



## Dr. Nicholas J. Capuana

October 19, 1945 - May 11, 2025

SAUQUOIT – Dr. Nicholas J. Capuana, age 79, passed away peacefully on Sunday, May 11, 2025, in the comfort and dignity of his beloved home in Sauquoit, surrounded by his loving and devoted family.

Born in Utica on October 19, 1945, Nicholas was the son of the late Leonard J. and Virginia (Spaziani) Capuana. He was a graduate of Utica Free Academy. A natural athlete, Nick attended SUNY University at Buffalo on a football scholarship and was awarded “Athlete-of-the-Year” in 1966. He also received the Dom Grossl Award, the highest sports honor the University of Buffalo can bestow, because of his “unselfishness and willingness to sacrifice personal glory for the good of the team.” Nick went on to earn his doctorate of ophthalmology from the Buffalo School of Medicine. He also honorably served his country in the U.S. Navy in the 1970s.

While doing hospital rounds in Buffalo, Nick met the love of his life, the former Marilyn Clark. The two were married on July 13, 1972. Nick and Marilyn were an amazing team who complemented each other perfectly. Both creative and practical problem solvers, they shared an unwavering vision to live life fully yet simply. Always welcoming and kind, they journeyed through life truly together and enriched all who crossed their path. The couple shared 51 years prior to Marilyn’s untimely passing on January 16, 2023.

When he and Marilyn moved to the Utica area to raise their children, Nick established his own private ophthalmology practice in Utica. His impeccable work ethic, paired with his compassionate nature, led to an enormously successful practice that served the community for decades.

Nick was a kind and multi-talented man, both interesting and genuinely interested in others. He made the most of each day, living with purpose, energy, and curiosity. A lifelong lover of the outdoors, Nick found joy in horseback riding, mushroom foraging, fishing, skiing, speed skating, running, cooking, and tending to his vineyard and garden. Annual grape harvests and winemaking were cherished traditions, often shared with family and friends—gatherings he held dear. Exercise was essential to his daily rhythm, as was his passion for exploration and learning. Being part of the Italian American community in Utica was a source of pride for Nick. He taught himself Italian and loved traveling to Italy with Marilyn and close friends. His zest for life and the natural world left a lasting impression on everyone fortunate enough to know him.

At one time, Nick was an active member of the Rotary Club, and he and Marilyn welcomed international students into their home through the club's exchange program. He was also a proud member of the fraternal group of Masons.

Nick is survived by his beloved children, Nicole Capuana and her husband John Rukenbrod, Tonia Capuana, Erica Capuana and her husband David Dow, and Andrew Capuana; and precious grandchildren, Otto Rukenbrod; Wilder Printz; and Willa, and Lupine Dow. Nick's memory will live on in the hearts of his brother and sister-in-law, Leonard A. and Ann Capuana; sister, Marguerite Duda (the late Ronald W. Duda); nieces and nephews, Michael and Kim Capuana, Lisa Capuana; Chris and Tony DeSarro, and Kim and William P. Carroll and their families; several cousins, with special mention of

Gerald Spaziani who was like a brother to Nick; mother-in-law, Shirley Clark; and in-laws, Debby Koester, Don Clark, Nancy Clark, Carrie Lynn Clark Moore, and Beverly Harris and their families. Throughout his life, Nick amassed many friendships that he held close to his heart. He was additionally predeceased by his father-in-law and mother-in-law, Willis H. Clark and Dorothy J. Fisher; and son-in-law, Tannen Printz.

The Capuana family extends their deepest gratitude to all of Nick's personal caregivers for their unwavering dedication and compassion. They also wish to thank Hospice & Palliative Care, Inc. for providing comfort and support during the final stage of Nick's earthly journey.

Visitation will be held on Thursday, May 15, 2025, from 3:00-5:00 p.m. at the Eannace Funeral Home, Inc., 932 South St., corner of Hammond Ave. A time of remembrance and sharing will commence at 5:00 p.m. at the funeral home. Memorial contributions in Nick's honor may be made to the Alzheimer's Association online at [www.alz.org/get-involved-now/donate](http://www.alz.org/get-involved-now/donate), or Hospice & Palliative Care, Inc. online at [www.hospicecareinc.org/donate](http://www.hospicecareinc.org/donate). Interment will take place in Calvary Cemetery alongside his beloved Marilyn at the convenience of the family.

