



## Moses "Moe" LaBella

November 22, 1923 - April 15, 2008

Moses LaBella, 84, a lifelong Utican and longtime owner of LaBella's Pancake House in Sylvan Beach, passed away peacefully on April 15, 2008 after a long illness.

He leaves behind a large loving family and a boatload of beach buddies, who considered him a Sylvan Beach icon, as one headline proclaimed when Moe retired in 2006.

His favorite song, "It's A Wonderful World," which played frequently on the LaBella's Pancake House jukebox, reflected perfectly Moe's feelings about his life journey.

Moe was born Nov. 22, 1923 in Utica, to the Italian immigrants Moses and Theresa LaBella, the second youngest of 22 children. He survived The Great Depression working as a shoe shiner and bean picker and attended Proctor High briefly before enlisting in the Navy in 1942.

He was a proud World War II veteran, serving 3 ½ years aboard the destroyers USS Bristol and USS Edwards, which was one of the escort ships for the USS Missouri when it carried Gen. Douglas MacArthur into Tokyo Bay to accept the Japanese surrender. In February, he was the subject of a front page feature in the Utica O-D after Rep. Mike Arcuri arranged for him to receive six earned war medals, 60 years overdue.

Moe opened his popular beach diner more than a half century ago, in 1957, attracting tourists and celebrities in the summer and locals and ice fishermen in the winter. He catered to the breakfast and after hours clientele—as host,

cook, bouncer and entertainer. The restaurant, which is now up for sale, was Moe's passion because it allowed him to spend his days with Sylvan Beach's vacationers and villagers, his favorite people in the world. Moe traveled frequently to other resorts, but he always preferred the shores of Oneida Lake, and died with Sylvan Beach sand in his shoes.

Moe's family was the only thing more important to him than Sylvan Beach. He is survived by his devoted caregiver and wife of 55 years, Lee, the former Angela Trisolino. Lee is also the primary caregiver for one of Moe's favorites, her sister Lucille, and for many years dressed many of Utica's brides as longtime proprietor of Mademoiselle Bridal Shop. Her parents, who Moe respected immensely, were Lucy and Joseph Trisolino.

Moe is also survived by his four children: Gary (and wife Jeanne), Stephen, Brian and Lucinda, and eight cherished grandchildren—Lindsey, Carsen, Christian, Devyn, Jordan, Dakota, Noah and Aidan. Although none of the children and grandchildren live in the Utica area, they always gathered at the Sunset Ave. homestead for Christmases together, and always spent summers in Sylvan Beach.

Moe is also survived by his brothers William and Joseph LaBella, sister Carmella Mallozzi and sisters-in-law Elda LaBella and Vi LaBella, as well as Lee's family—Lucille Trisolino, Julie and Mike Houghton, Elaine and David Seeley, Gina and Luca Esposito, Sebastian Trisolino and Rosemary Trisolino. Moe was predeceased by brothers Paul and Sam LaBella and sisters Jenny Calabrese, Theresa Conte, Fannie Panetta, Laura Fava and Lena Chambrone, as well as his in laws Jay Trisolino, Marie Johnson and Celeste Surace.

The family is very grateful for the expert care given by Moe's doctors—Dr. Eric Yoss, Dr. Mark Blaker, Dr. John Ruben and especially the very compassionate Dr. George Tomy, and for the outstanding care given by Darlene Gabiger and the many skilled nurses of St. Elizabeth's ICU and special care units.

The family is especially thankful to three loving persons who have helped immensely during Moe's illness—Betty Toomey, Patricia Gorton and cousin

Larry Calabrese. All three have been shining lights who have been extraordinarily generous to both Moe and Lee.

Most of all, the family is thankful to Moe himself. "It was a wonderful world you gave us, Dad, and we will remember and love you forever for it."

