



Mr. Richard J. "Rich" Cunningham Sr.

April 20, 1959 - September 18, 2018

UTICA - Mr. Richard J. "Rich" Cunningham, Sr., age 59, passed away unexpectedly on Tuesday, September 18, 2018 in the comfort of his home. Born in New Hartford on April 20, 1959, Richard was the son of the late Robert J. "Bob" Jr. and Rita J. (Sbarra) Cunningham. He attended Conkling Elementary School and was a graduate of T.R. Proctor High School/Class of 1978. Rich shared in a relationship with Kathy Gelfuso, and to that union came the blessing of their son, Richie.

Rich began his working career at Dodge Graphic Press and later moved to Brodock Press where he enjoyed 25 years of employment as a foreman. Lastly, he worked at the Central Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired (CABVI) for over 5 years as a warehouse man. Although Rich was a private man, he was sociable, generous, and a friend to many. He was proud of his Italian heritage and it could be seen in his love of cooking. He had a fondness for his pets, and they were his priority. He leaves his black cat "Black Bear" to the care of his son. His beloved feline is a bit skittish, but he has a new home.

With a smile on his face, Rich imparted words of wisdom, especially to his son, and he was a blessed grandpa to his granddaughter. She loved him and she remembered the things he gave her and the special places they went. Rich always honored the holidays, family birthdays, and special occasions. In his younger years, he was an active outdoorsman, hunter, and fisherman. His great achievement in life was raising his son to be a good man, and even

greater, seeing his son become a great dad to his daughter Gianna Mia. He knew the Lord and his spirituality grew as life passed. He wore a Rosary and a scapular around his neck as a sign of faith, hope, and love of the Lord. Richard is survived by his son Richard J. "Rich" Cunningham, Jr. and Jennifer Files; Rich Jr.'s mother Kathy Gelfuso; his granddaughter, Gianna Mia and her mom Sara Berg; his brother and sister-in-law, Robert J. "Bob" III and Terri Cunningham and his nephew Rob Cunningham IV. He also leaves his uncle and aunts, Vincent "Butch" and Donna Sbarra, and Louise Sbarra; and many beloved cousins. He had the best of times with his friends, Fred Dunham, Russ Spina, Lance, Alex "B" Almas, and Rich Scarafile; they were a group of guys who really cared about each other. He was predeceased by his aunts and uncles, Louis Sbarra, Concetta "Jessie" and Joseph V. Maggio, and Rose and Peter Cerminaro.

The family is grateful to Rich's neighbors, Russ and Freddy who have been so helpful in caring for his wellbeing.

Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend his Memorial Mass of Christian Burial on Monday, October 1, at 1:00 at St. Anthony & St. Agnes Church officiated by Rev. Mark Kaminiski. The family will receive visitors at the conclusion of mass.

Tribute Wall

TP

“ I went to high school with Rich and my high school boyfriend happened to live next-door to him. He was always such a nice gentleman, always kind never raucous or rowdy. Just a fine person. I see that it's his birthday today so I want to wish you Rich a happy heavenly birthday.

Therese Plante - April 23 at 09:02 PM

CS

“ My Deepest Condolences to the family and Alex. I will remember that friendly neighbor smile of his and my piece of my heart is with you forever!

Love,
Carmen



Carmen Spina - September 27, 2018 at 09:22 PM

FR

“ Fred Dunham & Wendy Rudd lit a candle in memory of Mr. Richard J. "Rich" Cunningham Sr.



Fred Dunham & Wendy Rudd - September 25, 2018 at 08:39 PM

FD

We will Miss You Greatly.....You were Special ..From Your Friends Fred Dunham & Wendy Rudd

Fred Dunham - September 25, 2018 at 08:43 PM



“ *Gina LaValla lit a candle in memory of Mr. Richard J. "Rich" Cunningham Sr.*



Gina LaValla - September 25, 2018 at 11:47 AM

CD

“ *Cathy Drew-Egan lit a candle in memory of Mr. Richard J. "Rich" Cunningham Sr.*



Cathy Drew-Egan - September 24, 2018 at 10:18 PM

CD

My Deepest Condolences. He was a wonderful guy who always seemed to smile!

Cathy Drew-Egan - September 24, 2018 at 10:19 PM

PT

“ *Now more than ever wish we took that fishing trip! A good man with a great heart. The world lost a beautiful soul today!*



Paul Toti - September 24, 2018 at 01:27 PM

DN

“ *A heartfelt sorry for your loss.*



Donna Nicotera - September 24, 2018 at 11:56 AM

VL

“ *Vita Loparco lit a candle in memory of Mr. Richard J. "Rich" Cunningham Sr.*



Vita Loparco - September 24, 2018 at 10:00 AM

GC

“ *Deepest sympathy*

Glenn Chapman - September 23, 2018 at 10:31 PM

AP

“ *Antonetta Panuccio lit a candle in memory of Mr. Richard J. "Rich" Cunningham Sr.*



Antonetta Panuccio - September 23, 2018 at 09:06 PM

AP

My deepest condolences to Rich's family.He was a great guy. He will be missed in so may ways.RIP Rich..

Antonetta Panuccio - September 23, 2018 at 09:15 PM

PS

So very sorry for your loss. Cousin Paulette


Paulette Sbarra - October 01, 2018 at 09:50 AM

BR

“ *Bob, Terri, And Rob lit a candle in memory of Mr. Richard J. "Rich" Cunningham Sr.*



Bob, Terri, and Rob - September 22, 2018 at 10:08 AM

 Rich Cunningham Jr.

“ *Rich Cunningham Jr. lit a candle in memory of Mr. Richard J. "Rich" Cunningham Sr.*



Rich Cunningham Jr. - September 22, 2018 at 10:01 AM

DT

“ *Donna Toussaint lit a candle in memory of Mr. Richard J. "Rich" Cunningham Sr.*



Donna Toussaint - September 22, 2018 at 09:20 AM

JF

“ *Jennifer Files lit a candle in memory of Mr. Richard J. "Rich" Cunningham Sr.*



Jennifer Files - September 21, 2018 at 11:20 PM

FB

“ *Fred & Marilyn Brescia lit a candle in memory of Mr. Richard J. "Rich" Cunningham Sr.*



Fred & Marilyn Brescia - September 21, 2018 at 09:54 PM