



Michael F. Waskiewicz

August 10, 1946 - January 21, 2010

Mr. Michael F. Waskiewicz, age 63, of Utica, passed away on Thursday, January 21, 2010 in the comfort and privacy of his home with his loving wife by his side.

Born in Utica on August 10, 1946, Michael was the son of the late Francis T. and Mary Carol (Worden) Waskiewicz. Raised and educated locally, he was a 1965 graduate of Utica Free Academy where he excelled in the sports of football and wrestling. A proud veteran of the U.S. Army, he served his country during the Vietnam Era as a member of the Green Berets, the Army's special operations forces. He was decorated with 2 Presidential Purple Hearts and was recommended to receive a Silver Star for valor. Upon his honorable discharge from the Army, he attended Fremont College in Nebraska where he held the position of linebacker on the football squad. On February 13, 1971 he married the former Diane R. Semeraro with whom he shared 38 years; they were a well matched couple who prioritized their lives around their family and enjoyed each other's company.

Michael worked as a cooking instructor at the Career Development Center, and was a sous-chef and specialist in banquet skills at the Radisson Hotel. His most recent employment was at Castlewood Restaurant on Oneida Street. Dedicated to his profession, he was often complimented on his unique culinary preparations not only at his places of employment, but also at home where he prepared outstanding Christmas Eve feasts for his family. Above all other events, Michael's best times were those shared with his family,

especially his grandchildren who he entertained during their playtime activities, donned in full attire; he especially enjoyed the time spent "hunting crickets" with the grandchildren. His impersonations of Officer Bozo, Panzar the Spy, and his much-beloved interpretation of "Dr. Waskiewicz" will forever be in his grandchildren's memories. He took a true interest in the lives of those he loved. He was a proud man, but his strong personality was blended with a sensitive heart. As a father, he instilled values, reinforced his paternal love, and was always available, especially during times of need. An outdoorsman, he enjoyed fishing the St. Lawrence River and hunting the northern zone, times and places where he was at his best.

Michael is survived by his wife, Diane; his daughter and son-in-law, Kim and Virgil Farrow of PA; his son and daughter-in-law, Michael S and Erin Waskiewicz of FL; and his cherished "play mates", his grandchildren, Sophia, and John Farrow; and Michael, and Megan Waskiewicz. Survivors also include his brother and sister-in-law, Carl and Alice Waskiewicz of FL; his nieces and nephews, Nicole and Adam, Jill and Michael, Chris and Laurel, John, David and Betty, Jennie, and Sandra; his great-nieces, great-nephews, cousins, and in-laws, Josephine and Ray MacDuff, Mary and Roger Ackley, Wanda Semeraro, longtime and cherished friends David and Lorraine Walsh, and his buddies at the Auburn Tavern. He was predeceased by his in-laws, Ralph "Lefty" and Jennie Semeraro; and his brother-in-law, John Semeraro. The family extends sincere thanks to the Utica Fire Department Rescue One personnel for their timely response and compassion; Julie Milograno, RN from Hospice & Palliative Care, Inc. who provided the essence of security by her presence; and the nurses and staff of 3B at the St. Elizabeth Medical Center for their outstanding care. Gratitude is offered to Dr. Lowenstein for his professionalism and concern.

Visitation will be held Sunday (today) from 2:00-5:00 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 contributions in Michael's honor to Hospice & Palliative Care, Inc.; envelopes

will be available at the funeral home. Michael's funeral service will commence on Monday morning at 10:00 from the funeral home and at 11:00 at the Church of Our Lady of Lourdes where his Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated with full Military Honors.

Tribute Wall



“ *Diane and Family,
We just found out about Mike's passing. To say we were shocked would be an understatement. Please accept our sincere condolences for your devastating loss. They don't come any better than Mike. May God bless Mike, you and your family.##imported-begin##Bob & Bonnie Hughes##imported-end##*

March 26, 2010 at 10:46 AM



“ *Diane, I have been in Tucson,AZ. since the beginning of Jan. visiting relatives when i was browsing the OD and read of Mike's passing. I send my heart felt sympathy to you and your family. I will remember him next to me on the football field always helping and building me up to compete against our opponents. He served his country very proudly and I never realized he received 2 purple hearts,, but that was Mike very quiet of his accomplishments. Rest in peace my respected friend. Tony Domanico##imported-begin##tony domanico##imported-end##*

February 02, 2010 at 01:54 PM



“ *Diane & family
we were saddened to hear of Mike's passing. although i have not seen Mike very much over these years i thought of him often. I so much enjoyed the few times i saw him, even if i had to drag him to the function. Everytime a group of ex-titans got together Mike's name would come up. I know he will be missed by many. Andy & Eileen Guzzetti##imported-begin##andy & eileen guzzetti##imported-end##*

January 26, 2010 at 03:13 PM



“ Our thoughts and prayers are with your family Erin from all of us here at the Public Defenders Office in Jacksonville, Florida.##imported-begin##Refik W. Eler##imported-end##

January 26, 2010 at 02:33 PM



“ Dear Diane,
My deepest sympathy on Mike's passing. I hope to see you at a happier time this summer at the reunion
Michael Rosenthal Class of 65, Boston, MA##imported-begin##Michael Rosenthal##imported-end##

January 25, 2010 at 05:50 PM



“ Diane - so sorry to hear about your husband - thoughts and prayers are for you and your family at this time. Jackie##imported-begin##Jackie##imported-end##

January 25, 2010 at 02:42 PM



“ Diane and Family,

My deepest sympathy to you all...Mike was a great guy...He will be missed by all.

