



## Mr. Pasquale J. "Pat" Santacroce

December 30, 1928 - February 24, 2020

UTICA - Mr. Pasquale J. "Pat" Santacroce, age 91, passed away from injuries sustained in a previous fall. His passing occurred on Monday, February 24, 2020 at the Abraham House with his loving family by his side.

Born in Schenectady on December 30, 1928, Pasquale was the son of the late Joseph and Lucy (Della Rocco) Santacroce. He was a graduate of Utica College of Syracuse University and attended the College of St. Rose. He was married to "his angel" the former Alberta Paliotta (daughter of Albert and Mary Pastorella Paliotta) for 67 years.

Pat was known as "the happiest man in the world" and "Mr. Music Man". He was the vocalist at the former Trinkaus Manor for 26 years and a noted musician who performed throughout the state in nightclubs and bands. He was announcer and vocalist for La Banda Rosso (Red Band) and a member of the St. Anthony Parish and Our Lady of Lourdes Church choirs. In the year 2000, Pat and his fellow musicians were invited to entertain throughout Taiwan in celebrating their "Festival of Lights". At one time he held the position of President of the Knights of St. John, Master of the Carducci Lodge of Free Masons, member of Oriental-Faxton #224 Free & Accepted Masons, Orator and member of the Board of Sons of Italy/Italian Heritage Club of Mohawk Valley, Director of Il Coro Italiano, and Yesterday's Senior Ensemble. For over twenty years he was a Docent at MWPAI.

On July 7, 2012, Pat and Alberta were honored with the Bridge Building Race Relations Celebration Award for outstanding contributions in promoting

positive change in our community. He was recognized by an Act of Congress for his service with the USO during World War II. Pat's professional achievements were his Musical métier, as well as his teaching career in the Utica City School District where he provided decades of individualized instruction to students with behavioral or educational challenges. He built an amazing rapport with his pupils, and he earned their respect. But above all else, Pat was a loving patriarch; his deepest devotion was for his family and his greatest grace was a lifetime of Sundays and holidays they spent together. Pat leaves his wife, Alberta; his sons, Louis Albert (Jessica Szabo), Albert Patrick (Mary, who was like a daughter), and the memory of Pat Marion who was killed at age 14 by a careless young driver; grandson, Jack Albert Santacroce who was the "apple of his eye"; granddaughter, Danielle Nelson and her daughter Gemma Guyot-Bender; his brother and sister-in-law, Joseph and Lois Santacroce; and nephews, Joseph Jr., and Ricky Santacroce. He was preceded by his sister, Mary Rourke.

The family wishes to thank the physicians and nurses of the MVHS @ Faxton-St. Luke's ICU, PCU and Special Care Departments. Gratitude is also extended to the staff and volunteers of the Abraham House for making Pasquale's last days most comfortable.

The family honored Pat's life at a private time. Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend Pasquale's funeral service and Celebration of Life which will commence on Saturday, March 7, 2020 at 1:00 at the Church of Our Lady of Lourdes where his Memorial Mass of Christian Burial will be offered. The family will receive visitors at the conclusion of the service. Expressions of sympathy in the form of donations may be directed to the Abraham House in Pat's memory online at <https://www.theabrahamhouse.org/donate>; envelopes will also be available at the service. Inurnment will take place in Calvary Cemetery at the convenience of the family.

# Tribute Wall

CD

“ *Dear Alberta and Family,*

*So sorry for your loss. Pat was a real gentleman, so kind and loving. He always had a smile on his face. I always enjoyed seeing and talking to him. May God give you comfort and strength knowing that he is in heaven. May he live in our hearts always.*

*Cheryl and Dick Dowe*

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**Cheryl Dowe** - March 17, 2020 at 04:16 PM

LS

“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



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**lynda m schmelcher** - March 07, 2020 at 10:41 PM

LS

“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



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**lynda m schmelcher** - March 07, 2020 at 09:40 PM

LS

“ Yesterdays Senior Ensemble have memories of Pasquale his wife Alberta great people excellent singers announcer he will be miss never forgetting angel miss you pops



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**lynda m schmelcher** - March 07, 2020 at 09:05 PM

SC

“ Pat's classroom was across the hall from the Principal's office and I saw Pat often during the day. He lit up the room with that smile. He was the right teacher for his class. They loved him. Rest in peace Pat.

*Sandra Cotrupe*

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**Sandra Cotrupe** - March 07, 2020 at 08:18 AM

AM

“ My memories of Mr. Santacroce are some of my best memories from Conkling Elementary School. In 8th grade I was awarded the Pat M Santacroce Memorial Award, and to this day I will never forget his kind words to me at the presentation. It is still, 40 years later. one of the best achievements for me, that I still speak of. He was an amazing human, man, mentor and friend. I feel so saddened to hear of his passing. May he sing with the angels. Sending much love and prayers to his family.

