



## Mr. Richard J. "Rich" Hobaica

February 13, 1957 - June 1, 2025

CLINTON – Mr. Richard J. “Rich” Hobaica, age 68, passed away unexpectedly on Sunday, June 1, 2025, in the comfort and dignity of his own home, with his loving wife by his side.

Born in Utica on February 13, 1957, Richard was the son of the late Joseph M. and Nellie (Hickel) Hobaica. He was a graduate of Notre Dame High School/Class of 1975. He then attended Buffalo State College where he earned a bachelor’s degree in fine arts and graphic design. Rich went on to further his education at St. Bonaventure University, where he proudly earned his master’s degree.

On May 14, 1983, Rich was joined in matrimony with the former Maryellen Tomaino. Their union was marked by deep love and devotion, and together they created a lifetime of beautiful memories.

As a Graphic Designer, Rich began his professional career at Rite Aid. He then had the opportunity to join Great American (which became Victory Markets), holding a position locally working throughout the Northeast specializing in graphic design and marketing. He later moved on to Agway Lawn and Garden for 18 years, where he held a marketing and design position that grew the brand across the Northeast. Lastly, he joined PJ Greene, Inc., where he was a major part of their sales and marketing team,

eventually attaining a vice presidency role. Subsequently, he tended bar at various restaurants, which suited him well, as he was a natural conversationalist and people pleaser. He also loved to drive limousines on the weekends and sold furniture at Raymour and Flanigan. His lively personality made him perfectly suited for all these occupations. Rich was not an idle soul and loved to be in the company of others.

His family was everything to him. Above all, he was a fantastic and supportive father and would never hesitate to share his wisdom and advice. In fact, it could be said he was good for a lesson a day. No matter what he said, you were going to listen - whether you liked it or not. He was considered a "dad" to many and was always ready to take the time to help others solve their problems.

Whenever he greeted someone, he did so like they were family, and always made people feel comfortable and included. Everyone enjoyed his company thanks to his kind heart and charismatic personality. He was determined, strong-willed, and sometimes a little stubborn. His family has fond memories of him pressing his "No Button." Rich also enjoyed sports, especially following his beloved Buffalo Bills.

He was a member of St. Louis Gonzaga Church.

Richard is survived by his devoted wife, Maryellen; his children and their spouses, Anthony J. and Melissa Hobaica, and Danae and Joseph R. LaMarca; grandchildren, Niko Hobaica; Aria LaMarca, Eliana LaMarca, and Charles LaMarca; siblings and their spouses, JoAnn and Christopher Clark, Rosalie and Jack Inman, the late Marie Herman and her husband Frank Herman, and Michael and Marlene Hobaica; many nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, cousins, and their families; sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Florie and Al Damiano; and many cherished friends. He was

additionally predeceased by his father-in-law and mother-in-law, Anthony F. and Angela T. (Pettinato) Tomaino.

Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend Richard's Memorial Service and Celebration of Life, which will commence on Friday, June 6, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. at St. Louis Gonzaga Church, 520 Rutger St., where his Divine Liturgy of the Faithful Departed will be offered by Father Boutros El Hachem. There will be an opportunity to greet the family at the conclusion of the service. In lieu of floral offerings, memorial contributions in Richard's honor may be made to Anita's Stevens Swan Humane Society online at [www.anitas-shs.org/donate](http://www.anitas-shs.org/donate), St. Jude Children's Hospital online at [www.stjude.org/donate](http://www.stjude.org/donate), or the Jim Valvano Foundation online at [www.v.org/donate](http://www.v.org/donate); envelopes will also be available at the service.

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

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

JUN 6. 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Louis Gonzaga Church  
520 Rutger Street  
Utica, NY 13501  
(315) 732-6019

# Tribute Wall

FD

“*Maryellen, Danae and Anthony, I was not aware of Richard's passing until very recently. I hope you are getting through this trying and grieving time through God's good graces.*  
*I remember speaking with Richard many times about his places of work and the pride he took in his vocation. I will always remember our experiences at Buffalo State College, as we both attended classes there in the mid to late 1970's. If I remember correctly, we even drove home together once or twice during our college breaks. He will always be remembered by me for his kindness, drive and great personality. We will all miss him dearly. May God bless you all through this trial and tribulation period.*  
*Cousin Frank Dragotto and family*

