



Mr. Michael Geno

September 17, 1958 - June 14, 2020

UTICA - Mr. Michael Geno, renowned Executive Chef, age 61, unexpectedly left this earth too soon on Sunday, June 14, 2020 with his wife, children, sister, and “Neph” by his side.

Born in Utica on September 17, 1958, Michael was the son of the late Louis “Louie” Sr. and Virginia “Ellen” (Elacqua) Geno. He attended St. Mary of Mt. Carmel Grammar School and T.R. Proctor High School. On July 22, 1989, he married the former Linda M. Harp at her home, by the bedside of her (late) father John, followed by a huge celebration at Alfredo’s Restaurant. Mike and Linda had an instant attraction from the moment they met. He adored her, made her smile, and filled her life with fun, adventure, and laughter. As a couple, they made each other the best that they could be and enhanced their qualities of strength, kindness, patience, and courage.

Mike’s venture into the world of cooking began as he stood lovingly beside his paternal grandma, in her traditional kitchen garb with “rolled down nylon stockings” — observing and learning every step of the process as she was preparing and rolling meatballs! Professionally, he began at the Clinton House, working “under the wings” of Bobby Hazelton and Richie Scamardo, followed by the Diplomat and the Coliseum where he was under the tutelage of Vincent and Nancy Calautti, and he joined them as they established Vincent’s on Seneca Turnpike in 1981, then Scamardo’s in 1985. His professional skills were next sharpened under the mentorship of Anthony (late) and Donna Balio at Donna Marie’s in Frankfort and while working there,

Mike concurrently opened and operated D'Geno's Pizzeria on the corner of South and Mohawk Street with his dear friend, John Doti. The saga continued with Johnny Scada as they established Michael Geno's at Modernistic which grew to be a thriving eatery that was eventually relocated down the street to the former Cafe Del Buono East, an exciting and exhilarating experience. This was a time that proved to Michael and Linda that their talents and loyalty of clients were real and lasting at "Michael Geno's". Although he never wanted his name on the sign, his humble nature was touching, and Linda was so proud that he took the credit owed to him. And these were the best of times. He then explored his culinary talents at the Yahnundasis Golf & Country Club. From there, he assisted with the opening of Ilario's Trattoria in North Syracuse. He later prepared his authentic dishes at Kitty's on the Canal. Mike transitioned as the Executive Chef when Rob Esche established Aqua Vino Restaurant. He appreciated the respect and the credit owed to his long-time career while working alongside Rob's mom, Beverly Esche, as well as his "work-wife" Trish LaBella. The last 12 years were a blessing as Mike realized it was the time in his life to pass down his artistic culinary talents to a new generation of chefs. He had a great crew, including his son Bryan who he was so proud to mentor, spend time with, and pass on his legacy to. Work was paramount, and he gave every opportunity his all, ending each night with a "skatney on the rattey"! During the pandemic, he sheltered at home, and when he returned to work last week, his demeanor was relaxed and seemingly filled with life, and ... the end of his life came too soon, too unexpectedly, and too unavoidably, —K-Babe. He was famous for his signature dishes, "Veal Scamardo" and "Wedding Soup", and those secret recipes will go with him. Mike's hospitality was seen on so many levels of his life. He always made a moment to say hello and show his concern. He was a wonderful husband and an exceptional father. Working in the restaurant business does not allow for an abundance of time at home, but he managed his business to blend in family time the best he could. Thruway Exit 33 was Mike's favorite destination, and during the Saratoga Track season he was able to fulfill his love of horses.

As a sportsman, he appreciated good competition and was known to place a wager now and then. He rooted for the New York Yankees and prayed for the New York Jets. Through the love of the Yankees, especially Jeter, a bond that Michael and his son shared, his son little Michael gave him a special gift of a ticket to attend Jeter's last game together. He often reminisced about years past and their robust family fun times. He was a bit of a traditionalist and stuck to his routines. He also loved his big 'Caddys', and he thought Frank Sinatra was his best friend! He had great friends, pulled off outrageous stunts, told comical bad boy stories, and he LIVED LIFE WELL.

