



## Mr. Robert William "Bob" Cimbalo

February 19, 1935 - September 10, 2025

UTICA – Robert William “Bob” Cimbalo was born in Utica, NY on February 19, 1935, to Santo and Rose (Gigliardi) Cimbalo.

Bob’s father was an ironworker, and Bob took up the trade when he graduated from T.R. Proctor High School, Class of 1954. Between 1955-57, Bob served in the US Army during the Korean War in the 73rd Tank Division as a Sergeant, First Class.

Bob began his studies at the Mohawk Valley Technical School (now Mohawk Valley Community College) and his art training at Pratt University, graduating with Bachelor of Fine Arts in Graphic Arts and Illustration in 1964. He was initially interested in sculpture, working in bronze and marble.

Bob married fellow artist Mary Krulinski in 1971 and together they raised daughter Ona and son Santo. Bob treasured and was very supportive of his family, letting everyone choose their own paths without expectations of traditional roles. He had great pride in his children both in their accomplishments and as parents. He was delighted with all his grandchildren, lighting up in their presence.

In 1964-65 he studied art and art history in Rome, Italy. While creating his own lithographs, he worked with one of the oldest printmaking families in Italy at

the Roberto Bulla print shop, and with artist and writer Giorgio de Chirico.

Bob returned to Utica and taught art in the Roscoe Conkling School from 1965-67 while pursuing his Master of Fine Arts in Printmaking at Syracuse University. He graduated in 1968. Beginning in the mid-1960s, Bob was producing prints using techniques of woodcut, intaglio, silkscreen and lithography, continuing through the 1970s.

In 1968, Bob was hired as an Instructor of Graphic Art at the Munson-Williams-Proctor School of Art (now the Munson). He developed the new Graphic Arts Center that opened in 1971, which included community and artist workspaces for woodcut and linocut, silkscreen, etching, dry point, engraving and lithography. Serving children, high school students, and adults, the center was considered the best equipped graphic arts center in Central New York. He continued in this position until 1979, when he was hired at Utica College (now Utica University).

In 1971 Bob also began his first collaboration with Utica College professor of English Dr. Eugene Nassar for the limited-edition book *East Utica* (Munson-Williams-Proctor Institute, 1971). Printed by the Widtman Press, the book contained a prose poem by Nassar and five woodcuts by Bob, expressing memories of their Lebanese- and Italian-American experiences.

Bob was a professor of Theater and Fine Arts in the Humanities Division. He became the Coordinator and Director of Fine Arts in 1985. In 1989, he founded the Utica College Television Station. He founded the Black Students Theater in 1990 at Utica College. He retired from teaching in 2000. Over his career, he also taught at the Kirkland Art Center in Clinton, NY, Mohawk Valley Community College, Pratt Institute, and Hamilton College. Throughout his 35-year career as an educator, Bob impacted and encouraged hundreds of students in the arts and humanities.

In 1983-84, Bob created his masterful series of thirty-four drawings illustrating the cantos of Dante's *Inferno*, rendered using black ink and crayon-wash. They were the result of a long research collaboration with Dr. Nassar, who also engaged Bob as a consultant to choose works for Nassar's anthology *Illustrations of Dante's Inferno*. Bob's drawings were shown widely, including a 1985 tour to ten arts centers, universities and museums in New York State, and in 2019 at Utica's own Other Side Gallery. The series is in the collection of the Cornell University Library, through the diligent efforts of Dr. Frank Bergmann of Utica University.

Dr. Nassar also edited *The Graphic Art of Robert Cimbalò* (Utica College 2010). Bob also collaborated with many Italian-American authors, contributing illustrations to numerous books and publications. He was also a frequent contributor to the Chicago-based magazine *Fra Noi*.

Continuing from the late 1970s, Bob was working variously in watercolor, oils, pencil, pastel and pen and ink. The "Kitchen Table Series" was one focus during this period, which he described as "the residue of life as seen chronologically on a family's kitchen table." He became known for depicting his own family life and Italian-American daily rituals and seasonal activities in paintings such as *Corner Store*, *Pizza Frita Makers*, *Sausages in Oil*, and *Winter Fig Tree*, and woodcuts and drawings of coffee roasters, espresso and spaghetti pots, and foodstuffs like pasta, beans and sausage. He also produced many landscapes, enjoying summer painting en plein air.

Bob exhibited throughout New York State as well as New York City and Italy, and is the recipient of numerous prizes including the Calvatone Accademia d'Italia (1981) and the Premio d'Italia (1987). In addition to Cornell University, his work is in the collections of the Library of Congress, Pratt Institute, the

State University of NY at Cortland, the Munson and in many private collections.