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**Frank Dragotto** - July 17, 2025 at 02:45 PM

MS

“*Maryellen, Danae, and Anthony i am truly sorry to hear about rich he was always a good person and good too Mike Salamey*

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**mike I salamey** - June 10, 2025 at 12:11 PM

LA

“*You are so truly an amazing person and I will truly miss you the Mr. Hobaica I'll never forget when you and mariellen use to watch me and my sister while mom worked at ESI I'm here for you guys Danae Anthony and the Hobaica family*❤️❤️❤️❤️❤️

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**Lauren artessa** - June 08, 2025 at 11:05 PM

CO

“ I heart goes out to you Maryellen and your children and family. We had some fun times together, especially during the kids baseball years.

Christine O'Brien-Bucciero - June 08, 2025 at 10:06 AM

BM

“ Rich, you made the days at PJ Green fun. Rest in Peace old friend.  
-- Brian

Brian Monahan - June 07, 2025 at 03:46 PM

SR

“ My condolences to Anthony and the Hobaica family  
  
. Sincerely, Sam Russo

Sam Russo - June 07, 2025 at 09:55 AM

JZ

“ Our thoughts and prayers to the entire family. Jerry & Janine Zenzillo

Jerry zenzillo - June 06, 2025 at 10:27 AM

AS

“ My heart felt condolences to Anthony and the entire Hobaica family. I first met Mr. Hobaica around 15 years ago as a passenger in his limo. He was such a friendly and engaging guy and as we spoke I realized it was Anthony's dad. We immediately started discussing weight lifting at which time I told him his son was a "beast" in the gym especially for being so young. I could see his eyes light up with pride and joy. RIP Mr. Hobaica 🙏

Anthony J Stucchi - June 06, 2025 at 09:43 AM

RV

“ *My Deepest Sympathy to The Family.  
Maryellen my Heart is with you .May he Rest  
In Peace and Be with The Glory of Our Lord.  
Amen* ❤️ 🌹



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**Rosemary Vasile** - June 05, 2025 at 06:30 PM

RH

“ *Maryellen,Anthony, Danae, Joanne, Michael, Rosalie and family  
So very sorry for the loss of Rich. We had a lot of fun together  
growing up. So very sorry I am unable to be with you tomorrow but  
you are in my prayers. May you Rest In Peace.  
Rosanne Hebert*

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**Rosanne Hebert** - June 05, 2025 at 04:23 PM

AS

“ *Dear Maryellen, Anthony,Danae & families! I  
am so sorry to learn of the loss of your  
husband, father & grandfather, Richard! He  
always had &. Wide friendly smile anytime I  
saw him. One special memory of his  
willingness to help was our first winter living on Wilwood Ridge and  
coming down a very snowy East Park Rd and hitting an  
embankment right in front of your house! Yikes! I didn't have a cell  
phone,but,Richard & Maryellen came running out to help a very  
scared & grateful cousin! Me! Antoinette Scalzo! My prayers are  
with you Maryellen & family! God Bless and keep you in His sight!  
May Richard's soul rest in peace! Amen!*



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**Antoinette Scalzo** - June 03, 2025 at 09:26 PM

CG

“ Maryellen and family. We are sorry for your loss. Remembering pop Warner days. May he rest in peace  
Cindy and Joe gentile

Cynthia Gentile - June 03, 2025 at 05:41 PM

CG

“ Maryellen so sorry for the loss of rich. Remembering all the fun times at baseball games. May he rest in peace

Cynthia Gentile - June 03, 2025 at 02:19 PM

EM

My college roommate and 50 year friendship may be at a pause but not his lessons of devotion, laughter and unconditional love.  
A true one-of-a-kind spirit.  
Evan

Evan Messinger - June 03, 2025 at 04:08 PM

CW

“ MaryEllen I am so sorry to hear of the passing of your husband my thoughts are with you and your family members during this very difficult time.

carm

Carmelita Whiting - June 03, 2025 at 01:22 PM

CF

“ Maryellen and family, so sorry to hear your Husband Richard passed. Our condolences and prayers. With love from Carolyn Faccioli-and the Carlone Family. 🙏❤️