His legacy will be felt in the lives of his loved ones now that he has passed and they will miss him dearly. The family vacation to Niagara Falls when the kids were little was so memorable, and just being together in the hotel room was such fun. The boys were so proud to be Mike's sons, in a family filled with fun and appreciation of one another. They all knew, especially Sean, that dad had their back. It was a Geno tradition to have a Miniature Dachshund as part of the family, and Mike's hot dog was "Buster", his bud. When his "bud" passed away in 2016, Mike buried him in the backyard with solar lights surrounding the site, and when they illuminated at night, he would yell out, "Buster's home!" Now the house is known to Miniature Dachshund "Junior" whose barks announce arrivals and activity. A very loving, sensitive soul, when Mike loved, he loved for real. His forgiveness and forbearance endured throughout his life, and in his humble heart, he was honored that they did. A parishioner of St. Mary of Mt. Carmel/Blessed Sacrament Parish, Mike was blessed to have the Lord in his life. As his days unfolded, especially this past month, he became more reflective, and he knew the Lord's peace.

Michael is survived by his wife and partner in life, Linda; his treasured sons, Sean, Bryan, and Michael. He was a devoted, proud "Papa" to his grandson, Alex, and they were the best of buds. He also leaves his sister, Teresa A. (Geno) LaDue and Paul Arensman; the memory of his predeceased brother, Louis J. Geno; half-brother, Louis Velardi; nephews, especially Ron LaDue

who was also his godson; his Geno nephews, Louie John, and Michael; Geno nieces, Anna-Marie and predeceased Angie with whom he shared a strong connection; great-nephews, great-nieces, many cousins; in-laws, Mariana Geno; Marianne and Frank Montecavo, Judy and Robert Foxenberg, and Carl Bechtold. In addition to his immediate family, he leaves his co-workers at Aqua Vino who were like family and his circle of brothers including Sammy Altieri, John Doti, Billy Stamboly, Mark Bruzzese, Rodney Baker, Johnny Orsaio, and the newest member of the brotherhood, Rob Esche. Mike had a huge group of memorable friends who added true meaning to his life and we hope that you know who you are. He was predeceased by his in-laws, John and Caroline Harp; sister-in-law, Carol Bechtold; and special friends, Anthony Balio, and Gary "Juice" Velleto.

From the moment the Geno family arrived at MVHS at St. Luke's Healthcare, the staff, especially Corrie Chassey, made Michael's care an ultimate concern with genuine and compassionate hearts. During this very traumatic journey, they stood by the family with sensitivity, and the family thanks each and every one of them from the bottom of their hearts. They are also grateful to the physicians, and the entire nursing staff, especially Melissa and Nancy, who were of great comfort; Mike's cousin Christine (Elacqua) Bosworth for her loving support; and Rev. John Buehler for administering the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick.

Visitation will be held Sunday from 3:00-6:00 at the Eannace Funeral Home, 932 South St., corner of Hammond Ave.

Due to the current restrictions, we will be operating at a 25% occupancy. We ask for your patience as we try to accommodate those coming to support the Geno family who will remain until all visitors have been seen. We will only allow ten people into the building as ten people exit. Face masks must be worn. In honor of Michael's culinary profession, memorial contributions in his honor may be made to St. Marianne Cope's Westside Kitchen online at <https://mmwsk.org> or by mail to 702 Columbia St., Utica, NY 13502. Mike's family will celebrate his Mass of Christian Burial privately. A public Memorial Mass will be

offered at a date and time to be announced after the pandemic subsides. Interment will take place in St. John the Baptist Cemetery in Rome at the convenience of the family.

Cemetery Details

St. John The Baptist Cemetery

East Dominick Street
Rome, NY

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 21. 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

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

Tribute Wall

SI

“ *Sister lit a candle in memory of Mr. Michael
Geno*



Sister - December 31, 2025 at 11:03 AM

TL

“ *It may be a New Year, you are still forever here.
Love and miss ya sooo much.*



Teresa (Geno) LaDue - January 01, 2021 at 10:36 AM

TL

“ *Miss Ya Mike.....Happy Birthday
Gone, but definitely not forgotten. Luv ya much*



Teresa (Geno) LaDue - September 17, 2020 at 05:47 PM

AG

“ *Happy Birthday Papa. Love your best bud Alex*

Alex Geno - September 17, 2020 at 01:40 PM

TL

“ Teresa (Geno) LaDue lit a candle in memory of Mr. Michael Geno



Teresa (Geno) LaDue - September 14, 2020 at 05:59 PM

VD

“ We miss you Papa. RIP Your best bud Alex and Vicky David--nonnie



Vicky David - August 15, 2020 at 01:19 AM

TL

“ Teresa (Geno) LaDue lit a candle in memory of Mr. Michael Geno



Teresa (Geno) LaDue - August 14, 2020 at 07:14 PM

LG

“ One month ago, you walked into the arms of our Lord Jesus Christ."I am leaving, the boxer is leaving, but the fighter still remains"....Rest well my love, until we meet again.....
-Lin xo

Linda Geno - July 14, 2020 at 04:08 PM

MJ

“ Love you Dad . A month gone today from earth, but never A second gone from my heart . I love you always . May you hear my conversations and prayers always 🙏
Always and forever in my heart,
-Michael Anthony

Michael Geno Jr - July 14, 2020 at 02:40 PM

TL

“ Teresa (Geno) LaDue lit a candle in memory of Mr. Michael Geno



Teresa (Geno) LaDue - July 14, 2020 at 11:35 AM

DM

“ Scatty on the Raddy Maddy. Love you. Our sympathies go out to Mike's family. So many laughs together. The turf course is firmmmmm!

