



Rosario "Russ" Dalia

July 7, 1941 - May 22, 2026

UTICA – Mr. Rosario “Russ” Dalia, age 84, passed away on Friday, May 22, 2026.

Born in Utica on July 7, 1941, Rosario was the son of the late George J. and Antoinette R. (Sanganetti) Dalia. He was a graduate of T. R. Proctor High School, Class of 1959. He furthered his education at Utica College of Syracuse University, earning a Bachelor’s degree in Biology and Mathematics. He later earned his Master’s degree in Geology/Science Education from Syracuse University, along with advanced study certificates in education from SUNY Cortland and The College of Saint Rose.

On July 8, 1967, he wed the former Phyllis M. Lasowski, and the couple shared many wonderful years together, filled with special events and beautiful memories.

Russ went on to make his mark in the field of education, serving as an earth science teacher in the Herkimer School District, as well as an adjunct instructor at SUNY New Paltz and SUNY Oneonta. He later became Superintendent of Schools for the Frankfort-Schuyler School District, Education Supervisor for the Mohawk Valley Psychiatric Center, a respected curriculum writer, Chairman of the Committee on Special Education for the New York Mills Union Free School District, and Coordinator of the SUNY New

Paltz/Utica Project. Russ also positively impacted the lives of countless students as a beloved football, swim, and tennis coach.

Russ had a kind heart and always thought of others before himself. A faithful Catholic, he was an active parishioner of Mary, Mother of Our Savior Parish, Lourdes Campus, where he served as a lector. He dedicated himself to his community in countless ways, including serving as president of the Board of Education, through a mayoral appointment to the City of Utica Youth Advisory Board, and with several other organizations focused on helping young people throughout the area. Russ was also a lifelong and devoted fan of the New York Giants. In his later years, he developed a love for golf and always had the drive to get out on the course and play, right up until his illness prevented him from doing so.

Russ is survived by his wife, Phyllis. He cherished in his heart the memories of his daughter, Christina "Tina", and son, Russell "Rusty" who preceded him in death. His loss is also felt by his many wonderful friends, especially Dominick Rasi, Paul Williams, Keith Heinrich, Patty Vacca, and Steve Bulger, and the beloved members of the national tennis team. He was preceded by his father-in-law and mother-in-law, Stanley and Gladys (Wadas) Lasowski.

Visitation will be held on Tuesday, June 2, 2026, from 4:00-6:00 p.m. at the Eannace Funeral Home, Inc., 932 South St., corner of Hammond Ave.

Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to his Mass of Christian Burial and Celebration of Life, which will commence at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, June 3, 2026, at Mary, Mother of Our Savior, Lourdes Campus, 2222 Genesee St., Utica. Interment will take place in Calvary Cemetery

Cemetery Details

Calvary Cemetery

2407 Oneida Street
Utica, NY

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 2. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Eannace Funeral Home, Inc.
932 South Street
corner of Hammond Ave.
Utica, NY 13501
(315) 724-6714
eannacefh@roadrunner.com
<https://www.eannacefuneralhome.com>

Mass of Christian Burial and Celebration of Life

JUN 3. 11:00 AM (ET)

Mary, Mother of Our Savior Church (Lourdes Campus)
2222 Genesee Street
Utica, NY

Tribute Wall

JD

“ Russ and I were fraternity brothers at Utica College in the late fifties and early sixties. We remained friends along with Mike Caleo from college until now. Russ was a true friend and someone special. When I visited NY, Russ, Mike and I would go to lunch or breakfast whenever we could. As we aged our ailments took up many of our discussions, comparing them like a competition. I miss him terribly, but he is now at peace. Good bye, Brother!!

Jack Demma - June 05 at 01:50 PM

LS

“ My thoughts and prayers to the Dalia Family for your loss. It was/is an honor to be part of his times at Proctor and his life experiences. When I met with Russ, it was always a special time to see his smile and energy. His career and journey thru life leave us ALL with memorable moments. His legacy will remain with our memories. GOD BLESS 🙏

Louis Steppello - June 02 at 02:41 PM

DG

“ So sorry to hear about Coach Dalia. He was my favorite swim coach. Years later, I contacted him and told him my son was going to swim against New Hartford. He showed up at the meet. I'll never forget the line he gave me. I said, "Coach, after all these years, you still look the same" He told me, "That's the good thing about looking old when you're young, you don't age" Loved that guy. My condolences to the Dalia Family. RIP Coach



DAVID GARDNER - June 02 at 01:44 PM

DG

“ David G. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Rosario "Russ" Dalia.

