



Mr. Raymond J. "Ray Zang" Zangrilli Jr.

July 6, 1949 - July 27, 2018

UTICA - Mr. Raymond J. "Ray Zang" Zangrilli, Jr., age 69, passed away peacefully on July 27, 2018 in the privacy and comfort of his home with his loving family at his side after a valiant battle with cancer.

Born in Utica on July 6, 1949, Raymond was the son of the late Raymond J., Sr. and Palma "Polly" (Potenza) Zangrilli. He lived upstairs from his grandfather Luigi Zangrilli's Shoe Store on Bleecker Street until the age of 5 and then moved to the family homestead on Lansing Street where he has resided ever since. He attended St. Anthony's Grammar School where in 1962 he asked Terry Scalzo to "go steady" with him, and they have been together ever since. Ray was a graduate of T.R. Proctor High School/Class of 1967 and continued his education at H.C.C.C. earning an Associate degree in 1969. On April 17, 1971, he married his grade school sweetheart, Theresa "Terry" Scalzo. They put each other first and were blessed with a love that endured 47 years.

Ray worked for the City of Utica Recreation Department from 1971-1980 under director Nonnie Pensero. In 1980 he accepted a position with the Utica City School District as the Athletic Field Groundskeeper at Proctor High School. He took pride in the presentation of the field and he upheld high standards in maintaining it. He retired in 2006. He returned to the workforce after retirement as a Security Guard at Proctor, a job he truly loved, and according to Ray Zang, "I go to work, I get entertained, and I got paid for it". Best job, yet! Ray was a man of integrity and honesty. He was a perfectionist

at home and at work. Everyone knows that he kept a watchful eye on all things that were important to him. He was a man of few words, but when he spoke, he wanted you to hear his feelings. He held close the traditions taught to him as far back as his grandparents' days. He was a good son, and he carried with him the wisdom of his elders and passed it along to his children and grandchildren who adored and loved him.

Ray was a sports enthusiast and had a respect for all competitive sports for every season of the year. He was a staunch New York Yankees fan and a faithful spectator of the games, not only on television, but also at the actual event. There was a brave man who became Ray's favorite, and although he wasn't a Yankee, Hank Aaron was his hero. In football, he was a die hard New York Giants fan, especially when they won Super Bowl XXV in 1991, a day the Giants were hot in Tampa, and Ray was in the bleachers as they defeated the Buffalo Bills, 20-19. Ray played in a Wednesday night golf league at the Stonebridge where his team was known as "The Bad Fellows" on the fairways. But his heart belonged to the ponies, and Saratoga was the place he frequented for over 50 years. Once a year, as a family, they set out to Saratoga. Ray parked in the same place and came prepared with a packed cooler, a clear mind focused on the races of the day, eyeglasses at a slight tilt, sitting in his chair with program in hand. In truth, Ray was the best handicapper, and Saratoga will never be the same without him. Ray also had a routine for Proctor sports. He attended every basketball and football game, and sat in the same place. He was saddened when his illness prevented him from being in the stands. His goal this year was to be able to attend his granddaughter Aryanna's high school graduation... and he was filled with pride as he watched her walk across the stage, thanks to Lindsay Cortese and Steve Falchi who made it possible!

He leaves behind his beloved wife and caregiver, Terry; and two children of whom he was so proud, his daughter Rhonda Zangrilli-Russell and her husband Patrick Russell; and his son Raymond J. Zangrilli, III and Kristina Hart. One of his most blessed gifts were his loving grandchildren who were his

world. He adored them and they each had their own special connection to him: Aryanna Rose and her academic achievements and “Proctor talk”, Ahlanna Jasmine and her amazing singing voice and her basketball and sporting skills, and Penny Russell who he loved the first day they met and talked about sports like pros; Rocco Raymond Zangrilli who lit up Ray’s face when he walked in, first wanting to know what’s for dinner and then asking Papa if they could play slots and horse races on his Ipad; Rocco’s mother Jamie Lee Zangrilli; and Jace Hart who always called him “Ray’s dad” and had something wild to say to make him laugh. He also leaves his beloved brother and sister-in-law, David and Jacqueline “Jackie” Zangrilli; a host of nieces, with special mention of Renee Alessandrini who was by Ray and Terry’s side from the beginning; nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, cousins, all with whom he shared many happy, fun, and crazy times; his aunts, Mary Grace Guerra, Barbara Zangrilli, and Jody Potenza; his in-laws, Roseann and Robert Alessandrini, Michael and Lisa Scalzo, and Andrea Scalzo. Ray was a special man, and he was so well remembered, especially during his illness, for which his family is so appreciative. Some of the stand alones are Butch and Joanne Sisti, Brian and Angela Greco, Bob and Denise Giglio, Frannie and Lori Pensero, John Dooley, and many more, too numerous to mention. A special thank-you to Sam Paniccia for his monthly heart-to-heart calls that lit up Ray’s days and brought him to tears. He loved you, Sam. If anyone could have loved Ray more than his own family it was Dicky Rose, and his generosity will never be forgotten. He was predeceased by his father-in-law and mother-in-law, Louis and Theresa (Bottini) Scalzo; and his sister-in-law, Mary Lou LeClair.