Daniel Mellito - June 27, 2020 at 04:33 AM

AG

“ ANDY Graziano lit a candle in memory of Mr. Michael Geno



ANDY Graziano - June 22, 2020 at 07:19 PM

AG

Mike was a stand up man who always had a smile on his face and a great big hug and hello.. I will miss you my friend...Fly high with the angels..

ANDY Graziano - June 22, 2020 at 07:24 PM

PL

“ *To Linda and Geno family,*

Anne and I were deeply saddened by the loss of our cousin Michael. Some of my fondest childhood memories is visiting and playing with Michael and Louie as a young lad, growing up in Utica. My parents always found time to go and visit them. My brother Frank and I always had a good time with them. However, being away in Rochester for almost 38 years didn't provide me with the opportunity that most of my siblings and cousins had, in enjoying Mike's cuisine over the years. Whenever we did make it into Utica, that's all we heard about was Michael's restaurants and his cooking. Another special memory for us was seeing Mike at Aunt Joann and Uncle Joe Barbero's 60th wedding anniversary. His smile and charm filled the room. What a great smile. He was so happy. We wish we could somehow fill the void left by Mike, but that's an impossible task. He was a great man. Thee best! I salute you, Cousin Mike. May you rest in peace with all our loved ones.

Please accept our deepest sympathy and condolences. God Bless!

Pat & Anne Leone

Pat Leone - June 22, 2020 at 06:05 PM

PS

“ Linda and family,
I am so saddened to hear about Mike! So many fun and hilarious memories about him. I always loved " his meaty tree trunk legs". Everyone would get a great laugh when he wore shorts and I would go down to my knees a hug and kiss his legs..lol!!! I enjoyed my time working for him and your family at Michael Geno's Restaurant. I was treated like family. I will forever miss his Veal dishes. He had a way of preparing veal that was so tender and delicious.....no other Chef could compare! My thoughts, prayers and love to you all!
Fondly, Pauline Smith. smithpauliner@yahoo.com

Pauline Smith - June 21, 2020 at 01:21 PM

MP

“ Linda and family,
Words cannot express how deeply sorry we are for you in the loss of your husband/father. His legacy, to the public, as a tremendous area chef will live on in the minds of all those who were ever lucky enough to eat a dish which he created. Linda.. to you as his loving wife and partner and to your sons, we offer our prayers for your comfort and strength in this most difficult time of sorrow and loss. Linda, you were always so kind and loving to my dad, Joe Baris, and I can never thank you enough for that. Please know you are in my thoughts and in my heart.. With sincere sympathy..and love..
Maryanne and Buzz Putnam

maryanne putnam - June 21, 2020 at 01:14 AM

RS

“ June 19, 2020
Geno Family,

Veronica and I were very sorry to hear about the untimely passing of your beloved husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle, cousin, in-law, co-worker, Circle of Brother, friend and "Chef Extraordinaire", Michael.

We have added you and your family to our daily prayer list. And, when we attend mass tomorrow, we will add you and your family to our parish book of prayers.

We will always cherish our fond memories of Michael both personally and as our favorite Chef. When he opened up Michael Geno's on Bleecker Street we went there either every Friday or Saturday until the restaurant closed to wit we were very brokenhearted. We followed Michael wherever he went and were ecstatic when he landed at Aqua Vino. Veronica and I are convinced that Michael was the best Chef we've ever had the pleasure of being associated with. While Michael will be sorely missed by all, his legacy as a Culinary Specialist will carry on long after all of us are gone because of the Chefs he trained and the ones that they in turn will train.

May our Good Lord watch over, bless, protect, comfort and console you and your family as you endure this very difficult, trying and sad time in your lives.

We loved Michael so much that we donated to Mother Marianne's Kitchen in his memory. We didn't see a Go Fund Me page for Michael so the donation actually ended up under Rev. Richard Dellos name. But it all goes into the same pot. God Bless Michael.

Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to you and your family in your time of loss and sorrow.

