



## Mr. Maynard R. "Rick" LaClair, Sr.

February 25, 1949 - July 27, 2022

UTICA – Mr. Maynard R. “Rick” LaClair, Sr., age 73, passed away on Wednesday, July 27, 2022, in the comfort and dignity of his own home—indeed, in a room in the very addition he had built—with his loving family by his side.

Rick was born in Ellenburg, NY, on February 25, 1949, to the late Maynard W. and Eva M. (Harris) LaClair. At the age of nine, Maynard and his family relocated to the Utica area, where he was raised and educated. He graduated from T.R. Proctor High School/Class of 1967. From there, Rick took on an apprenticeship and then went on to begin work as a journeyman carpenter – a type of work to which he had long aspired.

On July 6, 1979, Rick married the former Linda Sue Malek. The two shared a loving and devoted union of 43 years, all of which were filled with wonderful memories.

A dedicated and skilled professional, Rick was a member of the Carpenter’s Union, working as a Carpenter for Five in One Construction and for the Utica City School District. Additionally, he self-contracted throughout his life under his own business, LaClair Construction.

A man with a large heart and zest for life, Rick was well-loved by family—especially by his kids, who always looked up to him. They often referred to him as “the Mayor of Utica,” both laughing over and impressed by the number of people Rick knew. He was one to always touch others with his presence. He also loved to spend time with the crew over breakfast at Whitey’s as well

as with his pals at Dave's Diner and Sheri's Diner. Rick would even frequent the Modernistic and Belview for a good meal and spirits. There are several wonderful memories of dancing there.

A self-taught, gifted musician, Rick could sing and play guitar, violin, and piano. He enjoyed karaoke and is fondly remembered for his signature songs: Neon Moon and My Way. Other favorite pastimes included woodworking on the side, hosting annual family "pig roasts," spending time with his grandchildren, and adding continuous love/work to the family home. Moreover, Rick treasured the opportunities the family had to travel up north, where he grew up. He loved to spend time there, rekindling old friendships and reminiscing about the memories of yonder year and his loved ones.

Rick believed the Catholic Creed and was a parishioner at St. Anthony and St. Agnes Church.

Rick is survived by his beloved wife, Linda; his daughters and sons-in-law, Deanna and Jack Kennedy, Jessica LaClair, and Janae and Aaron Velardi; as well as by his son and his love, Maynard R. "RJ" LaClair, Jr. and Danielle Williams. He will live on in the hearts of his grandchildren, Gavin LaPaglia, Sienna Kennedy, Jamison Evans; Eva VanDoren; Everton Velardi; and Brady Chirico. Maynard will be fondly remembered by his sisters and brothers-in-law, Andrea Aurigema and her late husband Frank "Sham" Aurigema, Jacklyn and Patrick "Pat" Gurdo, Karen Arrigo and her late husband Frank Arrigo Sr., and Christine and Gary Artessa. Maynard was predeceased by his sister, Bolita Schorer; and his brother-in-law, Frank Gaeta. He leaves behind his brother-in-law, Gary K. Schorer; and his mother-in-law, Joyce Varano. Rick was blessed with many nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, and cousins, especially acknowledging Stephen LaClair, who was like a brother to Maynard. He will be carried in the hearts of his in-laws, Karen and Ron Reina, Rick (who he also loved as a brother) and Sue Malek, and Mike and Laurie Malek. Rick leaves behind many wonderful friends, including but not limited to Marty, Mickey, Mike D., and Ernie. He was predeceased by his dear friends, Tony Monescalchi and Dougie Burr.

The family would like to extend their gratitude to Dr. Winn and the nurses at St. Elizabeth's Medical Center for their loving and compassionate concern for Rick.

The family will honor his life privately. Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend Rick's Mass of Christian Burial and Celebration of Life which will commence on Monday, August 1, 2022, at 1:00 p.m. at St. Anthony and St. Agnes Church, 422 Tilden Ave. There will be an opportunity to greet the family at the conclusion of the service.

# Tribute Wall

LB

“ *Lonnie Brown lit a candle in memory of Mr. Maynard R. "Rick" LaClair, Sr.*



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**Lonnie Brown** - August 30, 2022 at 11:52 AM

LP

“ *To Linda and family, I am so sadden to hear of Rick's passing. I will always remember all the fun times at the "pig roasts". Singing karaoke, laughing, partying and enjoying all the other activities with the kids. Rick made sure of that. He was real nice guy with a heart of gold who loved his family immensely. His friends too. May the good Lord help you through these difficult times. Hugs to you all. Rest In Peace Rick  
LouAnn Paternoster (Kathy n Mickey friend)*

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**LouAnn Paternoster** - August 02, 2022 at 03:55 PM

TF

“ *The Mazurs Mickey Kathy & Family purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Mr. Maynard R. "Rick" LaClair, Sr..*



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**The Mazurs Mickey Kathy & Family** - July 31, 2022 at 10:34 AM

BB

“ So sorry for your loss. Rick was a great friend to me and Doug. I have fond memories of our times together.

Barbara Burr - July 30, 2022 at 09:24 PM

TL

“ My condolences to all of you ! I have very fond memories of you all up to uncle Steve and aunt Booies!  
Thinking of you all❤️

Terra LaClair - July 30, 2022 at 01:39 PM

DG

“ We are sorry to hear of Rick's passing. We are praying for your family at this time. May your loving memories comfort you during this time❤️Darlene and Neal Greene

Darlene Greene - July 30, 2022 at 11:13 AM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Mr. Maynard R. "Rick" LaClair, Sr..



July 30, 2022 at 10:03 AM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mr. Maynard R. "Rick" LaClair, Sr..



July 30, 2022 at 08:07 AM

FA

“ *Maynard and Danielle*  
*Our deepest condolences on the loss of your father. We are keeping you in our prayers. With love,*  
*Franca and Steve*

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**Franca Armstrong** - July 29, 2022 at 10:00 PM

MM

“ *My deepest sympathy for your loss. I will always remember all the fun we had growing up on Bleecker Street. I remember him laughing and joking around with us girls. A great guy. Wishing you all strength and comfort during this difficult time. Love Mae*

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**Mae Mutolo** - July 29, 2022 at 09:23 PM

NK

“ *Natalie And John Kuczek lit a candle in memory of Mr. Maynard R. "Rick" LaClair, Sr.*



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**Natalie and John Kuczek** - July 29, 2022 at 08:40 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Mr. Maynard R. "Rick" LaClair, Sr..*



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July 29, 2022 at 07:06 PM

ML

“ *Very sorry to hear of Rickys passing..... We have great memories of your pig roasts kids singing good times. You all our in our hearts and prayers.....*

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**Michele LaClair** - July 29, 2022 at 05:43 PM