



Mr. Raffaele "Ralph" Ventura

March 22, 1940 - February 10, 2021

UTICA - Mr. Raffaele "Ralph" Ventura went home to heaven with the love and support of his family on Wednesday, February 10, 2021.

He was born on March 22, 1940 in the town of Andali, province of Catanzaro, Calabria, the son of the late Luigi and Esther Giocondina (Grande) Ventura. At the age of 14, along with his mother, and brother Nise, they immigrated to the United States and were soon followed by his family and reunited with them. At one time he was married to the former Johanne Carvelli and to that union came the blessing of their only daughter who was their everything. Marina was his side kick and greatest joy in life, and he was so protective of her. She learned life lessons and she knew by watching her father's actions and expressions, how much he loved her. He was her mentor, her hero, and his greatest gift was being her dad.

As a young man, Ralph worked hard to showcase his talent as a carpenter and earned the good intentions for being an entrepreneur, establishing the Ventura Building Contractors, with many major projects known not only to the city of Utica, some throughout NY state, notably the Sts. Cosmas and Damiano Chapel on Kossuth Avenue. Ralph purchased N.D. Peters Concrete Company, one of his hallmark projects. He was inspired to invest his time, talent, and capital into this venture in honor and memory of his father who was a concrete mason. He ran this business along with his daughter, Marina and her family. His brilliance allowed him to make concrete on site when the Enchanted Forest ventured into one of the largest water parks in NY. Ralph

was in control of his own destiny from a young age, and he always aspired to be his own boss, and there was no looking back. A master of many trades, with his knowledge, patience, and precision, Ralph was a gifted master carpenter.

On October 24, 1981 Ralph married the former Bernadette Festine. They fell in love on the first day they met, and they were blessed with 39 years committed to each other. He was a wonderful man and the love of her life. She will miss him, forever.

Ralph was an accomplished drag racer at the Fonda Speedway who competed and succeeded to win several races and even a race against a very prominent driver on the circuit, and also became a co-owner of the Utica-Rome Speedway for a period of time.

Family was foremost, and his daughter was always by his side. His grandchildren adored him because he was an amazing “Poppa”, and there were so many moments in time when he would indoctrinate his talents. He made all the big events in their lives, and his grandkids were loved and attended to. He taught them the values of a good work ethic, love of family, and faith in the Lord. He was a devout Catholic, and a member of St. Anthony & St. Agnes Church. He leaves a legacy of a humble life, hard work and integrity in his career, love of his family, and the embrace and perpetuation of his Italian heritage to the generations that followed. He also imparted bits of wisdom when encountering the ups and downs in life: “It doesn’t get darker than midnight, and the sun will come up again”. God bless. Rest in peace, Raffaele.

Ralph is survived by his wife, Bernadette; his daughter and son-in-law, Marina and Michael Latella; his grandchildren who were his pride and joy and his everything, Michael and Brianna Latella, Gianna and Jimmy Giruzzi, and twins Anthony, and Salvatore Latella; and his great-grandchildren, Audrina, and Mila Giruzzi who were his sunshine. He also leaves his siblings and their spouses, Ercole Ventura and his late wife Patricia Anne (Spatuzzi) Ventura, Tosca and Warren Meola, Romolo Ventura, Carlo Ventura; and the memory of his brother

Dionisio "Nise" Ventura who passed in 2000. He had an affectionate love for all his nieces; nephews, especially P.J. Rabice who he loved as a son; great-nieces, great-nephews, cousins, in-laws, Armond and Natalie Festine and their children; and his friend Tony Testa who looked to Ralph as a second father, and in kind, Ralph reciprocated and loved him like a son. He was predeceased by his mother-in-law, Nanette Festine.

Gratitude is extended to family friend, Tricia Mitchell/Respiratory Therapist who tended to Ralph with kindness and continual support during this difficult time.

Visitation will be held Sunday, February 14, 2021 from 3-5 at the Eannace Funeral Home, Inc., 932 South St., corner of Hammond Ave. Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend Ralph's funeral service and Celebration of Life which will commence on Monday morning, February 15, 2021 at 11:00 at St. Anthony & St. Agnes Church where his Mass of Christian Burial will be offered. Face masks are required and social distancing and contact tracing will be implemented at both locations. Ralph will be laid to rest in Christ Our Savior Mausoleum at 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 Ralph's family through the "Memories" section of his obituary. Our prayers go out to all as a sign of our continued support.

