



Mr. Richard N. Panella

May 13, 1950 - March 15, 2017

Mr. Richard N. Panella, age 66, passed away on Wednesday, March 15, 2017 at his home in Holland Patent after a protracted and valiant battle with cancer. Born in New Hartford on May 13, 1950, Richard was the son of Mary L. (Caruso) Panella and the late Peter A. Panella. He graduated from New Hartford High School with the class of 1968.

Richard was best known for his experience and knowledge of automobiles as owner of Panella's Collision, Inc., located in New York Mills. Richard built and operated a state-of-the-art repair facility with the latest technology and equipment. Generations of families have entrusted their vehicles into his care since 1972. He provided craftsmanship and meticulous attention to detail to every customer. His work was also his passion. He was well respected as an expert in repair and restoration of classic cars.

Richard was a generous donor to his community and served as a board member for social and municipal organizations for many years. He served on the Town of Marcy Zoning Board; as officer of the Penn Mountain Snow Riders; and the board of the Yahnundasis Golf Club.

Richard also loved to spend time with family and friends at car show events, golfing and snowmobiling. His indomitable spirit, sense of humor, kindness and generosity to others will be dearly missed by those who knew and loved him. Richard was a man of integrity with boundless energy and appreciation for the value of hard work.

Richard is survived by his devoted wife, Deborah; his children, Nicole Ivie of

VA, Stephen and Missy Panella of Dolgeville, and Spencer Boyce of Clinton; his grandchildren, Kaitlin Panella, Hailey Panella; and Spencer Boyce, V.; his mother, Mary (Caruso) Panella; his sister, Lorraine M. Panella of New Hartford; and his brother and sister-in-law, Joseph P. and Patricia Panella of Marcy. He also leaves his beloved nephews, Joseph Panella, and Daniel Panella; cousins, especially Mary Ann and Samuel Bottini Jr., Nicholas and Patricia Caruso, James and Delores Caruso, and Philip Caruso; his in-laws, with special mention of Mary Whalen; and many loving friends.

The family is grateful to Marcy Canary, MD, the staff of the Bassett Herkimer Cancer Center, and Martin Tallman, MD of the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center for their medical expertise and compassionate care.

In keeping with his wishes, there will be no public visitation. By family request, please omit floral offerings and consider donations to the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, 1275 York Avenue, New York, NY 10065. Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend his funeral service and Celebration of Life which will commence on Tuesday afternoon at 12:30 at St. Mary of Mt. Carmel/Blessed Sacrament Parish where his Memorial Mass of Christian Burial will be offered by Rev. James Cesta. The family will receive visitors following the church service at a gathering at the Yahnundasis Country Club, 8639 Seneca Turnpike, New Hartford.

Tribute Wall

AF

“ Steven and the rest of the family, my condolences on your loss.

Andy Frank - March 22, 2017 at 05:15 PM

FA


“ Rich was Truly a remarkable person. He was honest, sincere, loyal, caring, loving, just, kind, humble, fun, detailed, attentive, precise and such a good friend. All of these things mentioned will surely be remembered by myself and so many others.
Frank Annese, Venice FL.

Frank Annese - March 21, 2017 at 08:42 PM

EN

“ Always amazed by his cars in high school. Supped up everything. He clearly lived his passion throughout his life. RIP.

EF NHHS - March 21, 2017 at 04:18 PM

 Brian Davoli

“ The first 20 years of my life, you were uncle Richard to me, you helped me when my dad passed, you were a friend. My youth is full of memories with you. You will never be forgotten. Your pain is over... I'm sure youre laughing with Dad and Dean again. God bless you always as well as all of the Panella family...Brian D

Brian Davoli - March 21, 2017 at 04:06 PM

KS

“ Thank you Richard for all you did for the Town Of Marcy. My condolences to the family. RIP

Keith Schuderer - March 21, 2017 at 02:34 PM

CN

“ To the family of Richard Panella, we are so sorry for your loss.... our deepest sympathy to you all. We have known Richard for many years, and have taken our vehicles to his amazing shop , and he always came over to talk with us and laugh, laugh , laugh,,, , what an amazing sense of humor he had. Our son Blake took his Mini Cooper Countryman over to see Richard , where his team of great guys, took such good care of his car and turned it into his "Dream Car"... oh he thought Richard hung the moon and the stars....they instantly hit if off.... Blake being 19 , and a college student,,, Richard really impressed him and Blake spoke of him often. He was deeply saddened by the news of Richard's passing... we all are. That smile, that laugh, the passion he held for his business, his family, his friends, will never be forgotten.. he made a real difference in this world.... God bless him and your families.



Cathy Newell , Richard Walters and Blake Newell Walters....

Cathy Newell - March 21, 2017 at 09:21 AM

SS

“ To Richard's family: He was a wonderful human being and will be well missed. His life was well lived. So very sorry for your loss.



