



Orazio D. Tocci

July 1, 1942 - May 18, 2014

Mr. Orazio D. "Orrie" Tocci, age 71, passed away on Sunday, May 18, 2014 at Mohawk Valley Health Systems at St. Elizabeth Medical Center with his loving and devoted family by his side.

Born in Utica on July 1, 1942, Orazio was the son of the late Joseph M. and Eugenia "Gina" (Pragliola) Tocci. Raised and educated locally, Orrie was a graduate of T.R. Proctor High School/Class of 1960. He began his collegiate studies at Buffalo State University graduating in 1964 with a Bachelor of Arts degree. He pursued his post-graduate work at SUNY New Paltz graduating in 1966 with a Master of Fine Arts degree. On August 22, 1966 in St. Mary's Church in Frankfort he married the former Mary Catherine Kattato with whom he has shared his heart and soul for 47 years; Orrie and Mary were inseparable during their lifelong journey.

Orrie worked as an Art teacher in the Utica City School District for 34 years. His creativity and calm demeanor in the classroom will long be remembered by the legions of students whose lives he enriched during his teaching days. He will never be forgotten.

To all who knew and loved him, Orrie was a patient, talented, trustworthy, gentle, and kind man. A loving patriarch, he was involved in each of his children's and grandchildren's lives even to his last days, from Little League to Boy Scouts. He enjoyed bonfires with his family and friends, and he found tranquility in his Art studio and quiet moments reading. As a practicing artist, Orrie appeared in shows nationwide. His published book featuring his

woodcut prints entitled One Mind's Eye is registered in the Library of Congress. Charitable and civic minded, Orrie served as Chairman of the Board of the Multiple Sclerosis Society for 15 years, receiving the Tiffany Crystal Award on December 18, 1986. The award signifies hope for a bright future and is given in recognition for an exceptional level of leadership over an extensive period of time. A snow skiing enthusiast, Orrie served as a National Ski Patrol member for 25 years, spending most of his time on Shumaker Mountain in Little Falls. He practiced his Catholic faith as a parishioner of the Church of Our Lady of Lourdes.

Orrie is survived by his wife, Mary Catherine; his daughters and son-in-law, Bianca Tocci, Adria and William Bukovsky, and Stephanie Tocci and her dear friend, Mario Bevivino, all of Utica; his son and daughter-in-law, Joseph and Gledis Tocci of Saratoga; his grandchildren, Alexa Bukovsky, Maxwell Bukovsky, Logan Tocci, Gianna Tocci, and Elirian Tocci; and his sister, Concetta "Connie" Despina of Utica. His extended family includes his many nieces, nephews, with special mention of his nephew Fran Kattato, great-nieces, great-nephews, cousins, in-laws Virginia Kattato, and Mary Kattato, both of Frankfort, and Charlotte Tocci of FL; and his oldest and dearest friends, Louis Pardi, Dr. John DeTraglia, Dick Garofalo, Anthony Funicello, Michael Caleo, Vincent Sbarra, and also Jerry Vaccarella, Jeremy Ukena, and many friends and colleagues too numerous to mention. He was predeceased by his brother, Frank J. Tocci, in August of 2001.

The family sends God's blessing to Dr. John DeTraglia for his consummate friendship and being by Orrie's side every mile of his journey.

The family will honor and commemorate Orrie's life in a private gathering. Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend Orrie's funeral service and Celebration of Life which will commence on Wednesday morning at 10:30 at the Church of Our Lady of Lourdes where his Mass of Christian Burial will be offered by Rev. Joseph Salerno. The family will receive visitors at the conclusion of Mass. Those wishing to express an act of kindness in lieu of flowers may consider a donation to the Lymphoma Research Foundation, the

St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, or the Stevens-Swan Humane Society; envelopes will be available at the service. Entombment will take place in Christ Our Savior Mausoleum in Calvary Cemetery.

Arrangements have been entrusted to the Eannace Funeral Home, Inc., 932 South St., corner of Hammond Ave.

"You were the dearest, kindest husband, father, and Poppi.

We love you and we will miss you. Rest in Peace."

Cemetery Details

Christ Our Savior Mausoleum at Calvary Cemetery

2407 Oneida Street
Utica, NY 13501
(315) 735-2727

Tribute Wall

DS

“ Connie,

I am sorry to learn of your bother's passing. It has been many years since our childhood days, but I think of you often and you and your family are in my thoughts and prayers at this time. God Bless You and your Family,

Dan Salsbury

Daniel salsbury - May 28, 2014 at 09:15 AM

KF

“ Very sorry for your loss Steph, Joe & family. May he rest in peace. God bless.

Kimberly Furgol & Family

Kimberly Furgol - May 22, 2014 at 02:07 PM

SG

“ Mary & Family,

Deepest sympathy and fond memories of my fellow NSP ski patrolman, Orrie Tozzie ! I He "picked up the torch" for his good friend, Dan Clarke and co-ordinated our three Boilermaker First Aid locations for over 13 years for the combined McCauley Mtn, Shoemaker & Val Bialas Ski Patrols. RIP Steve Graham

steve graham - May 21, 2014 at 10:06 PM

JC

“ Since we were little kids walking to Albany St school together, neighbors on Jefferson Ave, then graduating Proctor, Orrie shared many cherished memories. Always the most gentlest kindest soul. The dearest friend. I am sad today. many thoughts and sympathy to his family. Judi Capparelli

judi capparelli - May 20, 2014 at 01:09 PM

AA

“ I remember Orrie, not only as my classmate for 12 years. Or my neighbor a few doors away on Albany and Jefferson, but as one of the kindest souls I've ever known. My condolences to his lived ones. And RIP, old friend !

Ann Mancuso Ayers - May 20, 2014 at 10:05 AM

DL

“ David (Lee) Lia lit a candle in memory of Orazio D. Tocci



David (Lee) Lia - May 20, 2014 at 10:05 AM

DG

“ Our sincere sympathy to an amazing family. We will miss Orrie very much. As our favorite neighbors, Mary and Orrie helped guide us as new parents when we lived next to them. We watched them celebrate their family and stand by the side of each other when needed. They also were great role models for us as a couple. The love that Mary and Orrie have for each other was strong and the respect was great. We learned valuable life lessons from them. They took us in their circle and loved us as we loved them. We always admired Orrie's calmness and kindness. You were an angel on earth and now you can be an angel above. We love you.

Dawn and Anthony Gentile and family

Dawn Gentile - May 20, 2014 at 09:16 AM

MD

“ To the Orrie family you are in our thoughts and prayers.

Orrie. you will be missed at our class reunions but never forgotten.

Rest in peace.

Marilyn and Fred Demma

Marilyn Demma - May 20, 2014 at 09:11 AM

AF

“ 3 files added to the album *New Album Name*



Al Funicello - May 20, 2014 at 08:27 AM

JM

“ *Connie and family,*

Sorry for your loss.

Joanne McNaney



Joanne McNaney - May 19, 2014 at 07:28 PM