



Mr. Robert L. Dondero

March 27, 1925 - February 21, 2016

Mr. Robert L. Dondero, age 90, of New Hartford, passed away on Sunday, February 21, 2016 at the Sitrin Health Care Center. And if he had his way, this is all he would want you to know. However, his daughters, Rachel, and Patricia think there is more to say about their dad than that.

Born in Utica on March 27, 1925, Bob was the son of the late Robert and Mary (Bello) Dondero. Raised and educated locally, he was a graduate of Utica Free Academy and Utica College of Syracuse University where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering. He was an avid Syracuse basketball fan, having played ball in his younger days at the Utica Boys Club. True to his alma mater, he watched SU basketball and football games, confident that the Orange would overcome any odds, and win. A proud veteran of the United States Navy, Bob honorably served his country from 1943-1946 during World War II stationed in the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations as a Seabee. On January 28, 1950, he married the former Nancy A. Simone with whom he shared 58 years until her passing on July 20, 2008. Bob worked as a physicist at the Griffiss Air Force Base, subsequently known as the Rome Air Development Center. In later years, his meritorious work ethic led to managerial positions that he held until his retirement in 1980. He was an original member of the "Top of the Hill Gang", a group of fellow retirees with whom he shared memories of a full career. As a patriarch, he was a loving father, great teacher, and excellent role model for his children. He had a strong sense of duty, commitment, and integrity and he was a man of his

word. With his quick wit and sharp sense of humor, he was able to laugh at the lighter side of life. For the last 50 years, Bob's "home away from home" was at the Spruce Grove Marina on Oneida Lake. Fishing was his passion, and to some that may seem strange, but not to those who knew him and were the recipients of his 'catch'. When not fishing, Bob could be found exercising and maintaining his well-being at Planet Fitness or having coffee with the guys. An active outdoors man, he also enjoyed hunting.

Bob is survived by his daughters, Rachel Dondero of Arlington, Virginia, and Patricia Dondero-Somers and her husband Bradley of Sugarland, Texas.

Always close to his heart was the memory of his son, Robert P. Dondero, who passed away on May 30, 1976. He also leaves his grandson Grayson Somers and his wife Amanda of Sugarland, TX; several nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, cousins, and in-laws Millie Dondero, Angelo and Lucy Simone, and Antoinette Simone. Bob was also blessed with many friends, especially his fishing and walking buddies. He was predeceased by his brothers and sister-in-law, John and Mary Dondero, and Dominick Dondero; and his in-laws, Dominick L. and Helen Simone, and Anthony Simone.

The family is grateful to the staff of the 2nd floor rehab unit at the Sitrin Health Care Center for the sensitive care and kindness they shared with Bob as well as his girls.

In keeping with Bob's wishes, there will be no public visitation. Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend Robert's funeral service and Celebration of Life which will commence on Saturday February 27, at 2:00 at St. Mary of Mt. Carmel/Blessed Sacrament Parish where his Memorial Mass of Christian Burial with Military Honors will be offered by Rev. James Cesta. The family will receive visitors at the end of Mass. In lieu of floral offerings, please consider memorial donations in Bob's honor to the Rehabilitation Unit at the Sitrin Health Care Center; envelopes will be available at the service. Inurnment will take place in Calvary Cemetery at the convenience of the family.

Tribute Wall

RM

“ *Robert A. Dondero And Family from Maine.... purchased the Healing Tears - Blue and White for the family of Mr. Robert L. Dondero.*



Robert A. Dondero And Family from Maine.... - February 26, 2016 at 12:23 PM

PS

“ *Rachel,*

I'm so sorry for your loss. You and your family are in my thoughts and prayers. Your dad lived a full life surrounded by loved ones and I'm glad that you were there by his side at the end. Hugs :)!!!!



Penni Scriven - February 25, 2016 at 12:32 PM

C(

“ *What a beautiful obituary for a beautiful man. So sorry for your loss Rachel and Patty. I know you are so sad but I know you were great daughters and loved him so much. All my love Cathy and Joe Conlon*

Cathy Conlon (Morse) - February 24, 2016 at 07:54 PM



“ *Rachael and family - I am sure that your father is fishing Heaven's Oneida Lake, unencumbered by limit regulations, filling his boat with walleyes, happy beyond our wildest imaginations. May the wonderful memories he created comfort you in difficult days. All my sympathy,-----Jack Henke*

Jack Henke - February 24, 2016 at 12:43 PM



“ *Melissa Smith lit a candle in memory of Mr. Robert L. Dondero*



Melissa Smith - February 24, 2016 at 11:55 AM



“ *Mr Dondero....Such a sweet, kind, gentleman. Everyone at Planet Fitness loved you. You would walk in an no matter what kind of mood I was in just seeing you made me smile. Rest in peace my friend:)*
Michelle

Michelle Randazzo - February 23, 2016 at 03:27 PM



“ *Blue & White Sympathy Standing Spray was purchased for the family of Mr. Robert L. Dondero.*



February 23, 2016 at 01:00 PM

RW

“ Rachel and Pat,

Please accept my heartfelt sympathy at the loss of your beloved Father. As a dad, I know he could not be prouder of you. His integrity, caring and love shine so brightly in the two of you and are reflected clearly in the family love you shared not just with him, but with all who know you!

He gave you not just the simple gift of life, but the nurturing gift of love, and the confidence to share it. You are the embodiment of your Father and the bearer of his gifts. He would want you to carry them gracefully, as you always have, and share them generously, as we all know you will. Difficult as it is to grieve his loss, know that he continues to live in you. From your lives, therefore, great beauty and joy continue to pour forth.

I lost my Father when I was two, so as I grew up my mother was my mentor and guide. I have therefore tried to live my life following the simple guidance offered by H. Jackson Brown: "Don't do anything that wouldn't make your Mom proud". Accordingly, as a Dad, I offer this same simple charge to you as we all honor your Father: "Don't do anything that wouldn't make you Dad proud!", and he is so proud of you now.

With love and compassion in your time of sorrow,

Ray Woolrich

Raymond Woolrich - February 22, 2016 at 02:11 PM

BR

“ Rachel, and Patricia although we never met, please accept my condolences. I am your Dad's next door neighbor at Spruce Grove Marina. I always looked forward to meeting with him and Ed every weekend. He will be missed and never forgotten. He has to be one of the best mentors I ever had and certainly helped a great deal with my fishing skills. I can't begin to tell how many good times we always had.

I am very proud and happy to be able to say I knew him.

Well Bob our Cuse basketball team is still trying to make a good run this year! Fish a little deeper and stay off the rock piles it saves on props!

God Bless Till We Meet Again - Bill Roth

Bill Roth - February 21, 2016 at 11:50 PM