Carolyn Faccioli - June 03, 2025 at 12:18 PM

TF

“ *The Rosales Family purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Mr. Richard J. "Rich" Hobaica.*



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**The Rosales Family** - June 03, 2025 at 12:07 PM

AD

“ *To the Hobaica family, so sorry to hear of Richards passing always had a smile when we met and talked, he will be missed. RIP Hoby*

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**Anthony & Elizabeth DeCarolis** - June 03, 2025 at 12:05 PM

AS

“ *Andrew Sebastian purchased the Crystal Cross Bouquet for the family of Mr. Richard J. "Rich" Hobaica.*



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**Andrew Sebastian** - June 03, 2025 at 10:32 AM

TF

“ *The Rich Family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Mr. Richard J. "Rich" Hobaica.*



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**The Rich Family** - June 03, 2025 at 10:26 AM

CF

“ I’m so sorry to hear of Richard’s passing.  
We started school together at Mary St School and even in kindergarten Richard was so caring of others and willing to offer his wisdom which came from the heart!  
We went to different schools after Mary St, but we would see each other and it was always such a pleasure to see him.  
Richard was a warm, compassionate loving person and I am blessed to have known him my entire life.  
May many happy memories of times spent together carry you through this difficult time.  
God bless you.  
Carlo Fanelli

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**Carlo Fanelli** - June 03, 2025 at 08:09 AM

MS

Dear Hobaica & Inman families-our deepest sympathy on the sudden loss of Richard. Rosalie and I are good friends from high school. I was at there home alot.Richard always kept me entertained!! Never a dull moment ever. May Jesus comfort & bless you all.Marguerite & Joe Spano

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**Marguerite Spano** - June 04, 2025 at 10:10 PM

DK

“ Dear Maryellen and Family,  
We so so very sorry to learn of your loss of Rich. We knew one another since high school.  
You live on the hill behind Buckley Pool. I used to see Rich all over the place. You are all in our thoughts and prayers. May we express our deepest condolences, sympathy and love.  
May His Memory Be Eternal  
Deacon Dan and Cindy Klockowski  
and Family

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**Deacon Daniel A Klockowski** - June 03, 2025 at 07:36 AM

LC

“ Lynda Cunningham lit a candle in memory of Mr. Richard J. "Rich" Hobaica



Lynda Cunningham - June 02, 2025 at 10:20 PM

LC

Mar even though I cannot be with you my heart is broken and my love and prayer are with you 🙏

Lynda Cunningham - June 02, 2025 at 10:22 PM

CA

“ Cesar A. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mr. Richard J. "Rich" Hobaica.

Cesar A. - June 02, 2025 at 10:07 PM

MM

“ Mary Ellen so so sorry for your tremendous loss. 🙏

Michelle Franco Mancuso - June 02, 2025 at 10:01 PM

DB

“ Such a loving man and very artist. My cousin rest in peace. I remember you painting on my Jean coat Mickey Mouse. Wish I still have it.

diane brady - June 02, 2025 at 09:51 PM

LF

“ Love AI Florie and Our family! planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mr. Richard J. "Rich" Hobaica.

Love AI Florie and Our family! - June 02, 2025 at 09:49 PM

LF

“ Love AI Florie and Our family! purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Mr. Richard J. "Rich" Hobaica.



Love AI Florie and Our family! - June 02, 2025 at 09:49 PM

DB

“ Diane B. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mr. Richard J. "Rich" Hobaica.

Diane B. - June 02, 2025 at 09:47 PM

DB

“ Diane B. purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Mr. Richard J. "Rich" Hobaica.



Diane B. - June 02, 2025 at 09:47 PM

JB

“ *JoAnn Bonacci lit a candle in memory of Mr. Richard J. "Rich" Hobaica*



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**JoAnn Bonacci** - June 02, 2025 at 09:28 PM

LS

*Dear Mary Ellen, Anthony and Denae, I was in shock when I heard of Rich's passing. I am so very sorry. My heart breaks for you and your family. Rich was such a nice guy. We're going to miss him and his wonderful smile. Take care and know that I'm thinking of you ha bee bee. Linda Shaheen*

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**linda shaheen** - June 04, 2025 at 11:30 PM