he is a true friend, indeed. My thoughts and prayers are with Matt and his family. God bless you, Matt.##imported-begin##Rickey Popelka-Nicholas##imported-end##

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May 22, 2007 at 07:10 AM



“ Mr. Vittucci was my Health teacher at John F. Kennedy Jr. High school, in the year of 2005. He taught me Health at the 7th grade level. He was an awesome teacher! (One of the best)...i remember when he was teaching us about stress, and peer pressure, he did this "Hulk" impression that became a legend. He was very fun, and very amusing. Mr. Vittucci will never be forgotten, and I'm sure many people were upset upon hearing this news. I wish the best to his family and friends, and Matthew Vittucci will be in our thoughts forever.##imported-begin##Samantha Coyne-age 14##imported-end##

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May 21, 2007 at 06:56 PM



“ Matt, we had so much fun seeing 'Star Wars' together & havng dinner, etc. I'll miss your handle-bar mustache.

When you party in heaven with Ric, remember me as I'll remember you guys.

~~~Tauni##imported-begin##Tauni Stone O'Toole##imported-end##

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May 21, 2007 at 06:19 PM



“ *Annette & Family,  
I was sorry to hear of your loss. You will be in my  
prayers.##imported-begin##Lena-Marie Inserra##imported-end##*

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May 21, 2007 at 11:58 AM



“ *Very sorry to hear of Matt's untimely passing...my sympathies to the  
Vittucci family...we spent many happy times as fellow classmates at  
Proctor High School...he certainly was a "class act" just like his  
Dad...##imported-begin##Don Marino##imported-end##*

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May 21, 2007 at 11:41 AM



“ *I am so sorry to learn the death of Matt. His is a great person. He is  
an excellent teacher. My sorrow goes out to the family. My prayers  
extend to his family. We are all better of because of  
Matt.##imported-begin##Bill Niermeyer##imported-end##*

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May 21, 2007 at 09:45 AM



“ *I AM SO VERY SORRY TO HEAR ABOUT MATT PAST I HAD HIM  
FOR HEALTH I LOOK AT AN OLD PHOTE HIM AND ME FORM 21  
YEARS AGO HE WAS A WONDERFULL TEACHER I WILL MISS  
HIM MARK MONTANO##imported-begin##MARK  
MONTANO##imported-end##*

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May 21, 2007 at 09:42 AM



“ To a fine teacher, who always made high school a little more fun that it ought to be.##imported-begin##Roger Goff Jr##imported-end##

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May 21, 2007 at 06:31 AM



“ im so sorry to hear of Mr.Vittucci s passing , he taught us at JFK.I give me best to his family. God Bless You All..  
Dana..##imported-begin##Dana Marchitelli DeLeon##imported-end##

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May 21, 2007 at 02:20 AM



“ Matt:

*Was sorry to learn of your passing.*

*I remember you (quite well) from when you were my Health teacher, and then, my Earth Science teacher.*

*You had such a good sense of humour and I enjoyed having you as one of my teachers.*

*May you rest in peace with your father, Ray & my father Leo (who both knew each other quite well).##imported-begin##Mark B Handler, John F Kennedy HS Class of 1975##imported-end##*

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May 20, 2007 at 11:21 PM



“ *I am sorry to hear of Matt's death. I taught with him at Kennedy High School and he was a very kind and considerate man. My sympathies to his family.*##imported-begin##*Cynthia S'Doia*##imported-end##

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May 20, 2007 at 06:09 PM