



Samuel J. "Sam" Cannistra

February 8, 1942 - January 15, 2014

Mr. Samuel J. "Sam" Cannistra, age 71, passed away on Wednesday, January 15, 2014 at the St. Luke's Home with his loving family at his side.

Born in Utica on February 8, 1942, Samuel was the son of the late John V. and Rose (Fatata) Cannistra. He was a graduate of T.R. Proctor High School. On September 8, 1962 he married his high school sweetheart, the former Geraldine "Geri" Calogero, with whom he has shared 51 years.

Sam will be remembered by the many patrons he met throughout the years of his employment as a Chef at Nofri's Restaurant. He later worked at Tops Friendly Market, the position from which he retired. In his retirement years, he served as a Lunch Aide at General Herkimer Elementary School, a calling he cherished, as he loved children. A loving husband, father, grandfather, and brother, Sam's allegiance to his family endured all the days of his life. They were the most important part of his existence. He savored special gatherings with loved ones and united them through his harmony and vitality. During his leisure time, he enjoyed golfing, and he was a fan of Cleveland Browns football and Cleveland Indians baseball. He was a parishioner of St. Mary of Mt. Carmel/Blessed Sacrament Parish.

Sam is survived by his wife, Geri; his sons and daughters-in-law, Mark and Melissa Cannistra of Clinton, Todd and Kim Cannistra of Canastota, and Scott and Addie Cannistra of Oneida; and his grandchildren, Aaron, Lindsay, Damian, Gianna; Todd, Samantha; Kaiden, and Daniella. He also leaves his brother, Vincent J. Cannistra of N. Utica; many nieces, nephews, including

John Paul, Vincent, Edward, and Joseph; a great-niece, Alexis Rose; cousins, and many close friends. He was predeceased by his granddaughter, Kayla. The family extends gratitude to the doctors, nurses, and staff of the St. Luke's Home for the loving care and compassion offered to Sam during his stay. Visitation will be held Sunday from 2:00-5:00 at the Eannace Funeral Home, Inc., 932 South St., corner of Hammond Ave. Sam's funeral service and Celebration of Life will commence on Monday morning at 9:00 from the funeral home and at 10:00 at St. Mary of Mt. Carmel/Blessed Sacrament Parish where his Mass of Christian Burial will be offered by Rev. John Buehler. Interment will take place in St. Agnes Cemetery.

Cemetery Details

St. Agnes Cemetery

601 Arthur Street
Utica, NY 13501
(315) 732-8588

Tribute Wall

AD

“ *Alicia D'Ambrosio lit a candle in memory of Samuel J. "Sam" Cannistra*



Alicia D'Ambrosio - January 21, 2014 at 12:49 PM

AD

Sam will be missed at General Herkimer School by both staff and students. He was kind hearted and enjoyed visiting students during his illness. We will always remember him. My sympathies to the Cannistra Family.

Alicia D'Ambrosio - January 21, 2014 at 12:52 PM

PB

“ *Dear Gerri and family,
It has been awhile that we have seen you since our move to South Carolina, but we sincerely wanted to acknowledge our deepest sympathy to you. Sam was a such a pleasant and always friendly person. Pattie and Lou Barnaba, Myrtle Beach*

pattie & Lou Barnaba - January 20, 2014 at 04:31 PM

RT

“ Dear Geri,

Cathy & I are so very sorry to hear about Sam. I haven't seen him in a long while, but I fondly remember him from high school and Nofri's, and I have fond memories of John & Rose as well.

May you be comforted and consoled by your family and friends, and by your faith in the Lord's promise of glorious, eternal life for all who believe in Him.

Peace and blessings,

Ron Tocci

Ron and Cathy Tocci - January 20, 2014 at 11:34 AM

BV

“ Butch Viti lit a candle in memory of Samuel J.
"Sam" Cannistra



Butch Viti - January 20, 2014 at 11:27 AM

BV

Geri, Our deepest sympathy, very sorry for your loss.