Cemetery Details

Christ Our Savior Mausoleum at Calvary Cemetery

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

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 14. 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
<https://www.eannacefuneralhome.com>

Funeral Service

FEB 15. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Anthony & St. Agnes Church
422 Tilden Ave.
Utica, NY 13501
(315) 732-1177
<https://www.stanthonystagnes.com/>

Tribute Wall

JH

“ *Jeremy Hayes lit a candle in memory of Mr. Raffaele "Ralph" Ventura*



Jeremy Hayes - March 23, 2021 at 09:52 AM

JS

“ *Marina , Mike and families , We are very sorry for your loss . Our deepest condolences
Jerry and Charleen Sangiacomo*

Jerry Sangiacomo - February 24, 2021 at 10:19 PM

AT

“ *I met Ralph in the seventies when I worked with my father in law Frank Dare who was a mason. I don't know how are bond started but it just did. He knew I was a mechanic and asked me to work on Bernadette's red Firebird and then her corvette and so on. We just helped each other. In 1981 I lost my house to the storm gloria. My insurance company said it was a act of god and they did not cover it but Ralph did .My family and I would not have the home we have today if it was not for Ralph .Our bond just became stronger as the years went on, and we became family. One of my most recent memories of Ralph was at my daughters house, when we were losing the concrete. he was on the phone with someone and told them "you listen to me, I'm the Jesus Christ of concrete, we are doing it my way." and it worked. That was Ralph, one of a kind. I loved Ralph like another father and turned to him for guidance and advice. I will deeply miss the time we spent together. Love always
Tony and Judy*

Anthony Testa - February 16, 2021 at 10:38 PM

MG

“ My cugine marina I'm so sorry my love prayer and he's gs sent your way my fav memory playing on the stones in the he yard forever 😊
n my heart love you and my lovely toska prayed as you went by my apt beautiful tribute my heart 💜 s with you all it's Tony and Ros daughter they send their condolences as well

Michelle gentile - February 15, 2021 at 02:26 PM

LF

“ Marina, Mike & Family, I am sorry to hear of your father's passing. You are all in my thoughts and prayers.

Lynette Franco - February 15, 2021 at 12:04 PM

KS

“ Bernadette,
We've been friends since high school and I never remember you being more happy than when you met Ralph and married the love of your life.
He was our go to guy. Like the time we needed to transport an 8 foot Knight in shining armor to Florida. We knew we could count on him to “know a guy”.
You gave him all your love and he treated you like a queen. He was a master in all he did and adored his family. We will all miss him.
Our deepest Sympathy

Ken and Gloria Gorgon Shaw

Ken and Gloria Gorgon Shaw - February 15, 2021 at 09:58 AM

ML

“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



Marina Latella - February 15, 2021 at 07:27 AM

ML

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Marina Latella - February 15, 2021 at 07:20 AM

ML

His greatest accomplishments

Marina Latella - February 15, 2021 at 07:21 AM

PC

“ Dear Bernadette and Ventura family

My deepest sympathy and condolences to all. Ralph was an exceptional and talented man.

I remember when building my home how his professional input was important from the time we put in the footing to the completion of our beautiful fireplace.

I certainly can't forget our time growing up in East Utica on Kossuth Ave and the good times we shared then..boys being boys.

You will be missed

Sincerely Peter Cucci

Peter V Cucci - February 14, 2021 at 08:14 PM

TH

“ Dear Bernadette

Ralph was truly “one of a kind”! He was a friend with a great personality, a work and determination effort above the norm, empathetic to everyone, a great family man who had that “boyish look and smile” Possa Dio benedire Ralph e mantenerlo in pace per sempre! Tom & Joyce In Florida

Tom Hmurcik - February 14, 2021 at 01:24 PM



Bernadette sucks and deserves everything she gets

G - January 22 at 09:30 AM

CV

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



carlo ventura - February 14, 2021 at 12:17 PM

LF

“ Lynette Franco lit a candle in memory of Mr. Raffaele "Ralph" Ventura



Lynette Franco - February 13, 2021 at 06:07 PM

CC

“ *Dear Bernadette, and family,
We were saddened to learn of the passing of our dear former neighbor, and friend, Ralph. We have such fond memories of him, and of the many times we spent together visiting with one another...It certainly was a short distance from Garden Rd to Schoolcraft Rd, and we felt blessed to have you both as neighbors! Bernadette, We are keeping you in our thoughts and prayers during this difficult time. May he find eternal peace 🙏 In God's presence. With deepest sympathy, Claudia Cardillo & Robert Cardillo (he is away, but asked me to convey his condolences)*