Sandie Seth - March 21, 2017 at 07:49 AM

RC

“ To Richard's family. Richard will all ways be remembered as a kind and thoughtful man and he will be missed. A friend, Bob Caruso Rochester, NY

Robert Caruso - March 20, 2017 at 12:17 PM

NE

“ *To the Panella family, so sorry for loss of a wonderful person I have known for years.*

Neil Entwistle - March 20, 2017 at 11:46 AM

NE

“ *Neil Entwistle lit a candle in memory of Mr. Richard N. Panella*




Neil Entwistle - March 20, 2017 at 11:39 AM

 Gina
Cianfrocco
Schillaci

“ *I am so sorry to hear about Rich! You are all in our thoughts and prayers! With deepest condolences*

Gina Cianfrocco-Schillaci - March 20, 2017 at 10:09 AM

 David
Rossi

“ *Deb and the Panella family, I am so sorry to hear of Richards passing.*

I would just like to share a few things. After applying 3 separate times for a job at Panella's Collision in November 1987 I was hired by Richard. Rich was very influential to me as a young man trying to learn auto body repair. He believed in me and gave me many opportunities to succeed. I do not think he realized how much he was influencing me and how I looked up to him as a mentor. The quality of workmanship and work ethic he demanded was the foundation on what he built his business and instilled in his employees. This was the reason I wanted to work for him. I wanted to learn from the best. He is the reason I have the skills today to repair cars at a high level. For that I am extremely grateful and thankful. As soon as I started working for him he started giving. Seeing that I started in November I was not entitled to the Christmas bonus in December. Richard gave me the bonus anyway and he did not have to. I will never forget that. That spoke volumes of the type of man he was. He was always very generous unless he thought you were taking advantage of him then all bets were off. My career path changed and I left Panella's Collision in June of 1989. Rich and I became closer as I got older. I went to him for a lot of advice on numerous subjects. He would always point me in the right direction. I always looked forward to stopping over to his garage to see what he was working on or if he needed a hand or sometimes just to talk. I will truly miss him and I will always remember him as one of the people I looked up to and respected the most.

David Rossi - March 20, 2017 at 12:11 AM

AZ

“ *My husband and I send our deepest sympathy and condolences. We were fortunate to get to know Richie over the years through my parents, Sue and Vaughn Saville. He was always willing to help and lend a hand when we needed it. His kindness and incredible gift of giving will never be forgotten.*

*Love,
Brian & Amee' Zbytniewski*

Amee' Zbytniewski - March 19, 2017 at 07:38 PM

HR

“ *Harold & Joyce Rozdad purchased the Love's Embrace Roses – Purple for the family of Mr. Richard N. Panella.*



Harold & Joyce Rozdad - March 19, 2017 at 04:30 PM



“ *To the Pinellas family my sincere condolences, Rich was a gentleman's, gentleman, always concerned about everyone he met and a smile on his face, may all his family be in peace within themselves during these trying days ahead.*

Nick Parrotta Sr. - March 19, 2017 at 10:52 AM

RD

“ *Richie took care of many "mistakes" with our cars over the years. The highlights of his wonderful work still live on today....my '64 silver-blue Corvette which he restored in 1977 still has his beautiful paint job some 40 years later.....and my sister's '69 Camaro which now "resides" in New Zealand with her!*

I had many conversations with Richie over the years about business, golf and just life in general. He was a real character.....in the fondest sense of the word, and will be truly missed.

Rick Dinerstein

New Hartford, NY

Rick Dinerstein - March 19, 2017 at 08:22 AM

JM

“ *Rich will be very much missed, especially at the many collector car events and Carlisle, Pa. in the spring. At this event , Rich, Phil Caruso and friends enjoyed my peanuts in a shell.*

Rest in peace Rich

Joe Massoud

Sauquoit, Ny and Tarpon Sprinigs, Fl.

Joseph Massoud - March 18, 2017 at 10:13 PM



“ *Blue & White Sympathy Basket was purchased for the family of Mr. Richard N. Panella.*



March 18, 2017 at 07:28 PM

JG

“ So many childhood memories from Eleanor Place with the Caruso and Panella families. Rich was part of the birthday foursome starting with 12th of May thru the 15th. ...Sending my sympathy and prayers at this time of sadness.

Jody Guarnieri - March 18, 2017 at 07:00 PM

CG

“ I am so sorry I am not in Utica to attend Rich's service. I have fond memories of my childhood on Eleanor Plc with the Caruso's and Panellas. Rest In Peace Rich

Carm Guarnieri - March 18, 2017 at 03:50 PM

MS

“ So sorry for your loss, and our deepest sympathy to you at this difficult time.....Rich was a great friend, we will miss his strong spirit and never ending laughter.



Mark Schultz

MARK SCHULTZ - March 18, 2017 at 03:32 PM