



Mr. Robert J. "Bobby" Gelfuso

October 10, 1937 - August 9, 2016

Mr. Robert J. "Bobby" Gelfuso, age 78, passed away on Tuesday, August 9, 2016 with the love and support of his family by his side.

Born in Utica on October 10, 1937, Robert was the son of the late Joseph and Mamie (Gambino) Gelfuso. He was a graduate of Empire State Military Academy. He was a proud veteran of the United States Air Force and the United States Army Reserve. On July 20, 1963 he married the former Christine A. Gurley with whom he shared the joy of 53 years.

Bobby began his working career at the General Electric Company as a final tester and concurrently he was the co-owner and president of the Northern Ambulance Company. He was also a beloved employee at the Eannace Funeral Home, Inc. for 22 years. Bobby was first and foremost a family man. His daughters were his sunshine, and his grandchildren were the highlights of his life. He felt that he was fortunate to have two sons-in-law who were like sons to him.

Bobby was also a man of many kind acts, and a great story teller with a unique sense of humor. He was loyal, trustworthy, and dependable on all levels. He was a Bingo supporter, especially with his late sister, Dot. He was a member of the Knights of St. John Commandery #385 and a parishioner of St. Mary of Mt. Carmel/Blessed Sacrament Parish.

Robert is survived by his cherished wife, Chris; his daughters and sons-in-law, Deanna and Peter Smith of Warners NY, and Kellie and Andrew Caimano of Liverpool; and his beloved grandchildren, Randal T. Smith, Jamison R. Smith;

Anthony R. Caimano, and Gianna C. Caimano. His extended family includes several nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, cousins, in-laws, John E. and Linda Gurley, and Patricia Gurley; and a host of friends from many walks of life whom he held close to his heart. He maintained many loyal and longtime friendships through the years. Bobby also loved his late canine companion, B.J. He was predeceased by his sisters and brothers-in-law, Dorothy C. "Dot" and Donald E. Battelene, and Jane and William A. Dillon, Jr.; his nephew, Ronald D. Battelene; and his brother-in-law, Lee Gurley.

The family is grateful to Dr. Sultana Razia, and Dr. Sikder for their professional guidance; and the nurses and staff at the Faxton-St. Luke's Healthcare Center for their compassionate care.

In keeping with Bobby wishes, there will be no public visitation.

Members of the Knights of St. John will honor Bob's membership. 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 Mass of Christian Burial will be offered by Rev. Abe Esper with Military Honors conferred. The family will receive visitors at the conclusion of Mass. By family request, please omit floral offerings.

Previous Events

Funeral Service

AUG **16**. 12:30 PM (ET)

St. Mary of Mt. Carmel/Blessed Sacrament Parish

648 Jay Street

Utica, NY 13501

(315) 735-1482

<https://www.mountcarmelblessedsacrament.com/>

Tribute Wall

JN

“ To the Geifuso family.sorry for your loss.i met Bobby in 1962 at Beacon body shop Bob Gigliotti and i were working.we were tow truck drivers.we would go to the accidents and pick up the cars,and Bobby would come with us.one day we were having breakfast and bobby said why don't we start a ambulance business hence Northern Ambulance.i left in 1964 to California.Bobby was a great person,the last time i saw him was at my mother's funeral.again sorry for your loss.John Nasby

john nasby - September 02, 2020 at 04:44 PM

KG

“ Along with the entire "EFH" family, tomorrow is a day that none of us imagined would ever happen... Bobby was first a friend, an amazing mentor, and a loving and devoted man. I was blessed to know him and love him and Chris like family. Greeted with a "Bobby kiss" every morning and starting our day off with love - that will never be forgotten!! A perfect gentleman that I will never forget....

karen greco - August 15, 2016 at 07:04 PM

AE

“ I am so sad to hear the news about Bobby passing.. He will always hold a special place in Bob's and my heart. He showed kindness to all and was a role model to the many young men and women he worked with. He was so kind to my son Dan, when he was injured in his motorcycle accident. We could count on him to be here on Monday night to take Dan out of the house (Wheelchair and all) to play Bingo at TS. He exemplifies what the word 'friend" means. Chris and family , you will be in our thoughts and prayers during this difficult time. Bob and Amy Elinskas

Amy Elinskas - August 15, 2016 at 06:40 AM

EW

“ *Erica Wood lit a candle in memory of Mr. Robert J. "Bobby" Gelfuso*



Erica Wood - August 14, 2016 at 09:59 PM

JC

“ *Dear Chris, Deanna and Kellie,
You have all been on my mind since I learned of Uncle Bobby's illness. I am so sorry for your loss. My birthdays will never be the same. He never ever missed a birthday even when he was ill. I know the days ahead will be difficult, but please know you are all in my thoughts and prayers.
Love,
Jackie*

