



Rufino J. "Fino" Cardillo

October 14, 1926 - April 19, 2008

Mr. Rufino J. "Fino" Cardillo, age 81, of Utica, passed away unexpectedly in the comfort of his home on Saturday, April 19, 2008.

Born in Utica on October 14, 1926, Fino was the son of the late Giuseppe "Joseph" and Judith "Julia" (Carlucci) Cardillo. He was raised and educated locally. A very proud veteran of World War II, Fino enlisted in the U. S. Army in 1945 while attending T.R. Proctor High School. He served his country until 1947 in the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations as a member of the 11th Airborne Division, a parachute and glider infantry nicknamed "The Angels". This division was involved in some of the most difficult missions of the war, and Fino earned several medals for his performance during his military service. In 2001 he was proud to receive an honorary high school diploma. On June 2, 1951 he married the former Beverly Giffune whom he referred to as "my bride" and "my darling", and as best friends, they spent 56 years mutually devoted to each other.

As a successful businessman, Fino, joined his brothers in 1947 at Lansing Body Works, and in 1953 they expanded to Lansing Auto Parts located on Broad St. With his spirited and fun-loving outlook on life balanced by a humble and easy-going personality, Fino enjoyed every day to its fullest. He valued his Italian heritage and traditions, but above all else, his priority was on his family and along with Beverly raising their 5 wonderful children. Till the end, Fino cherished and held dear his 3 passions: his family, his beloved cottage by the lake, and his fig trees. He was dedicated in his civic affiliation as past

commander of the Disabled American Veterans Leo B. Wheeler Stars & Stripes Chapter #82, where he served 7 years as chaplain, and volunteered countless hours helping his fellow veterans.

Fino is survived by his wife, Beverly; his daughters Rochelle A. Cardillo of Marcy, Gina M. Cardillo of Utica, Marisa A. Cardillo and Fiancee Matthew Brooks of Rochester; his sons and daughter-in-law, Joseph P. Cardillo of Utica, and Victor F. and Donna Cardillo of Westmoreland; he also leaves behind his special daughter and son, Mary T. Allanson and Timothy Wissenbach; and his grandchildren, the pride of his legacy, Victoria Lynn Cardillo, and Patrick John Cardillo, both of Westmoreland. Survivors also include his sisters and brother-in-law, Mary E. Utter, and Carmellina and Ernest Mear, all of Utica; his brother, Victor J. Cardillo and Joyce Howell of Vernon; many nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews; several cousins, with special mention of his nephews Michael Cardillo and Arthur Cardillo; and his niece Judy Mear Candella; his brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Kenneth and Mary Giffune, and his sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Rosemary and Allen Gilberti, all of Whitesboro; and his sister-in-law, Florence Cardillo of Utica. He also leaves his friend, Anthony "Amps" Dianna. He was predeceased by his brother, Pasquale "Pat" Cardillo; his niece Gayle (Cardillo) Wilcox; and his hunting and fishing buddies, Hank Panaro, John Spaziani, Guy Simbari, and Steve "Harp" DiRico.

The family extends appreciation to Dr. Fred Talarico and Patricia Rosati and staff for their continued care; to the EMT's who responded to Fino at his time of need; and a heartfelt thank-you to Fino's many neighbors in Utica and at Verona Beach for their longtime friendship, love, and support.

Visitation will be held Wednesday (tomorrow) from 4:00-7:00 at the Eannace Funeral Home, Inc., 932 South St., corner of Hammond Ave. For those wishing to do so, please consider memorial contributions in Fino's honor to the American Heart Association or to the D.A.V. Chapter #82; envelopes will be available at the funeral home. Fino's Memorial Service with Military Honors and Celebration of Life will commence on Thursday morning at 11:00 at the

funeral home with Rev. Anthony P. LaFache officiating.
Dad, thanks for being "One-in-a-Million"

Tribute Wall



“ Dear Joe, Vic, Shelly, Gina and Marisa, It is with great sadness and heavy hearts that we say our final farewells to your Dad today. As one of " our special fathers of the Lake ", summertime adventures in the neighborhood were many, thanks to his hand in the construction of the neighborhood treehouse, raft, and MASH size Army tent! In a world that is often in search of a hero, we need to look no further than Fino - a generous man, with a kind heart , who in the sharing of his great joy of life , helped to create summertime magic for us all who had the privilege of growing up with the Cardillos. You are in our thoughts and prayers today and always. Love, Mary Ann Wilcox
-McLellan and Family##imported-begin##Mary Ann
McLellan##imported-end##

April 24, 2008 at 01:47 PM



“ Donna, Victor, Victoria, Patrick and Cardillo Family - Sorry for your loss. Keeping you in my thoughts.
Kathy Costello##imported-begin##Kathy Costello##imported-end##

April 23, 2008 at 10:22 AM



“ Victor, Donna & family:
I am so very sorry for your loss.##imported-begin##Patti
Schimizzi##imported-end##

