



## **Lt. Sean Michael Dougherty, Ret. UPD**

July 4, 1979 - March 19, 2024

NEW HARTFORD – Lt. Sean Michael Dougherty, Ret. UPD, age 44, passed away unexpectedly on Tuesday, March 19, 2024, in the dignity of his home.

Born in Utica on July 4, 1979, Sean was the son of Duffy and Rose Mary (Palmisano) Dougherty. He was a graduate of Notre Dame High School and went on to earn his bachelor's degree from Siena College in 2001. Upon his return to Utica, he enrolled in and successfully completed the Utica Police Academy.

After being appointed to the Utica Police Department on October 8, 2001, Sean served in many capacities within the department. He began in the patrol division as an officer and was eventually promoted to Sergeant, and then Lieutenant. He was also assigned to the Professional Standards Unit where his steadfast work ensured that policies, procedures, and laws were adhered to maintain the professionalism that is expected of the agency. Sean was dedicated to that role, and many of the current practices in place are because of the duties he performed. Most recently, prior to his retirement, he was tasked as the Director of the Mohawk Valley Crime Analysis Center. The center is integral in the daily operations of not only the UPD, but of three other local counties. He oversaw the center's daily operations and ensured that any agency request was handled with speed and accuracy. He was a leader to the sworn staff, as well as the civilian employees within the center. Sean retired

from the department in October of 2021 after 20 dedicated years of protecting and serving his community. After his retirement from the UPD, Sean continued his work at Colgate University as Assistant Director and Lead Investigator for the Department of Campus Safety, a position he was well suited for.

Sean was equally committed to his friends and family. His affable, low-key nature endeared him to everyone. He was always willing to assist with a smile and a laugh. Through and through, Sean was gentle, kind, thoughtful, and helpful to anyone who needed it. He was ever and always a gentleman, and later a hero. Sean was intelligent, hardworking, meticulous in his appearance, and appreciated the quality of the finer things in life. Once he took a liking to an interest, Sean took the initiative to educate himself all about it.

Sean was a natural athlete and excelled at football, in hockey as a goal tender, and in baseball, which he played Division 1 in college, and helped his team win the MAAC championship. He credited his father for his sporting and policing abilities. Sean was a staunch Buffalo Bills fan. He was also an avid reader, especially history tomes with a special interest in WWII due to the close bond he shared with his grandfather who served. Aside from all his personal and professional accomplishments, Sean was most proud of being a father.

Sean is survived by his loving parents, Duffy and Rose Mary Dougherty; his cherished daughter, Alexa; his sister and brother-in-law, Jennifer and Paul Reittinger and their daughter, Sophie Rebecca, whom Sean adored. His loss is also felt by his aunts and uncles, Cynthia and the late Jeff Cohen, Chuck and Palma Dougherty, Cheryl Ewing, Chet and Debbie Dougherty, David Simbari and his children, Stephanie, and Stephen, Ann and Tom Wolanski and their children Sara, Leah, and Michelle, Jeff Almstead and his late wife Rebecca, Cindy Morgan and her late husband Dave, Richard and Maria Salamida, Mark Salamida, and Roger Perta; godmother, Ann Marie Corleto,

her husband Dan, and their children, Dan, Jr., Mia, and Michael; his cousins, Terry, Judi, Jesse, Nina, Erin; Meghan, Chuck, Jr.; Matthew, and Kimberly; his niece and four nephews of the Vella family who affectionately called him "Uncle Pooh." Throughout his life, Sean made many valuable friendships, with special mention of Rainer Kohlbrenner, who was like a brother to him. He was predeceased by his maternal grandparents, John A. and Rita E. (Salamida) Palmisano; and his paternal grandparents, Chester A. and Joan (Potocki) Dougherty.

The family will honor and commemorate his life at a private time. Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend Sean's Mass of Christian Burial and Celebration of Life, which will commence on Wednesday, March 27, 2024 at 3:00 p.m. at Mary, Mother of Our Savior Parish, Lourdes Campus, 2222 Genesee St. Members of the Utica Police Department will be present to honor their fellow officer. Memorial contributions in Sean's honor may be made to a trust fund the family is establishing for his daughter Alexa's future education; envelopes will be available at the service. Interment will take place in Calvary Cemetery at the convenience of the family.