# Cemetery Details

## Calvary Cemetery

2407 Oneida Street  
Utica, NY

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAY 15. 3:00 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

## Celebration of Life

MAY 15. 5:00 PM (ET)

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

# Tribute Wall

AL

“ *A Tribute to Dr. Nicholas J. Capuana and Marilyn Capuana*  
*There are people in this world who leave footprints on our hearts, shaping us in ways we never quite imagined. Dr. Nicholas J. Capuana and his beloved wife, Marilyn, were two such people - pillars of kindness, generosity, and warmth who embraced me as family when I was just a young exchange student from Norway in 1983.*

*I arrived in Sauquoit Valley as part of the Rotary Exchange Program, eager to immerse myself in a new culture, a new way of life. Among the many incredible families who opened their doors to me, the Capuana family at King Road stood out like a beacon of love and laughter. An Italian family, vibrant and full of life, already blessed with three wonderful daughters – Nicole, Tonia, Erica, and awaiting another, Andrew. Yet, despite their full and busy home, they welcomed me - not just as a guest, but as one of their own.*

*Nicholas and Marilyn did not simply offer a place to stay; they gave me a home, filled with warmth, wisdom, and an unconditional kindness that, to this day, resonates in my soul. In their Capuana Kingdom, I was treated like a son, like a prince in a realm built on love, generosity, and boundless giving. Their days were filled with joy; their lives built on a foundation of selflessness and community. They did not just host me - they shaped me.*

*The year I spent with them, along with the other families in Sauquoit, was nothing short of transformative. It was not just about the cultural exchange - it was about discovering what true family means beyond blood ties. From the laughter at dinner tables to the lessons learned in quiet moments, their love helped sculpt the person I am today.*

*Now, learning of Nicholas's passing, after Marilyn's earlier departure in January 2023, I find myself reflecting on their legacy - not just in my life, but in the many lives they touched. Their impact cannot be measured in words alone; it lives in the kindness they spread, the*

*memories they created, and the hearts they filled with warmth.*

*I mourn their loss deeply, but even more than that, I celebrate their lives. Because people like Nicholas and Marilyn Capuana never truly leave us - they live on in the love they gave, the lessons they taught, and the profound imprint they left behind.*

*To Nicholas and Marilyn - thank you for the home, the wisdom, and the love. Thank you for being a guiding light in my life. May you both rest in peace, knowing that your legacy continues in the lives you have touched, in the hearts you have nurtured, in your beautiful children, and in the memories that will forever shine in our hearts.*

*With eternal gratitude and love,  
/// Alexander*

*PS. Scandinavian condolences to Nicole, Tonia, Erica, and Andrew  
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**Alexander** - May 20, 2025 at 07:59 PM

FG

“ *I was a college team mate of Nick's at Buffalo. He was truly a gentleman & a scholar. Football gave me the opportunity to meet this great man. Nick was a great player & teammate & a better person. RIP.*

*Fred Geringer*

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**Fred Geringer** - May 18, 2025 at 08:04 AM

DK

“*Capuana Family, So very sad to read the passing of Dr. Capuana. Not only did he take exceptional care of my parents, he also took care of my two disabled uncles with respect, patience & kindness for many yrs. Definitely one of a kind. Thoughts & Prayers Darlene Karam*

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**Darlene Karam** - May 16, 2025 at 10:38 PM



“*I spent a good amount of my childhood at the Capuana's, Nick's son Andrew and I were and still are very close friends. I always looked up to Nick as a positive male role model in my life, he had a special aura about him. He would religiously run by our house every day, rain or shine. He would bring Andrew and I into the basement for "jailhouse" style workouts, 2 cinder blocks, a 2x8 and a towel, cmon boys let's do some chest presses. I can still smell his bread baking as every Friday night I'd walk into their home and see Nick standing at his counter pounding dough, making sausage and sipping his homemade wine. He left a legacy of love, compassion and steadfastness to his children and grandchildren. Heroes get remembered, but legends never die. May you rest peacefully.*

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**Ian Facchini** - May 15, 2025 at 11:56 AM

AF

“*I spent countless hours spending time with Nick and my father. Whether it was skiing, horseback riding, fishing, or mushroom picking it was always adventure. My childhood was shaped by my time spent at "Campuana". Nick and Marilyn always treated me like one of their own. I am forever grateful.*

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**Alana Flemma** - May 15, 2025 at 07:05 AM

SC

“ Karin and I were very saddened to hear of Nick’s passing. I’ll always remember our monthly lunches together and all the great conversations we had regarding family, sports, medicine and our culture. Our deepest condolences to the family.