Bob is listed in the Who's Who of American Art, Who's Who of America, the International Who's Who of Contemporary Achievement, Who's Who in Art International, and American Artists of Renown.

Bob was a lifelong parishioner of St. Mary of Mount Carmel/Blessed Sacrament Church where he was a eucharistic minister. As a dedicated member of the church community, he stepped up to church maintenance and the restoration of statuary.

Bob was always on the side of the underdog and offered his help to strangers and friends alike. He was known for treating people of all ethnic and racial backgrounds fairly and with respect, supporting their goals. He generously used his God-given talent as an artist for projects large or small, working pro bono.

He had a deep love for his hometown of Utica, giving his time to organizations such as the Neighborhood Center, the Utica Citizens Finance Committee, and the Boy Scouts. Bob was a founding member of the Proctor Boys Club, a group of graduates of Proctor High School who raise funds for an annual Proctor Boys Club Scholarship.

Bob was patriotic and always participated in Veteran's Day's commemorations. For the 60th anniversary of the World War II invasion of Normandy he painted 1944: Heroes of Normandy and reproduced it as a poster to raise funds for the Utica Red Cross. He was similarly moved after the attacks of September 11, 2001, and with donations from friends, created a memorial poster that sold for \$9.11 to benefit the same Red Cross chapter.

Bob was predeceased by his parents, his brothers Joseph and Gaetano, and his sister Arlene. He is survived by Mary; Ona and Zack Viola; Santo and Brooke (Gates) Cimbalo; grandchildren Santino, Natalia, Santo Jr., Sofia, and Samie, and nieces and nephews, among them special nephew Robert Lalli. He leaves numerous friends, many of whom were lifelong.

The family wishes to extend their gratitude to Many Hearts Senior Day Care Program at RCIL for their care, compassion, and support to not only Bob, but his wife, Mary, and the family; and to the VA for helping Bob receive his rightly deserved benefits.

Visitation will be held on Sunday, September 21, 2025, from 2:00-4:00 p.m., at the Eannace Funeral Home, Inc., 932 South St., corner of Hammond Ave. In lieu of floral offerings, memorial contributions in Robert's honor may be made to Hospice and Palliative Care, Inc., online at <https://hospicecareinc.org/donate-online/>, the Abraham House online at <https://www.theabrahamhouse.org/ways-to-support/donate/>, or Feed Our Vets online at <https://give.donationpay.org/feedourvets/donations/>; envelopes will also be available at the funeral home. Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend Robert's Mass of Christian Burial and Celebration of Life, which will commence on Monday, September 22, 2025, at 10:00 a.m., at St. Mary of Mt. Carmel/Blessed Sacrament Parish, 648 Jay St. Military Honors will be conferred by the U.S. Army. Interment will take place in Calvary Cemetery.

This tribute to Bob's life was lovingly written by his family.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

SEP **21.** 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Eannace Funeral Home, Inc.  
932 South Street  
corner of Hammond Ave.  
Utica, NY 13501  
(315) 724-6714  
eannacefh@roadrunner.com

## Funeral Service

SEP **22.** 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Mary of Mt. Carmel/Blessed Sacrament Parish  
648 Jay Street  
Utica, NY 13501  
(315) 735-1482  
<https://www.mountcarmelblessedsacrament.com/>

# Tribute Wall

AE

“Cimbalo family, I just found out about the passing of "Professor Cimbalo" today, upstairs in the Mt. Carmel choir loft, and it broke my heart. I am so, sorry for your loss. I had the privilege of being his student when Utica College was still collaborating with Munson and I'm sure I was one of his last students. I enjoyed reading his life story through your beautifully written obituary. I always remember him as quiet and humble as well as encouraging. I learned so much about art from him. Even later in life when I would see him at church he would always say to call him Bob but he's always Professor to me. He would roll his eyes a little when I'd say it but I think he understood my respect. I'm sorry he was suffering all this time but I know he's painting the sunsets right now, wearing his signature ascot. Thinking of you all. Amy (Perritano) Eddy

---

**Amy Eddy** - October 19, 2025 at 08:33 AM

CB

“Mr. Cimbalo taught me more about how fine art is created than anyone in my 70 years. Beyond the technics of fine art printing, Mr.Cimbalo infused the history of fine art, Italy and Utica into each step of fine art print making. He was a treasure chest of talent and knowledge and greatly influenced my life. I am forever grateful for all he shared with me and all his students. Thank you Mr. Cimbalo, may you rest in peace in a glorious heaven.