Rob & Veronica Sherman

Rob & Veronica Sherman - June 20, 2020 at 02:18 PM

KK

“ *Geno Family,*

Our deepest sympathy for your loss. Mike was an outstanding person and chef! We will miss the specialty dishes and desserts that he would spoil us with when dining at the restaurant. Many laughs and good times through the years. Gone too soon and will be missed by many. Mike, your father lives on in your smile and kindness.



Gina and Kate Kenderdine -Orsaio

Kate Kenderdine - June 20, 2020 at 12:52 PM

EM

“ *Dear Linda and family, Vin and I were so saddened to hear of your loss. Mike was a great asset to our restaurant and loved his kind nature and that smile . Always positive and caring to all others. Gone too soon Vin and Liz Mazzoli, Bella Luna*

elizabeth Mazzoli - June 20, 2020 at 09:17 AM

RC

“ *A beautiful read about Michael and his family. A great Tribute to such a special person whom I'm so lucky to have met. May you Rest In Peace. You will be missed by so many. I'm sure God has welcomed you with open arms. I hope you keep him well fed and strong so you both will look down upon us and keep us in your prayers. In my prayers and forever in our Hearts.*

Rosemary and Joe Caruso - June 19, 2020 at 10:29 PM

VF

“ I am so sorry for the loss of your loved one. Mike was a good friend. I always admired his excellent cooking skills. He taught me many things on cooking and how to run a restaurant. We shared many laughs and good times together. His famous saying to me was, “ Everyday is an adventure!” I will cherish a lot of fond memories. I greatly will miss him. Thoughts and prayers for his family and friends. Love, Vito, Beth Carbone and family.



Vito and Beth Carbone and family - June 19, 2020 at 05:19 PM

ML

“ Our truly deepest sympathy to the entire Geno family, may he rest in peace.

Mary Ann & Tom Ladd - June 19, 2020 at 01:45 PM

BO

“ My condolences and prayers for Mikes entire family. I grew up with Mike/Louie, The Geno Boys as they were called, in East Utica and we went to school together at Mt.Carmel. Mike was always a gentle kind of guy back then, that had the infectious smile everyone has come to know. Not living in the Utica area for many years, I did not venture out to dinner a lot when I would visit family and did not get to Aqua Vino. In the past week seeing videos emerge of Mike in the kitchen you can tell he truly loved the art of cooking. I will have to make his chicken riggies as he did in the one video. I make my own version of riggies and I can't wait to try his. He is reunited with his parents and brother Louie and I'm sure they're all looking down on the family with smiles on their face. May he RIP

Bobby Ollerenshaw - June 19, 2020 at 07:02 AM

CV

“ *Cousin; Johnny Valenti purchased the Guiding Light Bouquet for the family of Mr. Michael Geno.*



Cousin; Johnny Valenti - June 18, 2020 at 10:00 PM

JC

“ *Linda, Mike, Bryan , Sean and the entire Geno Family
Please accept my deepest and heartfelt Sympathy for your loss. Mike was a legend. He was loved by everyone who had the pleasure of knowing him. My heart truly breaks for all of you.
Please know you are in my prayers asking God to walk right by your side as you face this unbearable heartache.
Jeanne Castronovo*

Jeanne Castronovo - June 18, 2020 at 09:54 PM

JV

“ *Linda and family, we are deeply heartbroken to here of Mike's passing. Another great one gone way too soon. A lot of good memories with Him and Juice. Prayers for everyone.*

Valerie and John Velletto

John Velletto - June 18, 2020 at 08:59 PM

JV

“ *To my cousins; the Geno Family
Please accept my sincere and deepest condolences for the loss of
Cousin Michael. The day I received the phone call that no one
wants to get, I was devastated.
My last and wonderful memory of Michael was talking and laughing
with him and Teresa at Aunt Joanne and Uncle Joe's surprise
anniversary dinner. I haven't seen Michael in several years and
when he walked into the room, he had that "one of a kind gentle
giant smile" and his voice was as I remembered it when we were
young kids.
I am living in Rome and I will visit his resting place quite often.
Rest In Peace Michael.*

Cousin Johnny Valenti

John C Valenti - June 18, 2020 at 08:22 PM



“ *Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the
family of Mr. Michael Geno.*



June 18, 2020 at 07:48 PM

LV

“ *Dear Linda and family, we are truly heartbroken over Mike's
passing. He held a very special place in our hearts and we sending
you love and prayers during this difficult time..Joan and Lisa Velletto*

Lisa Velletto - June 18, 2020 at 07:28 PM

TM

“ Heartfelt Sympathies to Linda and the Geno family. We were so saddened to hear of Mike's passing. He will always remain in our hearts, and we pray his beautiful memory will sustain you at this difficult time 😭

theresa maio - June 18, 2020 at 07:25 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mr. Michael Geno.