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**Salvatore Capuana** - May 14, 2025 at 08:34 PM

PB

“ Dear Capuana family,  
You don’t know me but I knew your Dad for many years. We went to high school together and were dear friends. I worked with Nicky and Dr.Semeraro and then assisted him in the O.R. Til I moved to Florida. I kept up with your family through your Moms Christmas letters. He called me in Florida when he was diagnosed. I told him to never give up. I loved that guy and will always hold dear the time we had together. I send you my sincerest condolences.He was truly a great man.



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**Paulette Brady** - May 14, 2025 at 06:07 PM

JP

“ When we were playing high school football in Niagara Falls in the 1960s, our coaches would hold up Nick as a role model. "Be like that Capuana kid at UB," Coach Dempsey would say (he played at UB in the 50s). They meant for us to pay attention to how Nick prepared, how dedicated he was, how team-oriented he was. Nick played corner, safety, tailback, quarterback - whatever the team needed. Years later I got to know him in Utica/New Hartford. A terrific, multi-talented, humble man. He was our hero all over again. Rest in peace, Nick, and sincere condolences to all the Capuana family.

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**John C Pitarresi** - May 14, 2025 at 02:27 PM

NF

“ Capuana Family,  
May Nick Rest In Peace, he was my eye doctor for many years, and we use to kid each other about his quarter back years in UFA , and my old almamater Proctor. He was a gentleman and a great conversationalist, loved his wine and knowledge of Italy, going g to miss u Doc.

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**Nick Parrotta, Naples Florida** - May 14, 2025 at 11:16 AM

RD

“ Nick, you and Marilyn are together, God grant you peace, the good Lord never made two finer people. I'm remembering how good a friend each of you two were to me and my family. We were friends for some time but the very 1st time I saw you was playing for UFA when we were young. My honor is we became friends and I have fond memories. Nick, you were a special man, friend and physician. I'm going to miss you both very much. I could say so much more about you and Marilyn but I know all those that knew you knew you two were “ Gold “ Nick thank you for always making me feel more like a brother than just a friend. St. Michael Archangel bring you straight to heaven and to your wife. You' 2 are in my heart always.  
Con affetto Sempre  
Roc and Susie

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**Rocco DiPierro** - May 13, 2025 at 04:26 PM

SM

“ Dr Capuana was my doctor for years. I have ridden horses for decades and each year I looked forward to my annual eye exam and fun conversations about his interesting riding escapades. He was always so kind and caring and will certainly be missed.  
Sue Mazur

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**Sue Mazur** - May 13, 2025 at 04:21 PM

LA

“ We couldn't begin to relay all the wonderful memories shared with Nick and Marilyn. Our epic Canoe Island years, the grape harvest parties, the New Year Eve celebrations. We cherish all memories and we cherish our friendship along the way. Rest in peace and love our friend. Laureen and Nestor

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**Laureen** - May 13, 2025 at 02:59 PM

RS

“ We had so many great years working together and becoming the closest friends. I always admired you and Marilyn and will forever be grateful for all the wonderful things you did for me. My life is better because of you and I will miss you forever.

*Roxanne Sweet*

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**Roxanne Sweet** - May 13, 2025 at 02:43 PM

SW

“ Nick was a world class physician, lovely person and valued friend. I miss him dearly.

*Steve Williams MD.*

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**Steven Williams** - May 13, 2025 at 02:15 PM

WM

“ my colleague, my friend. loved the grape harvests and enjoying a sip of the fruit of the vine. rest in peace dear friend and love to marylin!

*Tony and Carol*

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**w anthony mandour** - May 13, 2025 at 02:01 PM

RJ

*I played football with Nick at UFA , He was a great player and leader and any success we had was due to his outstanding play. The team looked up to him and he never let us down. Nick was one of the finest men I've ever known and will miss him. Richie Joseph.*

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**Richard Joseph** - May 15, 2025 at 10:55 PM