The family extends a special thank you to Dr. Atul Butala for his medical expertise; the staff of the Faxon Regional Cancer Center especially Annie Flagg for their support; and the personnel of Hospice & Palliative Care, Inc., especially Crystal, and all whose service allowed Ray to have his wish to remain at home.

The family has honored and commemorated Ray's life at a private time. Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend Raymond's funeral service and Celebration of Life which will commence on Wednesday morning at 11:00 at St. Anthony & St. Agnes Church where his Memorial Mass of Christian Burial will be offered by Rev. Mark Kaminski. The family will receive visitors at the conclusion of Mass.

Dad, you are the wind beneath our wings, our angel to watch over us. Your gallant fight is over, no more suffering, just peace. We love you, dad, and we love you forever, Papa.

Tribute Wall

MH

“ Dear cousin Terry and family - our hearts are broken to hear that RayRay lost his fight. We know he faught a courageous battle.

Try to find comfort in knowing he is in the arms of our Lord, suffering no more. He will always live on in all of our hearts!

I will always treasure our memories of weddings, family reunions, the wonderful times we had whenever we were together. Hold onto those memories of the happy times.

Live for him now and know he will walk beside all of you with everything you do. He will love on in all of our hearts! He's up there on that Heavenly golf course with my Dad, my Bob and all his uncles!

*All my love, sympathy and prayers.
Cousin Mary Beth and sons*

Mary Beth (Potenza) Hughes - August 01, 2018 at 09:15 PM

MA

“ Terry, Rhonda, Ray Jr. , David, Jackie and families,

OH the life memories we have shared. What a wonderful gift to us all.

*love,
Mary Annette*

Mary Annette - August 01, 2018 at 02:10 PM

BG

“ Theresa, I am so very sorry for Ray's passing; I remember all our class reunions we were able to catch up with each other. May he RIP & God bless you & your family & His relatives also during your time of mourning.

Love & Hugs,
Barbra DiPerna Gondek

Barbara Gondek - August 01, 2018 at 12:40 PM



Christine
Primarolo-
Golden

“ His smile lit up the hallways at Proctor. Both the staff and the kids respected and adored him. Prayers for peace to his family.

Christine Primarolo-Golden - July 30, 2018 at 09:37 AM



Sue
Murad

“ What a beautiful tribute to Ray. I worked with him at Proctor & he will be sorely missed. God Bless.

Sue Murad - July 30, 2018 at 08:50 AM

GD

“ Terry and Family,

Ray was a fun-loving, gentle man. Though our times together became few and far between, there were always stories of Ray and Guy's time working together in the Utica school system and the many 'guys only' Saratoga trips. I will cherish the couples trips he was able to take with us in recent years. Lots of laughs and good food. Ray you were one of the good ones. Rest in peace dear friend.



Guy and Bonnie Delmastro

Guy and Bonnie DelMastro - July 30, 2018 at 07:07 AM

BO

“ My prayers and condolences to the entire Zangrilli Family. May he RIP.

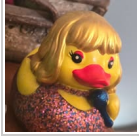
Bob Ollerenshaw - July 30, 2018 at 06:06 AM



“ Blue & White Sympathy Standing Spray was purchased for the family of Mr. Raymond J. "Ray Zang" Zangrilli Jr..



July 29, 2018 at 09:52 PM



“ *Our hearts our broken!!!! We love you all so much. Life gets busy, people get wrapped up in their lives...no matter what we are family. Christmas Eve's at Pleasant St will always be my favorite memory! Praying and thinking of you all! XOXO*

Karen Pensero-Shanley - July 29, 2018 at 03:38 PM

LT

“ *Terry and Family,
Ray was a sweet, good-hearted man, and we will miss him very much. The world will be a different place without him.
We wish you love, peace, and healing during this difficult time.
Lynne and Brian*

Lynne Toussaint - July 29, 2018 at 10:20 AM

BL

“ *Rhonda and family, I do know how hard it is to lose a parent you just need to remember they are no longer suffering and you are filled with all the memories. They are always still watching us and you can talk to him anytime. You were lucky to have such a great role model as a father, grandfather and husband. My thoughts and prayers go out to you and your family.*

Brenda Little - July 29, 2018 at 08:33 AM



“ *Terry Shirley and I are sorry for your loss Ray was one hell of a man and I will miss him. We are so glad we got to spend some time with him in May. I will never forget the times we played golf together he was a very good golfer. God bless hopefully see you next May*

E.j. Messa - July 28, 2018 at 06:28 PM

DG

Terry...

Anyone who knew Ray.. loved him. He touched anyone he came in contact with...he will be missed greatly by all.. Heaven gained an angel..

Love you...

Vin Pristera

Denise & Jim Giruzzi & family

Denise Giruzzi - July 29, 2018 at 04:52 AM