---

**Cheryl Baker** - October 16, 2025 at 09:28 PM

HV

“Mary, my condolences to you and family. I remember Bob driving his yellow convertible around Conkling school. All the kids would point him out because he had a sports car like no others. May the Lord fill your void with His peace.

---

**Hank Visalli** - October 13, 2025 at 11:40 AM

NP

“ CIMBALO FAMILY,  
I AM SO SO SORRY FOR YOUR LOSS OF BOB, HE WAS  
ALWAYS A GENTLEMAN AND A GREAT CONVERSATIONALIST ,  
MAY HE REST IN PEACE, GOING TO MISS HIM AT THE  
PROCTOR BOYS LUNCHEON.

---

**Nick Parrotta** - September 22, 2025 at 10:48 AM

SB

“ Ona so sorry for your loss, may he rest in peace.

---

**Sal Barbero** - September 17, 2025 at 05:45 AM

FB

“ I first met Bob in 1971 at the presentation of Gene Nassar's *EAST UTICA*, for which Bob created original woodcuts. Later, Bob became a valued colleague at Utica College. His monumental series of illustrations to Dante's *INFERNO* has found its proper place in the unparalleled Dante Collection of the Cornell University Library. I feel fortunate in having several of Bob's paintings and drawings and having him contribute artwork to my little book *THE INEVITABLE IMMIGRANT*.

*My respects and condolences to Mary and the family, Frank Bergmann*

---

**Frank Bergmann** - September 16, 2025 at 08:48 PM

NC

“ I was five years old when I met Mr. Cimballo. However, I always called him Bob. He laughed and never corrected me. I grew up in his Kitchen where I ate my cereal and drank the milk from the bowl before school. My parents both worked early and therefore, I was dropped off to Bob and Mary in the morning before school. I was treated like family. I loved playing in his art room and especially loved the piñatas he made for Ona’s birthday parties. I will always remember Bob with his bandana and walking his dog so proudly. I will treasure the print that sits in my kitchen of an Italian coffee pot. His art is precious to me. Love and blessings to Mary, Ona, Santo and family.

---

**Nicole Chiffy** - September 16, 2025 at 07:43 PM

LD

“ RIP Dear Bob - you were a great friend. I enjoyed your art-work and exhibits; our weekly meetings at the "Proctor Boys" gatherings; and seeing you following mass every Sunday morning at Mt. Carmel Church with your beautiful wife. Lou D'Amore

---

**Louis D'Amore** - September 16, 2025 at 05:18 PM



“ My condolences to all of Bob's family and friends. He certainly was a great contributor to our community, in his career and his volunteer involvements. He will be greatly missed.

---

**Ralph Eannace** - September 16, 2025 at 11:10 AM

JC

“ Great memories of Mr. Cimballo in Art class. Not sure if it was Conkling school or Proctor High. It was great to reconnect recently at Uncle George's Famous Tripe Party. Sincere condolences, Joe Carzo

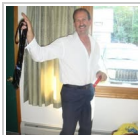
---

**Joe Carzo** - September 16, 2025 at 08:36 AM

FM

“ *R.I.P. Mr Cimbalò Thank you for your time at Conkling School. You were are best friend at a time when we needed you to teach us to respect one another.*

-----  
**Fred Mazza** - September 16, 2025 at 07:38 AM



“ *We will miss you Bob. R.I.P Therese & John Vella*

-----  
**John N. Vella** - September 15, 2025 at 08:35 PM

TF

“ *Please accept our sincere condolences on Bob's passing. Peace & prayers.*



-----  
**Tim & Colleen Moylan Family** - September 15, 2025 at 07:13 PM

CC

“ *Ona, our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. What a wonderful tribute. Rip sir. God bless.*  
*Frank and Christine Campese*

-----  
**Christine Campese** - September 15, 2025 at 06:31 PM

JF

“ *A wonderful tribute to a neighbor who embraced life to its fullest. My deepest sympathy to the Cimbalò Family, at this extremely difficult time.*  
*Sincerely,*  
*Joe Fletcher*

-----  
**Joseph Fletcher** - September 15, 2025 at 05:32 PM

DK

*Dear Cimbalò Family,  
May we offer our deepest condolences, sympathy and heartfelt prayers  
to all of you for  
your loss of +Bob. I knew +Bob from a distance for many years.  
However I was happy to befriend him at Monthly Meetings of the  
Proctor Boys.  
+Bob is a true gentleman, kind,  
sincere, soft spoken and extremely intelligent.  
May His Memory Be Eternal  
Deacon Dan and Cindy Klockowski and Family*

---

**Deacon Dan Klockowski** - September 20, 2025 at 10:22 AM