



Mr. Michael J. "Big Mike" Licari

July 21, 1929 - January 20, 2019

UTICA - Mr. Michael J. "Big Mike" Licari, age 89, passed away on Sunday, January 20, 2019 at the Masonic Care Community of NY with his family by his side.

Born in Ilion on July 21, 1929, Michael was the son of the late Salvatore T. "Sam" and Philomena "Minnie" (Rende) Licari. He was raised and educated locally. A proud veteran of the United States Army, Mike honorably served his country in the Korean War as part of the Transportation Division from 1951-1953 stationed stateside. At one time, he was wed to the late Kathleen Leo, and to that relationship came the blessing of three sons.

Mike worked as a Local Teamster's truck driver primarily for the American Hard Wall company operating a Ready Mix truck, and was subsequently employed at Griffith Brothers' Bakery Supply. Mike exemplified the love for truck driving and shared the camaraderie of his fellow workers who became his best friends. "Big Mike" was well remembered for his tenacity and friendship after he retired in 1984. As a devoted father to his three sons, his life was always about staying together. Mike epitomized a strong work ethic while demonstrating the importance of success and survival in the workforce. Although work was a priority in his life, his three sons were of paramount importance. He had simple phrases that profoundly and appropriately impacted the boy's lives that depicted his honesty, integrity, and love defining his parenting style. He was an impartial patriarch and wonderful provider encouraging each of them to be the best they could be in life. Mike was a

single dad and the rock upon which his sons saw real life. He made sure his boys had the fundamentals including food, a home, and a family to rely upon. When they were young having dinner together was a must and they have beautiful memories of that tradition. When he retired, Mike helped his son Sal with his construction business by running around to different suppliers where all the vendors knew Mike, and were darn sure that there was no dawdling on his shift!

Mike was a member of the Local Teamsters Union #294. He was a devout parishioner of St. Mark's Church and when he attended Mass his faith in Christianity was renewed.

Michael is survived by his sons and their loves, Salvatore "Sal" and Michelle (Garramone) Licari, Michael "Mike" and Christine (Kneller) Licari, and John R. Licari; and his grandchildren, Sal and wife Mary Licari; Aaron Licari, and Ashley Licari and husband Nate Alering. He also leaves behind his many nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, cousins, also his dedicated sister-in-law Audrey Licari who assisted Mike in raising his sons when they were young; and his wonderful neighbors and friends, William and Elaine Brunet, and Ernie and Judy DeCola for their unwavering concern and support. He was predeceased by his brother, Salvatore L. Licari; and his friends, Dominick Carriero, Bruno Saporito, Joseph Garramone, and George "Muzzy" Picenti.

The family is grateful to Dr. Timothy LaFont, a kind, gentle physician and a genuine friend; Dr. Elif Erim at the Masonic Care Community, and the entire staff of the Masonic Home, especially the personnel of the Forestport Household for the professional, compassionate, outstanding, and memorable care they rendered to Mike during his stay.

The family will honor and commemorate Mike's life at a private time. Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend Michael's funeral service and Celebration of Life which will commence on Thursday morning at 10:30 at St. Mark's Church where his Mass of Christian Burial will be offered by Rev. Mark Pasik with Military Honors conferred. The family will receive visitors at the

conclusion of the service. Memorial contributions in Mike's honor may be directed to the praiseworthy American Cancer Society, 110 Lomond Court, Utica, New York 13502 or online at <https://www.cancer.org> donations may also be made to the Alzheimer's Association online at <https://www.alz.org/>. Envelopes will be available at the service.

