



Philip R. Castronovo

December 8, 1941 - October 15, 2011

Mr. Philip R. Castronovo, age 69, of Utica, passed away unexpectedly on Saturday, October 15, 2011 at the Masonic Care Community of NY.

Born in Bagheria, Province of Palermo, Sicily on December 8, 1941, Philip was the son of the late Anthony and Dorotea (Scaglione) Castronovo. In 1950, along with his family, he came to the U.S. where he was raised and educated. Phil proudly served stateside in the U.S. Army.

Gifted with a natural talent, he rapidly rose to success and fame as a funny car driver. He was an NHRA car racer on the national circuit where he was sponsored by the family concern Custom Body – Utica Flash, as well as other national sponsors. A 1971 World Champion, he was inducted into the National Racers Hall of Fame. He shared in this career endeavor until 1973. Phil was also an extremely talented cook – a gift he inherited from his father. He owned and operated Novo's Pizzeria where he was known as "second to none" for his pizza and chicken wings, which he introduced to the Utica area. Phil was an extremely devoted family man and was always attentive to the important moments in the lives of his nieces and nephews and when he became a father himself he became a selfless man. This was a phase of his life Phil was most proud of.

Philip is survived by his daughter, Tiffany Lynn Castronovo-Falta of FL; his sons, Ryan Anthony Castronovo of Las Vegas, NV; and Philip R. Jr. & Courtney Castronovo of Verona; his step-son, David Abounader of Las Vegas, NV; grandchildren, Juliana, Alyssa and Camilla; Philip R. II and Nicolina. He

was preceded in death by his grandson, Kenny. Also left to mourn his passing are his brothers and sisters-in-law, Fred J. & Jeanne Castronovo of New Hartford, Victor and Vicki Castronovo of Utica, and Connie A. Castronovo of Marcy. His brother, John Castronovo, passed away on July 7th of this year. Philip is survived by many nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, cousins and a large circle of wonderful friends. He was predeceased by his beloved niece, Dana Lynn Castronovo.

Philip's family would like to extend a special thank you to the entire Bronx Household of the Masonic Care Community of NY, especially Tejahn and Judee, for their special patience and love for him. Gratitude is also extended to Father Anthony LaFache and Msgr. Francis J. Willenburg for their prayers and spiritual support.

The family will honor and celebrate Philip's life in a private gathering. Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend his funeral service and Celebration of Life which will commence on Tuesday afternoon at 3:00 at St. Anthony & St. Agnes Church where his Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated with Military Honors. The family will receive visitors at the conclusion of the mass. Interment will take place in Calvary Cemetery at the convenience of the family.

Cemetery Details

Calvary Cemetery

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

Tribute Wall



“ *Eannace Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Philip R. Castronovo*



Eannace Funeral Home, Inc. - October 15, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *Jeanette Commisso sent a virtual gift in memory of Philip R. Castronovo*



Jeanette Commisso - October 20, 2011 at 06:46 AM

BP

“ *To Fred, Jeanne and the entire Castronovo family...our heartfelt sympathy to you during this difficult time...you are in our thoughts...*

Mike and Barb Pellegrino

Barb Pellegrino - October 19, 2011 at 06:59 PM

MG

“ To Tiffany, Ryan, Phillip & Courtney....So many fond memories of Phil...from the early racing days, to his fabulous "wings", to sitting and talking about you guys when you were younger, and even Tiffany when she was a student of mine!!

Our deepest sympathies and wishes go out to you at this time!

One of my last visits to Utica...I saw and spoke with Dad. He was smiling and laughing and we shared a nice friendship for many years.

God speed on his journey!

*Michael and Donna Gurdo
Charlotte, NC*

Michael Gurdo - October 19, 2011 at 06:52 AM

CC

“ To Fred & Jeanne and all of the Castronovo family I wish to extend my deepest sympathy on Phil's passing. I have fond memories of watching him race at Utica/Rome and later in life eating his wonderful food. RIP Philly, you will be missed.

*Chuck Cragolin
Sauquoit NY*

Chuck Cragolin - October 18, 2011 at 09:14 PM

SC

“ I just found out about Phil, Fred and Vic and the whole family. I am very sorry. I spent a lot of time with Phil and always enjoyed his company. From racing days, playing cards and going to Florida.

Take Care and my thoughts are with you. Also just found out about Johnny also.