Butch Viti - January 20, 2014 at 11:30 AM

AA

“ *Todd and Family*

We are saddened to hear of the passing of your father . Kelly and I are sorry we could not extend our sympathy in person as we had to take Matthew back to college Yesterday . Your father was a good hearted man and one that cared for children greatly . My experiences with him were always sports related and I saw the passion as well as compassion that he had for fairness and teaching the love of sport and teamwork . You should be proud of the man he was . It was an honor knowing him . God bless you at this difficult time and may he rest in peace. Anthony Amodio and Kelly Aylesworth

Anthony Amodio - January 20, 2014 at 10:05 AM



“ *Guardian Angel Sympathy Basket was purchased for the family of Samuel J. "Sam" Cannistra.*



January 20, 2014 at 08:21 AM

FD

“ *Dear Geri and Family,*

So sorry to read about your loss. Sam was a warm and gentle guy. Remembering all the wonderful class reunions we shared over the years, he will always be with us in years to come. Geri, sorry we cannot be with you during this time since we are away but I will be praying for Sam as he travels his journey and praying for you and the strength you will need during this time.

Always, Fred and Marilyn Demma

Fred and Marilyn Demma - January 19, 2014 at 07:01 PM

KS

“ *Kim Fulmer With General Herkimer Staff lit a candle in memory of Samuel J. "Sam" Cannistra*



Kim Fulmer with General Herkimer Staff - January 19, 2014 at 03:43 PM

DL

“ *David (Lee) Lia lit a candle in memory of Samuel J. "Sam" Cannistra*



David (Lee) Lia - January 19, 2014 at 11:21 AM

DL

Gerri: Sorry to hear about Sam. Always a very pleasant person. Classmate in gradel and high school through the years and then becomes a family member by marrying you. May he rest in peace and you and your family cherish his life and memories.

David (Lee) Lia - January 19, 2014 at 11:27 AM

RR

“ *2 files added to the album New Album Name*



rosann & benny rolchigo - January 19, 2014 at 09:43 AM

RR

“ Geri, boys and family,
Our thoughts and prayers are with all of you.
What can we say after 45 years of friendship,
we have truly lost a "best friend". Sambo will
always be in our memories, sometimes with a
smile on our face and other times with a tear in our eyes. As friends,
we have seen each other thru trials and tribulations and it has built a
bond no one can replace. Rest in peace Sammy, we love you and
will miss you, until we catch up with you and party all over again.
Rosann & Benny Rolchigo



rosann & benny rolchigo - January 19, 2014 at 09:31 AM

TF

“ The Dansby Family lit a candle in memory of
Samuel J. "Sam" Cannistra



The Dansby Family - January 18, 2014 at 11:43 PM

DF

Our thoughts and prayers are with you all as you celebrate the life of
your wonderful husband, father, and poppy. The Dansby's

Dansby family - January 18, 2014 at 11:46 PM

CO

“ Such a wonderful "Poppy" for our grandchildren , Kaiden & Daniella.
Tears are in our eyes but his love for our family will always be in our
heart.
Jim & Connie Black

connie - January 18, 2014 at 07:33 AM



“ *White Mixed Fireside Basket was purchased for the family of Samuel J. "Sam" Cannistra.*



January 17, 2014 at 03:41 PM



“ *Phil & Carol Scampone lit a candle in memory of Samuel J. "Sam" Cannistra*



Phil & Carol Scampone - January 17, 2014 at 12:45 PM



Dear Geri and Family, We are so sorry for your loss. Sam was truly a gentle man . When the Lord calls our loved ones home, he leaves a gift of memories in exchange which can never be erased. Hold onto those memories and let them guide you thru this difficult time. You are in our thoughts and prayers. Carol & Phibby

Phil - January 17, 2014 at 12:51 PM



“ *Dish Garden with Fresh Cut Flowers was purchased for the family of Samuel J. "Sam" Cannistra.*



January 17, 2014 at 09:50 AM

KP

“ *Karen Pulice lit a candle in memory of Samuel J. "Sam" Cannistra*



karen pulice - January 17, 2014 at 04:23 AM