



Mr. Michael G. DePalma

November 2, 1921 - May 10, 2011

Mr. Michael G. DePalma, age 89, of Utica, passed away on Tuesday, May 10, 2011 at the home of his daughter in North Carolina. He was surrounded with the love and support of his family by his side at the time of his passing.

Born in Mohawk, NY on November 2, 1921, Michael was the son of the late Gerardo and Oliva (DeMotts) DePalma. He was raised and educated in Herkimer. A proud veteran of World War II, he honorably served his country in the U.S. Army as a paratrooper and member of the Military Police. He was part of the Airborne Forces landing on the beaches of Normandy, France as part of the D-Day Allied invasion of Europe. Michael received the European-African-Middle Eastern service medal and the Good Conduct Medal. It was on April 7, 1956 that he married the former Mary Jane Messineo with whom he shared 55 years. They cherished each other and honored the qualities and kindnesses of each of their hearts during their more difficult years. Mary Jane tended to Michael's well being with much compassion and selflessness for which he was so grateful.

After the war, Michael worked for the Jewel Tea Company, and then Charles Chips Company as a salesman and route man. He later held a position at the Hygrade Meat Packing Company. Ultimately, he established Del-Ree, Inc., a meat distribution operation and Italian deli located in Rome, a business he operated until his retirement. A man of great integrity and determination, Michael saw the world and people in a good light. He was passionate and proud of his family and recognized his blessings, especially his marriage and

the honor of having the title of father. He was a wonderful daddy and when he became "Tati", he lived up to the expectations of a grand man who made his grandchildren know how special each of them was to him. Michael was fun-loving, quick witted, emotional, and fortified with a great sense of humor. He always found ways to charm his children and grandchildren, from letting them watch him shave to singing a favorite song, especially in the car while driving them to their destination. He enjoyed camping in tents, trailers, and then in a real RV, trips to Virginia Beach, and memorable times in North Carolina. The radio was always on because music lifted his soul and spirit as he sang along and played solitaire. He was a passionate collector of various precious memorabilia including Lionel trains highlighted by a set at his home that was amazing and magical, baseball cards, and wrist and pocket watches. He volunteered his time at the Utica Psychiatric Center coffee shop overseeing the daily runnings and wholeheartedly enjoyed visiting with "his friends" in good conversation and camaraderie. An avid reader, he was also an outstanding cook and pizza was his specialty. He was a member of the Herkimer Elks Club, the Herkimer VFW, and a parishioner of the Church of Our Lady of Lourdes.

Michael is survived by the love of his life, Mary Jane; his daughters and son-in-law, Ann Marie Stemmer of NC, and Oliva "Lee" and Ronald Raymer (who he loved as a son) of Cassville; his grandchildren, Karrie and Paul Gonzalez, Tabatha and Richard Boyd, Danielle Stemmer; Michelle Raymer, and Ronnie and Frida Raymer; and the anticipated birth of his first great-grandson. Also left to mourn his passing is his sister, Irene Rende; his nieces, especially Olivia "Livi" Spatolla, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, cousins, in-laws (who he loved as his own family) Natalie Larkin, Thomas Larkin, and Christopher and Patricia Messineo; and his longtime friends, Don and Terri Beagle, and Dale and Linda Hoffman and their daughter Kristin who Michael and Mary Jane baptized. He was predeceased by his in-laws, Sue and William Schuster.

The family extends sincere thanks to Judy Balch, F.N.P-C, primary care

professional who gave so much personal attention and compassion to Michael and his family. Special gratitude is also offered to Paul O'Hara from the Church of Our Lady of Lourdes who brought Michael communion and friendship.

Visitation will be held on Sunday (today) from 2-5 at the Eannace Funeral Home, Inc., 932 South St., corner of Hammond Ave. The Michael Pliseck VFW Post 4915 will perform Ritualistic Services at 2:30 and the Elks Club Herkimer Lodge 1439 will perform Ritualistic Services at 4:30. Michael's funeral service and Celebration of Life will commence on Monday morning at 11:30 from the funeral home and at 12:30 at the Church of Our Lady of Lourdes where his Mass of Christian Burial will be offered by Rev. Joseph Salerno. Entombment will take place in the Resurrection Chapel Mausoleum at Holy Trinity Cemetery with military honors.

