



Mr. Nicholas J. Yagey, Ret. UPD Executive Deputy Chief

August 12, 1930 - April 13, 2021

WHITESBORO - Mr. Nicholas J. Yagey, Ret. UPD Executive Deputy Chief, age 90, “ended his watch” on Tuesday, April 13, 2021 and is now at peace in the presence of God. His passing occurred in the comfort and dignity of his home with his loving family by his side.

Born in Utica on August 12, 1930, Nicholas was the son of the late Nageb “James” and Martha (Abdulia) Yagey. He was a graduate of T.R. Proctor High School/Class of 1948. After graduation, he was drafted into the United States Army as a member of the Military Police, stationed in Europe during the Korean War. Nick returned to serve his community upon completion of his military service and was appointed in 1955 to the Utica Police Department. He was endowed with integrity, leadership, and a forthright personality, attributes that made him a perfect match for the job credentials. His diplomacy and old school work ethic combined with his desire for higher education compelled him to pause to attend and graduate from the Southern Police Institute at Louisville, Kentucky. In 1970 he became Deputy Chief and was always loyal to this appointment. Any investigation under his watch was dealt with diligently. He had the refinement never to disclose any confidential case details, and never play into the media. He tirelessly devoted himself and was highly regarded by the many police agencies and dignitaries of the State of New York for his professionalism. He was consistently noted for being ahead of his time and wanting to know that everyone under his watch was living up to his or her potential. He retired at the age of 70 having earned the title of

Executive Deputy Chief. His mind never stopped thinking like a police professional. He had many good partners and members of the force that he appreciated, and in more recent years he held Frank Noti as a confidant and he trusted him implicitly. For many years, inclusive of this current time, he was the President of the Police Benevolent Association and up to 5 weeks ago he effortlessly attended his last meeting with great confidence. He forever had the members' rights and interest at heart. Although 90 years of life was awarded to Nick, one of his greatest honors was to have served the City of Utica and his fellow officers.

On April 21, 1956, he was wed to the former Donna Marie Frank. Their life together was meant to be. From the day they met to the day of his passing he loved and respected her and their nearly 66 year marriage.

As a father, he instilled in his sons and grandchildren a solid work ethic, the virtue and valor of honesty, and the imperative to be in compliance with the law. He held his children to high standards and asked his sons to understand the meaning and wisdom of his advice. He taught his sons to be good men; respect was paramount for Nick, and although he had a stern demeanor, his wisdom and education continued into their adult years. He was a Papa and Giddo, and he never stopped teaching the generations of little ones about life. His hobby was working to win over this generation, and he was never happier than when he traveled to visit them and interact with them. Holidays and traditions were truly important and prevalent in his daily life, and his 80th Birthday party was so memorable! During his later retirement years he had a lap dog named "Tyler" who turned out to be his best friend. When Tyler passed away it was emotional because they were companions and Tyler followed Nick everywhere. Nick did everything for the wellbeing of his 'best friend'.

Nick was a member of the American Legion Post 1376 where he shared many luncheon gatherings and the camaraderie of friends. For Nicholas, Sunday in St. Louis Gonzaga Church was sacred and a sense of spirituality for religious Holy Days was in his heart. So often, he would light a candle for the intentions

of others. Although a committed professional, family was first and he managed to oversee the well-being of his wife and three boys with great pride and was truly a defender and warrior of what was most important to him. Nicholas is survived by his devoted wife and matriarch, Donna; his sons who adored their dad, and their wives, Stephen M. and Rhonda Yagey, David N. and Mary Yagey, and Michael J. and Sharon Yagey; his grandchildren, Matt and Caitlin Yagey, Scott and Kaitlyn Yagey; Justin Yagey, Elizabeth Yagey and fiancé George McCracken; Joey Yagey; and the memory of his grandson Anusha Chintin-Yagey who preceded him in 2013; great-grandchildren, Luca; Harper, Nolan; and the anticipation of his fourth great-grandchild; and his loving brother, Nassar Joseph Yagey and his late wife Jane Yagey. He also leaves many nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, cousins; sister-in-law, Barbara Frank with whom he shared a great closeness and her late husband Richard Frank; and many friends throughout his life, with special mention of the wonderful working and personal relationship he held with his friend, Frank Noti. He was predeceased by his father-in-law and mother-in-law, George and Theresa (DiPiazza) Frank.