David G. - June 02 at 01:42 PM

AS

“ My condolences go out to the Dalia family. Russ and I go back to our childhoods in East Utica and followed similar paths of teaching and coaching and always had a lot to talk about when we got together over a good cup of coffee. Just an outstanding personality and will be missed by many. Rest in Peace my good friend. Butch Sisti

Anthony Sisti - June 02 at 08:17 AM



“ I had his earth science class after swimming, so i was late those days. He told me i was going to be late for my own funeral. He was honestly just the best teacher and a kind person. Class of 70....Jane Goebel

Jane Goebel - May 30 at 03:20 PM

DS

“ Dario S. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Rosario "Russ" Dalia.

Dario S. - May 30 at 10:29 AM

DS

“ I had the pleasure of knowing Russ as a colleague, occasional tennis partner, and friend. Russ was great company, always friendly and easy going. He cared deeply about his students and community. Russ was an exceptional individual who will be sorely missed. May he rest in eternal peace.

Dario Stucchi - May 30 at 10:13 AM

BC

“ I coached football and taught with Russ at Herkimer High School. As a young teacher and coach Russ took me under his wing and helped me through my earliest years as an educator and coach. The wisdom, knowledge, guidance and experience which he shared with me were an enormous benefit to my early development as a teacher and coach. Most importantly was the friendship that developed which I cherish to this day.

Brett L Collins - May 29 at 11:34 PM

AM

So amazing.. know you miss him rip

Amy - May 30 at 06:00 AM

MK

“ Unfortunately I never had Mr. Dalia for a teacher but he was one of my freshman football coaches. Great guy that was a favorite of all students. Rest in peace Mr. Dalia.

Mark Knoblauch - May 29 at 11:15 PM

MA

“ My favorite teacher ..1977 Earth Science Herkimer HS ! he was the best of the best Absolutely adored him. Sending deepest condolences to his entire family so sad❤️🙏🏻

Michelle Annese - May 29 at 09:03 PM

AL

“ Sorry to hear of Mr. Dalia's passing. I had him for Earth Science at HHS and so enjoyed his class. He was a nice teacher.

Aileen (Abel) Lukomski - May 29 at 07:39 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Rosario "Russ" Dalia.



May 29 at 07:30 PM

RB

“ Dear Phyllis ,
I remember you and Russ fondly from Ridge Road. Also Jones School where you taught at one time and always enjoyed seeing Russ when he came to visit his dear friend Dick Rasi . You were such wonderful neighbors and amazing people. Russ was loved and will be forever missed by so many. May he Rest In Peace. All my love , Rosemary Brown (Formerly Ajaeb)



Rosemary Brown - May 29 at 06:58 PM

DM

“ A great man
One of the best
Sending prayers to his family



Denise Wiliczka Mabbett - May 29 at 06:48 PM

TB

“ God Bless Mr. Dalia..Earth science teacher ..great human being.

Tim Blask - May 29 at 06:34 PM

JL

“ I am so sorry to hear of Me Dalia's passing. He was one of the most beloved teachers in Herkimer High School. I have so many fond memories of him as a teacher. He was always the "fun" teacher. May he rest in peace as he is reunited with his beloved children.

Jonna & Ray LaMarco - May 29 at 05:16 PM

KH

“ One of my favorites at HHS. A fun teacher who enjoyed his students. Rest in peace Mr. D - aka Pops.

Ken Long HHS-74 - May 29 at 04:29 PM



“ Magnificent Life Spray was purchased for the family of Rosario "Russ" Dalia.



May 29 at 01:58 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Rosario "Russ" Dalia.

May 29 at 01:58 PM



“ Many fond tennis memories and after hour drinks and conversation. You've left your mark my friend. Mike

Michael Tomaselli - May 29 at 10:55 AM