April 23, 2008 at 09:56 AM



“ I work with Rochelle and wanted to express my heartfelt sympathy to the Cardillo family. Thoughts and prayers go out to you as you mourn the loss and celebrate the life this man who obviously touched many hearts and lives in his time on earth. Blessings, Brenda Bannon##imported-begin##Brenda Bannon##imported-end##

April 23, 2008 at 09:01 AM



“ To the Cardillo Family: Thanks for being such wonderful neighbors and especially to 'Fino for all his help for those in need in our Hilton Ave neighborhood particularly, former veterans. Peace, prayers and remembrances.##imported-begin##Gerald Plante##imported-end##

April 22, 2008 at 05:15 PM



“ Marisa, our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family at this sad time. Love, Sarah and Karin##imported-begin##Sarah and Karin##imported-end##

April 22, 2008 at 02:46 PM



“ Dear Rochelle, Gina and family:

My heart goes out to you in this difficult time. I always smile when I think of your stories of the adventures of "Fino". May you take comfort in those memories and one another.

Sincerely,

Jim##imported-begin##Jim Klein##imported-end##

April 22, 2008 at 02:20 PM



“ Dear Joe,
My thoughts & prayers are with your entire family. I feel honored to have known your Dad (& husband, granddad). He is truly an awesome man & i will miss his visits. Sometimes people touch you in a special way. You, joe , & your Dad fit that bill. Enjoy the many happy memories as i am sure you have, with your family.
God Bless,
Bonnie###imported-begin##Bonnie Evans###imported-end##

April 22, 2008 at 02:10 PM



“ Vic, Donna, Victoria, Patrick our hearts go out to you in the loss of your Dad & Grampa.###imported-begin##Bruce & Linda Bouthillier###imported-end##

April 22, 2008 at 12:01 PM



“ Rochelle and Family -
I extend my heartfelt sympathy in your time of loss. May you have the blessings of love and light to assist you at this most difficult time.###imported-begin##Linda Perrine###imported-end##

April 22, 2008 at 08:18 AM



“ Shelly and family. We are so sorry to hear of the loss of your dad. Our memories of him brings smiles to our faces. He is truly one of a kind.
Michele and Brendan###imported-begin##Brendan and Michele Dunn###imported-end##

April 22, 2008 at 07:43 AM



“ Growing up in the Old Neighborhood, me and my family lived three houses down from the Cardillo family. I harbor many fond memories of the Cardillo family. Knowing many of the fine neighbors throughout the entire area around Proctor High School in delivering *The Daily Press*, helping with yard chores for a few of the older neighbors in my youth three decades ago, I recall Mr. Cardillo as one of the most pleasant and generous people I had the good fortune to know. Mrs. Cardillo always smiled and gave kind words. And with his love of country, and honorable service during World War II, Mr. Cardillo exemplifies all that is good about America's "Greatest Generation." God bless Mrs. Cardillo and her children during this time. Do not view his passing as a "loss," but as a gift that keeps on giving through each of you in your life's journey.##imported-begin##Girard A. Plante##imported-end##

April 21, 2008 at 09:04 PM



“ I have many fond memories of the stories Fino told of his hunting adventures with my dad during their younger days. Victor & I spent many hours at the Cardillo kitchen table listening to Fino's advice & anecdotes about life in general. The Cardillo family was a big part of my high school years & I wish them well during this difficult time.

Joe Carzo & family - Rochester, N.Y.##imported-begin##Joe Carzo##imported-end##

April 21, 2008 at 08:17 PM



“ Dear Shell, Gina & family,
I was shocked and saddened to hear of your dad's passing. I knew he hadn't been well and Shelly was giving me updates but it was still an unfortunate and surprising event. My heart goes out to your mom as they had been so so close over the years. We have you in our thoughts and prayers.
Love, Marie & Butch Viti###imported-begin##Marie Viti###imported-end##

April 21, 2008 at 07:49 PM



“ Marisa
You and your family are in my thoughts and prayers. I am so sorry for your loss.
jennifer and ron###imported-begin##jennifer profetta###imported-end##

April 21, 2008 at 03:01 PM



“ Dear Cardillo Family,
We are so sorry to hear about Fino. He was such a gentle man and I am sure you all have your own very special memories of him. Memories are the leagacy of love---may all of your happy memories help you thru this difficult time. Carol & Phil###imported-begin##Carol & Phil Scampone###imported-end##

April 21, 2008 at 02:35 PM



“ I work with Rochelle and want to express my sincere condolences for your family's loss. Judging by the wonderful person Rochelle is, I'm certain "dad" had something to do with that and was a special man. Sincere thoughts are sent your way - monica###imported-begin###Monica Wilson###imported-end##

April 21, 2008 at 12:50 PM



“ Rochelle and family, so sorry to hear about your Dad's passing. Val###imported-begin###Valerie Reagan###imported-end##

April 21, 2008 at 09:27 AM