



Mr. Ralph J. Polito

September 24, 1941 - March 31, 2025

UTICA – Mr. Ralph J. Polito, age 83, passed away on Monday, March 31, 2025. At the time of his passing, his loving family was by his side.

Born in Utica on September 24, 1941, Ralph was the son of the late Joseph and Margaret V. (LaBella) Polito. A graduate of T.R. Proctor High School/Class of 1959, he went on to earn both his Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Education from Utica College.

On April 27, 1963, Ralph married the former Elaine Cristalli. Through the years, Ralph and Elaine's journey together was marked by devotion, humor, and enduring bond that even time and distance could not sever. As partners and parents, they shared a love that shaped their family in countless ways, offering warmth, wisdom, and an unshakable sense of humor that carried them through life's highs and lows.

A dedicated educator throughout his career, Ralph began teaching at Brandegee Elementary School in Utica, later moving on to the Frankfort-Schuyler Central School District and eventually settling into a position at Perry Junior High in the New Hartford School District. From 1968 to 1974, he also enjoyed coaching basketball at both T.R. Proctor and Frankfort High Schools. Later, he became a familiar presence on the court—not as a coach, but as an official and referee. His warm and friendly demeanor brought joy to his

students and athletes alike. He cherished every moment of his teaching and coaching careers. During the summers, he stayed active by managing the Addison-Miller Pool.

In his spare time, Ralph enjoyed fishing and hunting—both up north and down south—and created many fond memories during his annual trips to Canada. He also enjoyed an occasional round of golf. At one time, he was a parishioner of Blessed Sacrament Church.

Ralph is survived by his wife, Elaine; and daughter, Mary M. Polito. He treasured the memory of his son, Joseph M. “Joe” Polito, who recently preceded him on February 20, 2025. He is further survived by his brother and sister-in-law, Frederic and Carol Polito; nieces and nephews, Frederic Polito and Jim Recknall, Christopher and Debra Polito; and Michael and Kristyn Cristalli; sister-in-law, Barbara Cristalli (the late Michael J. Cristalli); and many special friends. He was additionally predeceased by his father-in-law and mother-in-law, Michael A. and Mary T. (Vedete) Cristalli.

The Polito family extends their sincere gratitude to the nurses and staff of the Saranac Household at the Masonic Care Community of NY for their care and compassion.

Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend his Memorial Mass of Christian Burial and Celebration of Life which will commence on Saturday, June 14, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. at Historic Old St. John’s Church, 240 Bleecker St. There will be an opportunity to greet the family at the conclusion of the Mass.

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

Previous Events

Memorial Mass

JUN 14. 1:00 PM (ET)

Historic Old St. John's Church

240 Bleecker Street

Utica, NY 13501

(315) 724-6159

<https://www.historicoldstjohnschurch.com/>

Tribute Wall

BK

“ Barbara K. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mr. Ralph J. Polito.

Barbara K. - June 13, 2025 at 06:28 PM

LE

“ Laurie E. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mr. Ralph J. Polito.

Laurie E. - June 12, 2025 at 10:03 AM

TW

“ So sorry to learn of the passing of Ralph. Didn't know him too well but remember him during our younger years. Knew his brother, Fred, and played Little League baseball with him. Please accept my deepest sympathy, Fred from an old friend back in the 50's.

Tom Walker - June 06, 2025 at 09:54 AM

MT

“ I was so sorry to hear of Ralph's passing. Over the years Ralph became one of my closest friends. I am happy that I was able to visit him many times with Al Knapp, Dave Gaylord and Sam Paniccia we all had a good time reminiscing about the old days and games of the past. Rest in peace my friend.

mike tomassetti - June 04, 2025 at 03:37 PM

JC

“ My heartfelt and deepest sympathy to Elaine, Mary, Fred, Carol, And family, and Barbara along with the entire Polito and Cristalli families. Sending many prayers and love to help you through the difficult times ahead.

Jeanne Castronovo

Jeanne Castronovo - June 04, 2025 at 07:59 AM

NF

“ Elaine & Fred, Family,
I am so sorry to learn of Ralph's passing. A True gentleman and conversationalist, enjoyed speaking with him especially about our hunting seasons, and at Boulevard Dinners with friends.

Nick Pattotta, Naples, Florida' - June 03, 2025 at 11:41 AM

NF

Nick Parrotta
Naples Florida

Nick Pattotta, Naples, Florida' - June 03, 2025 at 11:42 AM

LS

“ Elaine and Fred my thoughts and prayers to you and Family for your loss.

It is an honor to be a small part of his life experience. We had entertaining times together during our daily group coffee discussions. Talking about our Proctor years and life long friendships.

GOD BLESS

Louis Steppello - April 21, 2025 at 04:59 PM

VB

“ *Elaine and family
So sorry about the passing of your husband my thoughts and
prayers are with you*

In sympathy Virginia boehlert

Virginia Boehlert - April 06, 2025 at 12:17 PM

AS

“ *To know him was to Love him. He was a gentle giant with a heart of
gold. His bark was much stronger than his bite. I had many
opportunities to be with Ralph be it socializing, fishing or officiating
basketball games (his true love) and it was then you realized what a
great friend he was to have on your side. I will miss him but thank
you Ralph for all your guidance over the years. Lots of laughs and
good times. RIP my good friend. Butch/Joanne Sisti*

Anthony “Butch” Sisti - April 06, 2025 at 09:11 AM

SC

*Very sad about hearing about Ralph's passing. Going to miss my big
great cousin.*

Sal & Gayle Coriale

Sal Coriale - April 07, 2025 at 04:00 PM

TF

“ *My sincerest apologies and prayers go out to Ralph's family. He
was a great, genuine man. I am so glad I have the pleasure of
knowing, taking care of, and most importantly, loving him. He will
forever be in my heart and the hearts of many. May he rest in
peace.*

Trista Fuller - April 03, 2025 at 03:00 AM