*Ann Marie*

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**Ann Marie** - March 06, 2020 at 06:28 AM

DW

“ Sending sympathy to the family I was one of the kids who needed more attention I thank god for mr. and mrs. Santacroce, mrs. Scalzo and coriale. I appreciate them for loving this troubled child you guys turned me around.

RIP💕

Dolores Workman



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**Dolores Workman** - March 05, 2020 at 08:38 PM

MA

“ A talented, inspirational husband, father, teacher and musician. Both Pat and Alberta made a great duo. Lots of memories for all who knew him. Prayers and good thoughts to the Santacroce family.  
Ron and Martha Mancuso

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**Mancuso** - March 05, 2020 at 07:58 AM

PG

“ A Perfect Gentleman Always Smiling Loved by many never forgotten Rest in Peace Your Family was blessed to have you in their lives Patti Zammiello Gigliotti

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**Patti Zammiello Gigliotti** - March 03, 2020 at 11:37 PM

JS

“ From the first moment Lou introduced me to his parents, both Alberta and Pat accepted me into the Santacroce family. While I am close to my parents, my extended family has little to do with me, so I almost never got to enjoy family gathering for holidays and other special occasions until I became part of the Santacroce family. Over the past two and a half years, Pat never missed an opportunity to make sure I got it that I was part of his family, and that he was happy to have me there with them.

*I will forever cherish the memories of my first special occasions with extended family, which always included stories about music, and about teaching...along with some advice from an experienced teacher to one who has only taught for a few years.*

*Pat told me that whenever a student refused to take guidance or do their work, just remind them that they will be better off with me than they would without me. I know he is watching over us from Heaven now, and smiling every time that reminder persuades a student he never even met to keep going with their school work.*

*Love Always,*

*Jess Szabo (Lou's fiancée)*

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**Jess Szabo** - March 02, 2020 at 05:04 PM

CD

“ Cathy Duffy lit a candle in memory of Mr. Pasquale J. "Pat" Santacroce



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**Cathy Duffy** - March 01, 2020 at 07:44 AM

LK

“ Rest In Paradise Pat Gone But Never Forgotten



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**Lisa klein** - March 01, 2020 at 07:21 AM

AL

“ Love you forever and ever. -- Birdie!!

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**Alberta** - February 29, 2020 at 08:29 PM

MR

“ Pat was true gentleman and perfect role model who shared his talents and brought joy to others. Monk Rowe

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**Monk Rowe** - February 29, 2020 at 08:21 AM

JL

“ He touched so many lives through the years and was one of the sweetest people I've ever known. He was my teacher in grade school and was devoted to all his students. As I've grown I've never forgotten him and his wonderful smile. He will truly be missed by everyone that was blessed to have known him. May he RIP with the angels and be reunited with his loved ones. God Bless him for all the lives he's touched ❤️🙏🙏🙏. Love Josette Valenti



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**Josette Lucenti** - February 28, 2020 at 06:47 PM

CP

“ Alberta and sons, Ray and I are so very sorry for your loss. Pat was a wonderful, always happy to see you loving man. May he rest in peace. Our prayers are with you all. Love Ray and Grace Durso

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**Cissy pastorella** - February 28, 2020 at 12:37 PM

RP

“ Alberta and family,

*I'm sorry for your loss. I will remember Pat as a kind and gentle man that always had a smile on his face. He was grateful for all of his blessings especially his wife and family. May your memories give you peace and comfort during this difficult time.*

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**Rosemarie Pastorella** - February 28, 2020 at 12:08 PM

MP

“ Hi Mrs Santacroce, Louis, Albert and Pat's memory.

*I'm so sorry to hear Mr. S passed. He lived a vibrant life and always had time, joy and kind words with me.*

*When I was telling Chip (my significant other) about him, I told him all the sweet things. But I'm not sure if you knew that he introduced me to Shakespeare when I was 10. He gave me books and records. The one I remember most was a Mid-Summer's Night Dream. He touched many lives with what we're simple acts to him but big to the people who received them. Sending all our love, Maryanne Panaro, Chip and son Patrick*

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**Maryanne Panaro** - February 28, 2020 at 08:16 AM

GS

“ One of the most Amazing Teachers, caring man who has touched my life in so many ways Was My Teacher @ Conkling School and than a Friend . What a loss for those He has touch in His journey here. The Lord has gain a Soldier, Friend and a Great Man . My prayers to the Family .