In keeping with Moe's wishes, there will be no public visiting hours. Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend Moe's Mass of Christian Burial and Celebration of Life which will commence at 1pm on Monday, April 21 at the Church of Our Lady of Lourdes. The family will receive visitors at the conclusion of the service. Entombment will take place in Calvary Mausoleum at the convenience of the family. Arrangements have been entrusted to the Eannace Funeral Home, Inc. 932 South St., corner of Hammond Ave.

# Tribute Wall



“ Now was a wonderful man and like a father to me growing up. Great story teller, very funny and always a smile! ❤️❤️❤️

judith Phelps - April 09, 2023 at 10:00 AM



“ Thanks be to God... another soldier has gone home. "He'll battle no more, he's won his wars, make sure Heaven's table has room for at least one more, sing a welcome song, another soldier's coming home (salute!)" Is it a "wonderful world" there Uncle Moe? We miss you and love you, Sherry/"Sissy"##imported-begin##Sherry Anne Lints##imported-end##

April 22, 2008 at 01:28 AM



“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you all. We are so sorry for your loss.

Peter and Graham##imported-begin##Peter Jessop##imported-end##

April 21, 2008 at 06:16 PM



“ *Mr. LaBella, when I think of Sylvan Beach, no doubt, I think of you. What a presence you were in that place. Coming to the beach as a little girl with Lucinda was such a privilege. I remember being in the kitchen with my big job of buttering toast...and watching you in amazement handling the kitchen and all the many moving parts..and like magic plates upon plates would be set on the ledge. The energy of the place buzzed around you and you handled it all like clockwork, with grace...OK, and sometimes with a little yelling. Thanks for always sharing so much of your stories, your love of life and vitality with anyone and everyone around you. Patty Gorton##imported-begin##Patricia Gorton##imported-end##*

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April 21, 2008 at 05:48 PM



“ *The last lesson a Father teaches us is how to die. Moe’s death is no different. His message is clear. Don’t stop living during the process. Always hope. Always fight . Always try.*

*Moe La Bella had a varied life. His experiences were many , his years long. In his final years as he began to reflect on the past and face the future he showed an enthusiastic and passionate love for his grandchildren. To watch him look in Noah or Adian ’s eyes and hold their face close to his as he kissed them was to see adoration. To watch him talk with Jordan, Dakota or Devon while they helped him with some daily self care chore this proud man would once have been able to do himself you saw an amazing intimate process. The effortless transition between caregiver and cared for. To hear him talk of the latest travels or triumphs of Carson, Lindsey or Christian was to see eyes shine with pride and the comforting knowledge that the legacy he left the world in these young people was a shining one.*

*Moe was right. It is a wonderful world. Tonight however, the collective light it shines , glows a little bit dimmer. Rest in peace ,Uncle. You will be missed.##imported-begin##Lisa Roach##imported-end##*

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April 20, 2008 at 11:39 PM



“ *It was a pleasure to have been Moe's neighbor at "the Beach" . I'll miss our chats. And I'm sure the Beach will miss Moe. I'll never look at the Pancake House without thinking of Moe. He was a real gentleman. My heartfelt condolences to the family.##imported-begin##Kirk Darling##imported-end##*

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April 20, 2008 at 09:39 PM



“ Moe, You were apart of the little bit of "magic" that helped me through my childhood. You have been and will continue to remain a big part of the "magic" of my life. Thank you.

Peace Be With You,  
Terry###imported-begin###Terry Burton###imported-end###

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April 20, 2008 at 08:08 PM



“ I am so grateful for every moment we had together. I will miss you terribly but you will always live in my heart.###imported-begin###Lindsey LaBella###imported-end###

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April 20, 2008 at 06:28 PM



“ I love you so much Grandpa. I'll never forget a moment we spent together. I'll miss you.###imported-begin###Jordan LaBella###imported-end###

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April 20, 2008 at 06:04 PM



“ You have left us with so many wonderful memories, I miss you and love you grandpa. Thank you for all the great summers and christmas.