Rocky

Rocklin,CA##imported-begin##Rocco Rositano##imported-end##

January 25, 2010 at 09:47 AM



“ *Diane and family, I am so sorry for your loss. I remember Mike from Kemble and UFA as one of the "good guys", and was looking forward to seeing him once again in August. May he rest in peace. George*###imported-begin##George Ellenberger###imported-end##

January 25, 2010 at 12:41 AM



“ *Dear Diane & Family*

My sincere condolences to you and yours on the loss of your beloved husband, father and grandfather. Unfortunately I was out of town and unable to make to the wake. My thoughts and prayers are with you at this time. May the memories you shared with Mike always be a source of comfort to all of you.###imported-begin##Judy Oster###imported-end##

January 24, 2010 at 08:47 PM



“ *Diane, Mike, Erin, Kim and Virgil,*

My thoughts and prayers are with you at this difficult time. May you hold cherished memories close to your heart always.

We are thinking of you,

Marsha Basloe and family###imported-begin##Marsha Basloe###imported-end##

January 24, 2010 at 06:32 PM



“ Diane,

I was very shocked and saddened to learn of Mike's passing after receiving a note from Janice Jenny.

I remember well when Mike and I played together on the UFA football team.

He was a real competitor and a good man.

My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family at this time.

Sincerely,

Gary##imported-begin##Gary Bartnick##imported-end##

January 24, 2010 at 05:49 PM



“ *My deepest sympathies at the passing of Mike. I know he will be missed by everyone. My thoughts and prayers are with you.##imported-begin##Joe Voelker##imported-end##*

January 24, 2010 at 05:08 PM



“ Diane and family,

I am so sorry about the loss of Mike. I know that your good memories will be of help in the difficult times ahead for you. Please know that we, your friends, are here for you.

Jane Buchner##imported-begin##Jane Buchner##imported-end##

January 24, 2010 at 04:37 PM



“ Dear Diane and Family,
We are so sorry we are away and can't be with you at this sad time. We were so glad to have gotten the opportunity to get to know Mike better when we spent time with you all at our cousin's reunion a few years ago in Surf City. Our sincerest sympathy to you and your family.
Bud and Jo##imported-begin##Bud and Jo Murray##imported-end##

January 24, 2010 at 04:24 PM



“ Diane and Family,
Please know how saddened I was to hear of Mike's passing. A great guy who will be missed, we all have a Mike story.
John Brown##imported-begin##John Brown##imported-end##

January 24, 2010 at 03:46 PM



“ Diane, Kim & Michael, I am so very sorry to hear about "Big Mike". You are all in my prayers. God Bless. - Jennifer & Shawn Sumner##imported-begin##Jennifer Washburn Sumner##imported-end##

January 23, 2010 at 01:57 PM



“ Diane, Kim, and Mike,
We are so sorry to hear of Mikes passing. He was such a wonderful man. I remember with a smile how back in High School I could hear "big" Mike yelling at me on the mound, "Come on Yan-Tek!" during the middle of a pitch. The sleep-overs where little Mike and I would get tortured by him too! My mother and father cherished Mike and Dianes friendship. You all are in our thoughts and prayers. Anthony Farina##imported-begin##Anthony Farina @Family##imported-end##

January 23, 2010 at 10:56 AM



“ Diane, I am so sorry to hear of Mike's passing. Please accept my sincere condolences and know that my thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.##imported-begin##Sharyn (Abraham) Belfield##imported-end##

January 23, 2010 at 10:08 AM



“ Wishing you our most sincere sympathy over your loss of Mike.##imported-begin##Lori and Doug Eccleston##imported-end##

January 23, 2010 at 07:15 AM



“ Dear Diane & family members,

We are so very sorry by the loss of Mike. We pray for his final rest with our Lord. We also pray for your well-being during this most trying time. Our sincere sympathy to you and your family.

*God bless you,
Steve and Roberta Schiavi##imported-begin##stephen
schiavi##imported-end##*

January 22, 2010 at 10:38 PM



“ Diane and family

*Words cannot express how sorry I am, Mike will be missed.
At this time all we can do is pray and wait for the time when the pain
can be replaced with fond memories.*

My Sincerest thoughts and Prayers

Mike would laugh at me saying prayers, but they can't hurt.

Love

Barb Perra##imported-begin##Barbara Perra##imported-end##

January 22, 2010 at 10:25 PM



“ Dear Diane,

*Janice told me of Mike's passing. I am very sorry for your loss. May
your loving memories help you in this time of sorrow.*

*Marilyn##imported-begin##Marilyn Rosenblum Trichon##imported-
end##*

January 22, 2010 at 09:28 PM



“ *Diane, Kim, Mike, Virgil, Erin and family,
We are so sorry for your loss. Mike was a great guy who always made us laugh. Kim, I remember many breakfasts he made when I used to sleep over your house. He always had a smile on his face and some sort of story to tell me. He liked to tease me too!! I will miss him deeply. My heart goes out to all of you. I will see you all on Sunday. Please call if you need anything. God Bless all of your during this sorrowful time. Love and condolences Francine & John*###imported-begin###*Francine & John Julian*###imported-end##

January 22, 2010 at 08:00 PM



“ *Diane - We were so sorry to hear of this very sad news. Our hearts go out to you and your family.
Janice and Tom*###imported-begin###*Tom and Janice (Sherline)
Jenny*###imported-end##

January 22, 2010 at 04:23 PM