Your Freinds

Sal & Gayle Coriale
Woodlands, Texas

Sal Coriale - October 18, 2011 at 08:28 PM

DM

“ Don Marino lit a candle in memory of Philip R. Castronovo



Don Marino - October 18, 2011 at 01:59 PM

KB

“ Ken Bugaj lit a candle in memory of Philip R. Castronovo



Ken Bugaj - October 18, 2011 at 12:00 PM

KB

*To Fred, Jeanne, Vic and Family,
Our deepest sympathy to you all.
God Bless, Rest in Peace my friend !
Ken Bugaj & Family*

Ken Bugaj - October 18, 2011 at 12:05 PM

PB

“ *To Fred, Jeanne, Vic, Vicky and all of the family,
Our deepest sympathy. May your memories bring you comfort.
Love, Pattie and Lou Barnaba
Myrtle Beach, South Carolina*

Pattie Barnaba - October 18, 2011 at 11:28 AM

J.

“ *To Fred, Jean, Vic and all of the Family! My
prayers are with you all at this time of loss.
Phil will certainly live on forever in your
memories. May God bless you in your time of
loss of such a great guy!!
J.C. Pantola*



J.C.Pantola - October 18, 2011 at 11:11 AM

PM

“ *Paul Mangano lit a candle in memory of Philip
R. Castronovo*



Paul Mangano - October 18, 2011 at 10:48 AM

JH

“ Freddie, Vic and family.. I have many fond memories of days at the garage, and nights at CP with Phil and the guys. Rest in peace my friend.

*Jimmy Horgan
Daytona Beach, Florida*

Jimmy Horgan - October 18, 2011 at 09:37 AM



“ I wish I could rewind my life back to the last time I saw you. Just one more hug and one more chance to tell you how much I love you. I miss you Dad.



Tiffany Falta - October 18, 2011 at 09:05 AM

DS

“ Deanna Santino lit a candle in memory of Philip R. Castronovo



Deanna Santino - October 18, 2011 at 06:12 AM

PS

“ To Fred, Jeanne. Victor, Vicky, and family;
Our deepest sympathy to your family.
Carol and Philip Scampone

Philip Scampone - October 18, 2011 at 04:38 AM

MA

“ Dear Fred and Jeannie, my deepest sympathy for the loss of your brother Phil. May he rest in peace and may the memories you have of him bring you comfort in the days and months ahead.

With love and prayers,
Mary Guzzardo Annese
Plantation, Florida

Mary Guzzardo Annese - October 17, 2011 at 08:18 PM

RP

“ Phil and Fred turned me on to Drag racing when I was a little kid, Phil also had the best darn pizza and wings ever growing up in East Utica. Sad day it is now that Phil passed, To the Castronovo family i'm truely sorry for your loss!

Rest in peace Phil!

Ralph Pastorelli - October 17, 2011 at 11:58 AM

AM

“ We wish to send our condolences to the entire family for the loss of John and Philip. May they rest in peace. Amen

Anthony & Loretta Moccaldi

Anthony & Loretta Moccaldi - October 17, 2011 at 09:06 AM

FM

“ My sympathies to the entire family. I have wonderful memories eating pizza and wings at Novos on Bleecker Street with my buddies in East Utica. Those summer nights of the early 80's were great. Mr. Castronovo was always good to us and a very nice man. God Bless.

Frank Martello
DeBary, Florida

Frank D. Martello - October 17, 2011 at 07:14 AM

CK

“ Fred and Victor, I am so sorry to hear of the loss of Philly, I will always cherish our lunch last week and the many memories we shared at that time. RIP my friend. Chuck Klein

Chuck Klein - October 17, 2011 at 06:55 AM

DG

“ We are so sorry for the loss of such a wonderful person...Phil was a part of Bleecker St. from his racing of the funny car, to Novas Pizza...to his little grocery store on Bleecker and Milgate....We always had many laughs with Phil....We saw him recently at Masonic and had a very nice mini reunion....He will be sadly missed....Our condolences to his family....RIP Phil....Denise & Jim Giruzzi



Denise Giruzzi - October 16, 2011 at 08:33 PM

AN

“ Tiffany I am sorry to hear about your father. I remember how proud he was the day you were born. Your dad had a great personality and was very talented in his OWN right. My prayers are with you and your family. With my heartfelt sympathy.

Love you always,
Uncle Anthony & Aunt Sarah

anthony& sarah noti - October 16, 2011 at 07:27 PM

AC

“ I send my condolences to my daughter, grandchildren and her brothers upon the death of their Father. May you rest in peach Phil. God be with you

Angela

Angela Castronovo - October 16, 2011 at 04:11 PM



KR

Thoughts and prayers to Phil's family and friends. Growing up, I can remember him being such a big part of the community. My brother learned how to make pizza and wings along side him. He was such a kind and generous person. RIP Phil.

Karen Rosato - October 19, 2011 at 03:45 PM