Cemetery Details

Resurrection Chapel Mausoleum

Champlin Ave.
Utica, NY 13501

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 15. 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

Eannace Funeral Home, Inc.
932 South Street
corner of Hammond Ave.
Utica, NY 13501
(315) 724-6714
eannacefh@roadrunner.com
<https://www.eannacefuneralhome.com>

Service

MAY 16. 11:30 AM (ET)

Eannace Funeral Home, Inc.
932 South Street
corner of Hammond Ave.
Utica, NY 13501
(315) 724-6714
eannacefh@roadrunner.com
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Tribute Wall



“ *Free of all pain, thank you lord*



Lee - June 01, 2011 at 07:57 AM



“ *Lee lit a candle in memory of Mr. Michael G. DePalma*



Lee - June 01, 2011 at 06:39 AM



“ *Daddy I am sorry. The ? Were suppose to be pick that did not come out. The site did not copy them!!!*



Lee - June 01, 2011 at 06:37 AM



“ *??? I love you?*

Lee - June 01, 2011 at 06:28 AM



“ *Daddy I miss you so much?. I sing by my self now, but I know hear me??* ”



Lee - June 01, 2011 at 06:21 AM



“ *Kristin Hoffman*

(These were posted on my Facebook, for everyone to see)

**Mike,*

You loved God, Today God was loving you a lot and wanted you back.

Greatly Missed.....

RIP Mike DePalma (5/10/11)(My Godfather)

May 10 at 11:54pm

**Wake for Mike DePalma...Looks great for what he has been through....RIP MIKE*

May 15 at 7:05pm

**Mike, today you were laid to rest..... we will meet again...love you miss you.*

May 16 at 2:49pm

**Mr. Michael G. DePalma*

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My GODfather

May 17 at 2:48pm

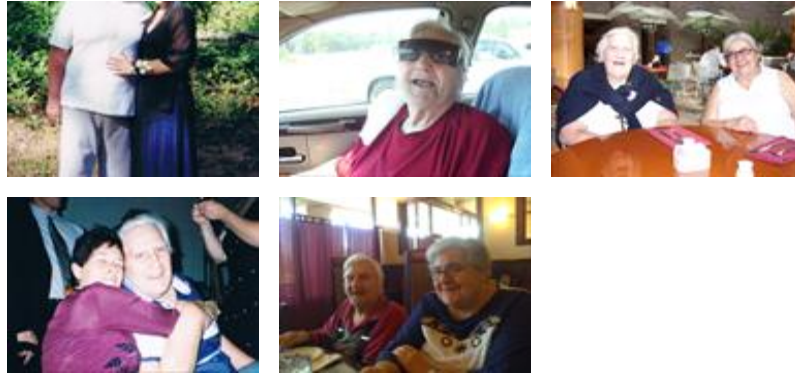
LOVE YOU MIKE

we will meet again.

Kristin Hoffman - May 31, 2011 at 09:38 PM

TB

“ 6 files added to the album Tribute Wall



Tabatha Boyd - May 19, 2011 at 05:48 PM

DD

“ Hello Mary Jane and Family,
Please accept our deepest sympathy. Although we have not seen Mike in many years I have fond memories of his love of life and family. He always enjoyed a good laugh and great food. Mike was a very special person. We are so sorry for your loss.

David, Donna, Jeff and Keef Debonzo

David G. Debonzo - May 17, 2011 at 02:11 PM



“ Dear Mary Jane and Family,
We offer our sincere condolences to you all at this difficult time. Kathy is the god child of Mary Jane and Mike some 56 years ago. We will be forever in-debited to Mike on his getting our wedding cake some 54 years ago. God Bless and Keep the Faith. Jerry and Kathy

Jerome Kemblowski - May 17, 2011 at 08:47 AM

MF

“ *My deepest sympathy to Mrs DePalma, Lee and family. Mike touched my life and will be sadly missed. The angels are going to get fat eating your wonderful pizza Mike.*



Mark Raymer Tampa, Florida - May 15, 2011 at 09:06 AM

TB

“ *4 files added to the album Tribute Wall*



Tabatha Boyd - May 13, 2011 at 11:24 PM