Claudia Cardillo - February 13, 2021 at 05:21 PM

DB

“ *Don Broccoli Sorry to hear of the passing of Ralph .May he rest in peace.*

DON Broccoli - February 13, 2021 at 04:33 PM

JG

“ *Tosca, Carlo and family.....
I am so sorry for your loss. I got to know Ralph thru my managing of Steinhorst Square and Brook Apts. He was always my go to person for projects at both properties, always a smile and eager to get the jobs done. Sending love and prayers at this time.*

Jody Guarnieri

Jody Guarnieri - February 13, 2021 at 12:51 PM

CP

“ *Our deepest condolences to Marina,Michael and family. May you find peace at this difficult time* ❤️
George and Cathy Picente

Cathy Picente - February 13, 2021 at 12:36 PM

JG

“ *So many memories... I've known Ralph forever and I will miss him a lot. Racing at Fonda (or on Bleecker Street near Chicago Pneumatic), drinking at Gig's, dances (and fights) at Parkway Gardens, being best man at each other's first weddings... We stayed in touch when I moved away and would pick up where we left off no matter how long between phone calls and visits. He always had my back and I had his. I'll see you on the other side, my friend.*

Joe Gigliotti

Joe Gigliotti - February 13, 2021 at 12:24 PM

PL

“ *A vibrant man, a loving, proud Father, Grandfather, Great Grandfather, Husband , Brother, friend, has been called Home. He will be missed at family parties, with his sense of humor, and impeccable style. Our heart are saddened, by his loss. Thoughts and prayers are with all of you . Love Philly, Doreen and family*

Phil and Doreen Latella - February 13, 2021 at 09:21 AM

ES

“ *Ralph, our paisano from Andali, I will never forget your welcoming smile and laugh whenever I saw you. Out hearts are broken, but you will forever live in the hearts of all who knew you. My heartfelt sympathy to Bernadette and your wonderful family, Finché non ci incontriamo di nuovo,*

Liz Sacco

Elizabeth Sacco - February 13, 2021 at 07:07 AM

ML

“ *Daddy*
My heart is forever broken. The legacy you have left behind speaks volumes. We have no choice but to go on and carry on what you started. Thank you for instilling strength where we thought was none. Teaching us that with hard work, perseverance and humbleness anything can be achieved. I love you.

Marina Latella - February 13, 2021 at 07:07 AM

JD

“ In place of my father Gilbert DeStefano Sr who is no longer with us, I wish to extend my sincere heartfelt prayers and sympathies to Ralph and the entire Ventura family.
My Dad loved Ralph and as a mason himself would only use ND Peters concrete in any of his jobs that he did. Ralph was very good to my father and helped him out many times. Yes he was a business man and needed to profit to keep established but he was also a man who was very considerate of others and I know he generously extended credit to my father during a period when he needed it most.
As a young teenager I always wanted to make the trip to the yard office with my dad whenever he would go see Ralph. I was always fascinated by the plant itself and the big cement trucks. Ralph always had kind words to say to me and was always friendly and considerate of my father. Whenever my dad spoke of him to others he would always speak very highly of him.
I know my father would of been here to pay his respects to such a great man so I will do it for him and myself.
I am very sorry for your loss and I pray for Ralph and all of you.

God bless you,

John DeStefano

John DeStefano - February 13, 2021 at 02:52 AM

SC

“ Very sorry to hear about Ralph’s passing. Knew him from working in the construction business and he was always very nice to me. Sad for your whole family, he was a special person. Prayers for your whole family.

Sal Coriale
Conroe, Texas

Sal Corisle - February 12, 2021 at 11:26 PM

AT

“ *Bernadette & Family, Please accept my sincere sympathy in your loss. I am so saddened by his passing. He was a wonderful man who left this world too soon. Rest In Peace Ralph 🙏🙏🙏🙏*
Antoinette Talerico

Antoinette Talerico - February 12, 2021 at 11:08 PM

JC

“ *My heartfelt sympathy Bernadette, Marina , Mike and children and the entire Ventura family. I was so sad hearing of his passing. He was a great friend and true gentleman respected by all. Please know you're in my thoughts and prayers. God Bless you all.*
Jeanne Castronovo