Jackie Capuana - August 14, 2016 at 08:42 PM

CD

“ *Carol Dunlay lit a candle in memory of Mr. Robert J. "Bobby" Gelfuso*



Carol Dunlay - August 14, 2016 at 03:41 PM

GJ

“ *Gianna Joseph lit a candle in memory of Mr. Robert J. "Bobby" Gelfuso*



Gianna Joseph - August 14, 2016 at 12:13 PM

DB

“ *I am going to Miss You Bobby. My condolences to your family.*



Danielle Brucker

Danielle Brucker - August 12, 2016 at 09:38 PM

MC

“ When I began my career with Eannace eight years ago, I immediately stepped into a group of people that quickly became my "family.”

Bobby was not only a member of that family, but one of those whom I looked up to for his guidance, humor, and the pure respect with which he treated those around him: both his co-workers and the families that we served on a daily basis. There was not a single time that I stepped into Bob's presence, where I wasn't greeted with a hug and a kiss.

He was proud of his country, proud of his Italian heritage, proud of his family, and proud of his City. He ate what he wanted and did what he wanted, whenever he wanted to do it! I always looked up to him for that...and our friendship that sparked almost immediately never faltered through the years.

I was struck with a profound sadness on Tuesday evening when I received the news that Bob had passed. We have all lost a great friend, confidante and man.

To Chris and his girls: you meant the absolute world to him and he never missed an opportunity to let us know that. Thank you for sharing your husband, father and grandfather with the rest of us for so many years.

*Love Always,
Marty*

Martin Ciaccia - August 12, 2016 at 08:06 PM

NE

Touching and so true

nancy eannace - August 13, 2016 at 08:18 AM

NS

“ Dear Bobby,
22 years ago, you walked into a place of business that was in need of you.
You immediately became the perfect fit in "our home". You were a mentor to the young, as well as the "seasoned", a father figure to many, and you touched each and every one of our lives in your own unique way. You portrayed all the attributes necessary for your honorable title of "Lot Captain". Your humor and smile made the difficult days brighter. You will leave a legacy of respect, loyalty, and dedication. You will be missed dearly by your second family at the "home".

Nancy and staff - August 12, 2016 at 07:22 PM

JL

“ John Lilli lit a candle in memory of Mr. Robert J. "Bobby" Gelfuso



John Lilli - August 12, 2016 at 06:55 PM

JL

“ Chris and family,
Words can not express the sadness I feel at the loss of Bobby..During my 12 years back at Eannace, Bob first and foremost was a great mentor, co worker and friend.. His first words everytime we worked was how is your "Boy" he always asked how Anders was. He will be missed my me very much. Even though we chatted a few times since I relocated back to Florida I thought of him often and the times he used to bust my chops. I'm so sorry and when I return home for a visit I will stop by.

John Lilli

John Lilli - August 12, 2016 at 06:54 PM

TL

“ So sorry to De De and all of the Gelfuso family. He was a wonderful man and I remember him well from high school to college. My prayers and love to all of you.


Teresa Amodio Lawrence - August 12, 2016 at 12:27 PM

RA

“ Dear Chris & family. I am saddened to hear about Bob's passing. He has been a great friend and neighbor to my parents. Since my Mom's death, my Dad has been thinking a lot about Bob. We can find comfort in knowing that Bob & my Mom are together in heaven. My deepest condolences.

Love, Becky (Simbari) Almstead

Rebecca Almstead - August 12, 2016 at 09:45 AM

 Chris
Tringali

“ Dear Chris and all of Bobby's family...I have known Bobby for almost 6 years, during my time as a member of the "funeral Staff" here at Eannace. Bobby will be missed by everyone...a big part of us has been taken away and we all mourn the loss of a brother, friend and co-worker.

My deepest condolences go out to all of the family. I am praying for you all, that you would feel the Lord's intimate healing presence as you mourn the loss of such a great guy.

*Love to you,
"Chris T."*

Chris Tringali - August 12, 2016 at 09:35 AM

MA

“ Chris, & Family words can't express how deeply sorry we are for your loss. Bobby was a great guy always smiling and happy. He will be gratefully missed. With our deepest Sympathy, Maryrose & Jimmy Schubert's & Roz Mazza

Maryrose, Schiavetta - August 12, 2016 at 05:55 AM

JC

“ With a heavy heart I say to all of you how deeply sorry I am for your loss of this precious Gentle Man. Bobby always showed love and support to me. Always A smile on his face and arms out yelling to me "Pebbles"! Where have you been my Pebbles?! I will miss You Bobby. RIP. Love Pebbles. AKA. Joanne Courto

Joanne Courto - August 11, 2016 at 09:57 PM