June 18, 2020 at 06:56 PM

CW

“ Mike was a very special person. My thoughts and prayers are with all of you at this time. He will be dearly missed. That beautiful heartwarming smile will never be forgotten! 😭 😊 🙏

Carolee Watson - June 18, 2020 at 06:16 PM

DJ

“ Dear Linda and family; so very sorry to learn of Mike's passing. Sending all of you love and light from our home in Alaska. May God bless and keep you, always. David Jadhon.



David Jadhon - June 18, 2020 at 05:47 PM

RP

“ Linda , I am so sorry to hear this sad news. My condolences to you and your family.

Roseann Petronella (Guarniero)

Roseann Petronella - June 18, 2020 at 05:23 PM

DB

“ Linda, Teresa, and Family, I am so saddened to hear about Mike's passing. May you find comfort in knowing that others are holding you close in their hearts. Cugine, My heart ached to hear the news of your passing. You touched so many lives with your huge heart and contagious smile. The memories will last a lifetime, I will never forget you my dear cousin. Until we meet again. Love Always, your cousin Debbie Barbero.

Debbie Barbero - June 18, 2020 at 04:22 PM

NJ

*Dear Linda, Theresa & the rest of the family,
I was so heartbroken to hear the tragic news of my cousin. He was always one of my favorites that I felt very close to.*

I will miss him so much!! Just ran into him 2 weeks ago & he looked & felt good he said. And we were joking about the " masks ' that we had to wear now!! Lol

My most sincere sympathy goes out to u all & may God give u the strength & guidance u need to get thru this most difficult time.

RIP my dear cousin. Till we meet again. 🙏🙏❤️❤️😭😭

Love u all & God Bless you & keep u safe. Love,

Cousin Nancy J.

XOXO❤️❤️😭😭

Nancy Jacobs - June 18, 2020 at 08:25 PM

RF

“ 1 file added to the album Papa Mike



Robert Foxenberg - June 18, 2020 at 03:46 PM

TD

“ Terrie Dailey lit a candle in memory of Mr. Michael Geno



Terrie Dailey - June 18, 2020 at 03:19 PM

TD

Linda, I'm so sorry for your loss. You are in my prayers, I know you will find comfort in your memories.

Terrie Dailey - June 18, 2020 at 03:22 PM

FA

Frank and I are saddened by Mikes passing. He was always so kind and generous to us and will be deeply missed.

Frank and Pat Albanese

Frank & Pat Albanese - June 18, 2020 at 05:37 PM

FD

“ *Geno family, so sorry to hear of Mike's passing. Heaven has gained an angel and one hell of a chef! He was loved by many and many will miss him. The days ahead will be difficult, but know that he is at peace now and watching over all of you. You are all in our thoughts and prayers.*

Flo and Amanda DeSimone

Flo DeSimone - June 18, 2020 at 10:46 AM

LL

“ *To Linda, Kids, and Teresa: You are deeply in my thoughts and prayers at this very difficult and emotional time. So sorry for your loss. Cousin Mike was a great cousin who will be deeply missed but never forgotten. Cousin Mike may you Rest In Peace. I love you. Love always, cousin Lori Leone, & Dan & Ryan Smith*

Lori Leone - June 18, 2020 at 10:33 AM

PA

“ *Paul Arensman lit a candle in memory of Mr. Michael Geno*



Paul Arensman - June 18, 2020 at 08:44 AM

RB

“ *Rosemary Brown lit a candle in memory of Mr. Michael Geno*



Rosemary Brown - June 18, 2020 at 08:11 AM

JG

“ To the Geno family ,
Fred and I are so sorry for your loss . God has gained an angel in
heaven. You are in our thoughts and prayers at this difficult time...

janice Greer - June 18, 2020 at 07:10 AM

SB

“ to linda, kids, and Teresa so sorry for your loss. its been an
emotional week for myself, my family, and the rest of mike's
cousins. mike was a big guy with a bigger heart. to my cousin mike I
love you and will miss you. may you rest in peace.

sal barbero - June 18, 2020 at 02:39 AM

MB

“ Mike buddy gone too soon.. The years have past, but I will never
forget our friendship. We were like brothers, I will never forget the
time me, you & Sammy had when we saw Frank Sinatra. RIP Buddy
Always Brothers Mark Bruzzese

Mark Bruzzese - June 17, 2020 at 08:52 PM