Jeanne Castronovo - February 12, 2021 at 07:45 PM

JF

“ In the early morning hours on 2/10/21 the local area yet again suffered another loss of a man with many talents in the contractor business, especially working with concrete... He was another hard working individual that grew up around our parents and did not want to slow down, he was always on the go. His solutions to fixing things were always amazing. whether it be a simple carpentry project, or to getting a long sat motorized vehicle running..... Ahhhhhh !! Give it a shot of Smell'in Sauce, she'll fire up he says... Even the way he said some of his sayings & jokes would make you laugh... If he trusted you while spending his winter months in Florida, you better consider yourself a very fortunate person (yes I am a very fortunate to have earned his trust)..... Ralph ! You, Raffaele, Joe Spataro, Phil "Lupie" Latella Sr. and brother Nise can show them in heaven just how concrete is to be worked ...
R.I.P Ralph Ventura 😭😭.... you will never be forgotten 🙏🙏



Joseph M Foley - February 12, 2021 at 06:12 PM

FF

“ Francis & Joseph Foley purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Mr. Raffaele "Ralph" Ventura.



Francis & Joseph Foley - February 12, 2021 at 06:02 PM

MP

“ *Bernadette and Ventura Family,*
Ralph's obituaries said it all, well almost. Knowing Ralph over fifty years, he had a heart of gold. Whenever someone asked him to build or fix anything he did not hesitate to take on the job. He was his own person and did not hesitate to make his opinion known, positive or negative. It was family first and business second. He built our home and gave good advise to our three sons and hired one to help him on his job sites, my son Joe learned a lot from Ralph. As my friend there could be no one closer weather in Utica or Naples where we ate, drank, and fished together with a little tennis and bocce, and of course or annual trippe lunch with Paul and Vinny, and Peroni beer.

I could go on and on but that would be like writing a book, this coronavirus should have never touched Ralph and took his life its just not Right. Rest In Peace my Good Friend, I hear your voice in mind, patience nick, patience.

Mr.Mrs.Nick Parrotta - February 12, 2021 at 03:36 PM

MF

“Memories”

I have great memories of Ralph and Bernadette from years ago when our circle of friends would go out for dinner or just get together for an evening.

There is one conversation we had with him that I remember so well. He was telling us about the Cement Convention they had just return from, (as the previous owner of ND Peters). I asked him what they covered at the convention. He said a lot of things, mostly getting a good grade of cement, which in part has to do with sand composition, machinery etc. Throughout his explanation I remember being surprised of the intricacies in the industry he knew so well and I gained an awareness of concrete. To this day when I see any concrete construction going on, there are times, that conversation comes to mind, thinking:

I hope they know the job as well as Ralph did, as he no doubt was an expert in his field.

“Rest in peace Ralph.”

My family sends our deepest condolences to Bernadette and her family. I know you are blessed with a loving family and I am thankful for that.

Keep in mind that we are here for you if you need anything as I do believe once you get through this difficult time it will somehow make you stronger.

With Love and Prayers always,

Michele Fazio and Family

Michele Fazio - February 12, 2021 at 03:02 PM

PC

“Ralph was a wonderful person who was a joy to be around at coffee mornings, he was a hard working man that has left his talents in the building industry. God Bless His Soul and His Family.

Pete Cerminaro - February 12, 2021 at 11:58 AM

PD

“*Ralph, i can't say how much I will miss seeing you and talking to you, and what my dad meant to you. You always called him "Joe" and you kept the first sign he made for you, Ventura Construction. It still hangs proudly in your shop on Broad St., and so many other memories. How you beat Cha Cha, with your 409 Chevy at Fonda and what your family and grandsons meant to you. I could fill a book with memories.*

Ralph with tears in my eyes I will never forget what a good friend you are and will always be. God Bless.

Phil Durante

P.S. Say hello to "Joe"

Philip Durante - February 11, 2021 at 07:29 PM

ED

Rest In Peace Ralph A good Man gone to soon

Ernie Durse - February 12, 2021 at 04:12 PM

MC

Dear Bernadette and family.I am so sorry to hear about my Cugina Ralph.And.so sorry he passed on my birthday.I can still remember the day he and his family came from Italy.I loved the whole family..I have so many memories.And my brother Butch Chandler who worked for him for many years.And passed only two days apart.So sad.My deepest Sympathy.As long as I live I will have him in my Heart.GOD BLESS YOU AND YOUR FAMILY

SINCERELY MARY ELLEN CHANDLER 🍷🌹🙏

Mary ELLEN CHANDLER - February 22, 2021 at 12:50 PM