The family wishes to thank the staff of the Utica Rehabilitation Center for their loving in-home care, especially the Administrator, Tracy Margott who is extended family, along with her staff who enabled Nicholas to get home to his family to end his journey; and the personnel of Hospice & Palliative Care who were so attentive to his personal needs and guidance. They had good works and intentions in their hearts.

The family will honor and commemorate Nick's life at a private time. Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend Nicholas' funeral service which will commence on Saturday afternoon, April 24, 2021 at 1:30 at St. Louis Gonzaga Church, 520 Rutger Street in Utica, where the Divine Liturgy of the Faithful Departed will be celebrated by Fr. Boutros El Hachem with Military Honors conferred by the United States Army and Police Presence. Social distancing, registration for contact tracing, and a mask covering your nose and

mouth will be required. In lieu of flowers, please consider memorial donations in Nick's memory to Hospice & Palliative Care, Inc. online at <https://hospicecareinc.org/donate-online/>. Envelopes will be available at the service. Interment will take place in Calvary Cemetery at the convenience of the family.

During this time of social distancing that we are all experiencing, please take a moment to connect with Nick's family through the "Memories" section of his obituary. Our prayers go out to all as a sign of our continued support.

Cemetery Details

Calvary Cemetery at the convenience of the family

2407 Oneida Street
Utica, NY

Previous Events

Funeral Service

APR 24. 1:30 PM (ET)

St. Louis Gonzaga Church
520 Rutger Street
Utica, NY 13501
(315) 732-6019

Tribute Wall

MB

“ I didn't know Mr. Yagey in depth but he was one of my FAVORITE customers at Parkway Drugs. He always had a smile on his face and his calm yet charming demeanor was so lovely. My coworkers and I always said how cute he was and how easy he made our jobs. I'll miss him. Rest In Peace Mr. Yagey.



Miranda Bell - April 22, 2021 at 07:02 PM

JS

“ I was one of the few women assistant district attorneys who worked with the Chief. He was always so supportive, kind and gentlemanly toward me. He make my job so much easier, and I am very grateful to have known him. Sincere condolences to his family, Joan Teuchert Shkane

Joan Elizabeth Shkane - April 22, 2021 at 02:01 PM

MP

“ Dear Family of Retired Executive Deputy Chief Nicholas J. Yagey, I would like to extend my deepest condolences on behalf of the City of Utica, staff and residents. Executive Deputy Chief Yagey, was a respected and trusted public servant of our city and he will be sadly missed by all of us who had the distinct honor to know and work with him.

He set the standard for the UPD. His many years of solid dedication to service and his devotion to ethics and integrity made him a leader unlike any other. He was a fair and assiduous authority; a man who was respected by colleagues and associates, alike.

*Mayor Robert M. Palmieri
City of Utica*

Mayor Robert M. Palmieri - April 22, 2021 at 10:03 AM

NM

“ I REMMBER NICK ..HE WAS A GREAT COP FAIR TO EVERY ONE HE WILL BE MISSED BY MANY MY PRAYERS ARE WITH U

NICK MONTANO PALM HARBOR FLORIDA RET UPD,

NICK MONTANO - April 21, 2021 at 10:28 AM

JJ

“ God bless a good public servant and man of integrity. We will pray for UPD Chief and his family,

Janice and Samuel L. Russo, Jr. (Utica NY)



Janice and Samuel L. Russo Jr. - April 20, 2021 at 08:13 PM

UU

“ *Utica Police Federal Credit Union purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Mr. Nicholas J. Yagey, Ret. UPD Executive Deputy Chief.*



Utica Police Federal Credit Union - April 19, 2021 at 10:32 AM

BD

“ *I worked for Deputy Chief Yagey for several years. He was very supportive and proud of the personnel who worked for him. A true professional. He will be greatly missed. Rest in peace boss.*

Bob DiPerna-Utica PD Retired.

Bob DiPerna - April 17, 2021 at 07:08 PM

PS

“ *Rest in Peace Chief. You were always good to our unit.*

Paul Stern Ret.Inv. S.I.U. - April 17, 2021 at 02:52 PM

JL

“ *Thank you for your service and May you RIP.*



Josette Lucenti - April 16, 2021 at 02:04 PM

JN

“ Donna and family, I am sorry for your loss. I have many great memories growing up with Mike as my friend and you guy always opening your home for us to come over and enjoy our younger years. Nick will be missed.

Joe Noti - April 15, 2021 at 06:00 PM