Gail Felitto Scarafile - February 28, 2020 at 07:14 AM

LS

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



lynda m schmelcher - February 27, 2020 at 10:32 PM

LS

*Pasquale me his wife Alberta great memory*

lynda m schmelcher - February 27, 2020 at 10:33 PM

MH

*Dear Alberta and Family, we are so sorry to hear of the loss of Pat. Sending prayers and sympathy, God bless, Mary and Wayne Hosey*

Mary Hosey - February 28, 2020 at 10:03 PM

JD

“ A true gentleman and a wonderful neighbor. I will miss our wonderful conversations and his beautiful smile! My deepest condolences to Alberta and family.

Jim Delitto - February 27, 2020 at 10:16 PM

LS

*“ I have memories him his wife in yesterdays senior band great guy cant believe he is gone he and his wife call me angel you will be miss never forgetting until we meet again gonna miss him a lot gonna miss hearing him call me angel*



lynda m schmelcher - February 27, 2020 at 09:51 PM

BA

*“ Pat sang at my wedding almost 50 years ago. He would not take the \$50 I gave him in gratitude for singing so beautifully, he told us keep this for your honeymoon I never forgot this. Such a wonderful person he will be greatly missed. Alberta and Fsmily I am so sorry for your loss.*

Beatrice Allison - February 27, 2020 at 08:15 PM

GD

*Rememb*

gail demma(summa) - February 27, 2020 at 10:41 PM

GD

*My condolences on your loss. Many fond memories of him singing at Louie's birthday parties and singing at Trinkus Manor.*

gail demma(summa) - February 27, 2020 at 10:43 PM

GP

*Growing up in the Old Neighborhood were many great, pleasant, kind, generous, caring, giving, loving folks. Mr. Santacroce is one such person along with wonderful wife Alberta, his family, and Alberta's parents. Always flashing his characteristic smile, Mr. Santacroce could be seen singing while walking with Alberta! Ever ready to say kind words. And, of course, his wisdom shone through as well. Some of my life's lessons originate from being in the presence of Mr. Santacroce.*

*Blessings to the Family Santacroce.*

*Peace,  
Girard A. Plante*

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**Girard A. Plante** - February 28, 2020 at 09:23 AM

KM

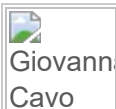
*Dear Alberta and family - I was so very sorry to hear of Pat's passing. He was such a sweet, kind soul and I never failed to walk away with a smile on my face whenever I saw him. I have no doubt that he is gracing heaven with his beautiful spirit and amazing singing voice. He will be missed. Thinking of you and sending you love and peace at this difficult time.*

*Love,*

*Kelly McCarthy*

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**Kelly McCarthy** - February 28, 2020 at 09:26 PM

 Giovanna Cavo

*Dear Alberta and family,  
I am away and found out tonite that Pat had passed away. My heart just sank. I am thinking of all of you and sending my love, hugs and prayers. What a kind, loving and gentleman. May the love and support of family and friends carry you through this difficult time.*

*Love  
Joann Cavo Campbell*

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**Giovanna Cavo** - March 03, 2020 at 09:52 PM

CF

*Alberta and family,  
Pat was such a kind and loving, caring gentleman. I have so many happy memories of him at Seymour school where my mom, Carmella Fanelli was secretary. Mom thought the world of Pat. We were so honored when Pat sang at Mom and Dad's 50th wedding anniversary and again paying his final respect singing at my Dad's funeral..  
He made so many so happy and was truly a gift from God.  
One of my fondest memories of Pat was the way he would at lunch always eat his dessert first!  
God bless you.  
May many happy memories of time spent together carry you through this difficult time.  
Carlo Fanelli*

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**Carlo Fanelli** - March 04, 2020 at 06:26 AM

SD

*To the entire Santacroce family, my deepest condolences. I remember pat as being a true gentleman in every sense of the word, and also his singing talent was unmistakable, especially the Italian songs, as well as the standards by Sinatra, Bennett, and all of the Italian crooners that shaped the music era. He was a man that I had the pleasure of sharing many stages with, and always had a comradarie between us. Hearing him, I learned a lot about stage presence, and identification with your audience, and he always took the time to talk with the audience, and bring them into his songs, a trait I carried on with in my musical performances. Not only did he play at Trinkaus, but there many, many venues that he performed at, along with other talented musicians. So many of our local legends are gone now, but their names will always come up in conversations, so they will never be forgotten. Thanks for the memories, and the great music, you enjoyed, for so many years.  
Sonny Dee*

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**sonny dee** - March 04, 2020 at 09:54 AM

DJ

*people talk about a Utica icon Pat is right up there be it at sons of Italy dinner dances or Utica 229 dinner dances it was very rare Pat and Alberta was not there and he always got up to sing Sonny Farrar and that was always the special time of the night.*

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**david julian** - March 08, 2020 at 11:05 PM