Previous Events

Funeral Service

JAN **24**. 10:30 AM (ET)

St. Mark's Church
440 Keyes Road
Utica, NY 13502

Tribute Wall

SF

“ *John, I am so sorry to hear of your great loss!
Your Dad was one of a kind, such a loving
and caring person.
It was my pleasure to have known him and I
adored him so.
May God Bless his soul as he Rests in Peace.
Prayers for you and your family,
Selma Fumarola*



Selma Fumarola - January 31, 2019 at 02:44 PM

RN

“ *Rochelle Nichols lit a candle in memory of Mr.
Michael J. "Big Mike" Licari*



Rochelle Nichols - January 27, 2019 at 05:23 PM

RL

“ *I remember Mike from his days at American Hardwall. My Dad
owned the market across the street and I helped out there as a kid.
Always remember our trips to Yankee stadium. Sorry for your loss.*

Rich LaScala - January 27, 2019 at 07:48 AM

DV

“ John -

I just heard this morning --- I am so very sorry for your loss. I know how close you were with your Dad. It was a long, hard road and you took such wonderful care of him. I'm sure he knew how much you loved him and all you did for him. I hope you find peace in all the sorrow. Cherish the memories always!

*Love you, my friend.
Deb VanNort*

Deb VanNort - January 24, 2019 at 10:26 AM

ML

“ *May beautiful memories of a life lived to its fullest linger and the shadow of pain be lessened each passing day. The sadness of the passing of your loved one is felt by many. May the thought of knowing that friends share in your sadness be of comfort to you.*
Richard & Mary Lynch



Mary Lynch - January 24, 2019 at 10:05 AM

JH

“ John and family many fond memories of your dad and his three boys raising them alone and dedicating his life to his children. I have a picture somewhere at my parents house of your dad sitting in a chair in the living room and the three of you standing behind him. You were all young and even when I was a child myself feeling bad that there was not a mother in your life. I remember coming to your house with my parents I'm sure my mom brought over food or goodies and looking around at a organized house. It touched me back then when I was a child and it touches me more as an adult the sacrifices that your dad had to endure never really having a life of his own. He gave his life up for his children. I remember all the Saturdays sitting at my moms table and you bringing him there when he could drive. Many fond memories and conversations occurred that shaped our life and continue to benefit from today. Unfortunatly that doesn't occur today which is sad. I remember talking to John when you had to place your dad in a home because you couldn't take care of his needs any longer physically mentally emotionity and spiritedly how guilty you felt and me giving you support. Try to find peace in yourself because you did your best and he knew you'd all loved him

joann haley - January 24, 2019 at 02:51 AM

KT

“ Dear John snd Family- I'm so sorry for your loss. All of you are in my thoughts and prayers. ❤️❤️❤️

Kathi Tamer - January 24, 2019 at 01:06 AM

SC

“ Sorry for your loss, I will never forget your father. He would always come with John to my mother's house on Sundays what a great guy. My prayers are with the family. God Bless.

Sam Cavo - January 23, 2019 at 04:12 PM

DG

“ John & family,
I am deeply sorry for your loss. I know how close you were to your dad and my heart breaks for you...he will always be with you...My deepest condolences.

Denise Pristera Giruzzi

denise pristera giruzzi - January 23, 2019 at 11:34 AM

YD

“ My thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time. I have many fond memories of him at my mom and dad's home. Gentle gentlemen always. I always enjoyed his visits and have so much respect for your dad. May your memories comfort you during this difficult time.

Yolanda Cavo Dischiavo - January 23, 2019 at 08:55 AM

CM

“ Our sincere condolences from my family to yours with the passing of Big Mike. What a good, one of kind, old school man. I worked with Sal, coached with him, worked out in his basement and most importantly friends with him and his family.

I would show up to the job site and Big Mike would always beat me there, even if I tried to be early. He was a great balancing force to have there and loved the stories and little life lessons he throw in everyday, being on time or early to the job, working hard with your hands and your brain, paying attention to instructions and details and how always do things the right way, at work and life. I learned so very much with all my time spent with Big Mike and Salvatore and forever grateful for that and their friendship. Love and great memories, Chris “Chrissy” Mirabella

chris mirabella - January 23, 2019 at 06:23 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mr. Michael J. "Big Mike" Licari.*



January 22, 2019 at 09:28 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Mr. Michael J. "Big Mike" Licari.*



January 22, 2019 at 06:21 PM