Love always,  
Christian###imported-begin###Christian LaBella###imported-end###

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April 18, 2008 at 11:25 PM



“ Dear Grandpa, i miss you so much. It is going to be so hard going to New York with out you. We have so many great memories together, memories that i will never forget. i love you sooo much, and i'll see you again one day.  
love, Dakota###imported-begin##Dakota LaBella ###imported-end##

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April 18, 2008 at 11:22 PM



“ Dear Grandpa,  
I miss u everytime i think about you but then i find comfort in thinking about all the great memories i have with you in New York and at the pancake house. I love you always grandpa.###imported-begin##Devyn LaBella###imported-end##

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April 18, 2008 at 11:20 PM



“ Sylvan Beach will never be the same but what the beach has lost is Heaven's gain for surely Moe's love for Lee, his kids and grandchildren, his dependable caring for his many, many friends and his joyous, happy outlook on life have gained him his ticket in. Thank you all who joined him in his friendship with us. Our sadness is heavy but cannot compare with the loss you are enduring. Let's hope that one day we will sit again at Moe's table piled as always with great food, real laughter and the warmest feelings.###imported-begin##Jim and Angie Brooks and Momma###imported-end##

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April 18, 2008 at 10:28 PM



“ Dear Grandpa, I love you as much as the sun that shines around the world everyday! I will miss you always. Love, Noah###imported-begin###Noah LaBella###imported-end##

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April 18, 2008 at 08:34 PM



“ dear Grandpa, I always loved you as much as 1,000,000 hugs and kisses and will forever! I will remember you no matter what! Love, Aidan###imported-begin###Aidan LaBella###imported-end##

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April 18, 2008 at 08:31 PM



“ Dear Lucinda and Family,  
My thoughts and prayers are with you, I will always have a place in my heart of memories of Lucinda and I going up to the beach to see your dad, the fun times will not be forgotten. May the lord guide you during your sorrow. Lucinda I miss you and love you dearly,  
Roxanne###imported-begin###Roxanne Bristol###imported-end##

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April 18, 2008 at 01:48 PM



“ I Love You Daddy. You have been the greatest man in my life. You were a father to my boys who loved you dearly. They will continue to grow up knowing what an inspiration you were to us all. We are blessed from God to have had you as our father. Your daughter,  
cindy###imported-begin###Lucinda LaBella###imported-end##

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April 18, 2008 at 12:22 PM



“ Dear Aunt Lee & Family  
We feel greatly blessed to have had Uncle Moe in our lives. He was a wonderful person and will be missed by all who loved him.

All our love  
John and Barbara###imported-begin##John and Barbara  
Calabrese###imported-end##

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April 18, 2008 at 09:05 AM



“ My deepest and dearest condolences to your family. Sending love and prayers.###imported-begin##Maureen P.Mottley###imported-end##

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April 17, 2008 at 02:48 PM



“ Your joyous spirit will always live on in our hearts and memories Grandpa, but you will be greatly missed.###imported-begin##Carsen LaBella###imported-end##

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April 16, 2008 at 11:22 PM



“ "Dad:" I miss you terribly. We all have hundreds of cherished memories of our times with you. Thanks for the laughter, for your generous love and for all the many meals we shared. I'll never cook a meal again without thinking about you.

Love,

Your daughter-in-law, Jeanne LaBella###imported-begin##Jeanne LaBella###imported-end##

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April 16, 2008 at 10:15 PM



“ *Labella Family,*

*Sorry to hear about your loss. Terrific obituary; Uncle Moe lived a very full life.##imported-begin##Darren, Eileen and Kaylee Johnson##imported-end##*

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April 16, 2008 at 09:04 PM



“ *We are so sorry to hear about Moe. If you need any thing feel free to call us.*

*Sincerely,  
Wanda & Richard##imported-begin##Richard&Wanda Armlin##imported-end##*

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April 16, 2008 at 07:38 PM