# Cemetery Details

## Calvary Cemetery

2407 Oneida Street  
Utica, NY 13501  
(315) 735-2727

# Previous Events

## Funeral Service

MAR 27. 3:00 PM (ET)

Mary, Mother of Our Savior Parish, Lourdes Campus  
2222 Genesee St.  
Utica, NY 13502  
<https://www.motherofoursavior.org/CatholicChurch.php>

# Tribute Wall

PG

“*Roe & Duffy, Recently found out about the loss of your son Sean. I know that you & Duffy have been devoted parents to your children. I can't imagine your grief. Please know that you & your family will be in our prayers. May GOD provide you and yours with HIS GRACE and healing power going forward.*

*We are still in Florida and wanted to express our condolences before our paths cross again. Phil & Joanne Geraci*

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**Philip Geraci** - May 04, 2024 at 01:21 PM

AM

“*Amyinvb lit a candle in memory of Lt. Sean Michael Dougherty, Ret. UPD*



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**amyinvb** - April 02, 2024 at 08:09 AM

AM

*Amy Tutino Piatak Utica generations. Cny fl*

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**amyinvb** - April 02, 2024 at 08:10 AM

KC

“*Rosemary and Duffy, so very sorry for your loss. Sean was a great guy and a gentleman. He will surely be missed.*

*Karen and Rich Cieplenski*

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**Karen Cieplenski** - March 28, 2024 at 05:44 PM

JO

“ Rosemary and Duffy I'm so sorry for your loss. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.



JoAnn - March 27, 2024 at 09:21 PM

KE

“ Jen, Rosemary Duffy and family we are so sorry for your loss. I'll always remember Sean as the cool and fun big brother growing up at your house! Our prayers are with you all during this time. Love Kendra Klein and family

kendra - March 27, 2024 at 12:44 PM

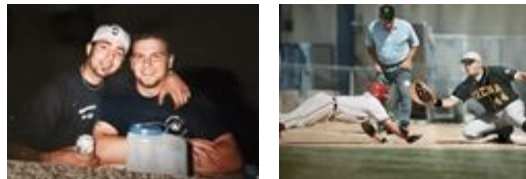
BM

Rosemary and Duffy and Jen. So sorry for ur loss. I'll always remember Sean growing up with my children. He will be missed. Prayers for you and family. Love, Bonnie Miner and children.

Bonnie Miner - April 01, 2024 at 08:44 AM



“ 2 files added to the album Life Tributes



Eannace Funeral Home, Inc. - March 27, 2024 at 09:54 AM

RH

“*Rose Mary, Duff and family,  
So very sorry for the loss of Sean. May the  
wonderful memories give you comfort.*”



**Rosanne Karam Hebert** - March 27, 2024 at 07:30 AM

JG

“*Jody Guarnieri lit a candle in memory of Lt.  
Sean Michael Dougherty, Ret. UPD*”



**Jody Guarnieri** - March 26, 2024 at 06:49 PM

JD

“*Rosemary, Duffy, Jennifer and family we are very. Sorry in the loss  
of Sean .Our thoughts and prayers are with you all, may his  
memories live on.  
Frank and Jean DiBrango*”

**Jean DiBrango** - March 26, 2024 at 06:39 PM

JC

“*Jeff & Colleen purchased the Enchanted Cottage  
for the family of Lt. Sean Michael Dougherty, Ret.  
UPD.*”



**Jeff & Colleen** - March 26, 2024 at 05:50 PM

LF

“ *Lynette Franco lit a candle in memory of Lt. Sean Michael Dougherty, Ret. UPD*



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**Lynette Franco** - March 26, 2024 at 03:44 PM

DA

“ *Sean you always had a smile on your face. You will be missed by all who knew you. Please always watch over Alexa and guide her*  
*Dana and Zeek*



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**dana** - March 26, 2024 at 03:26 PM



“ *Sweet Liberty was purchased for the family of Lt. Sean Michael Dougherty, Ret. UPD.*



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March 26, 2024 at 12:44 PM

AN

“ *Rosemary, Duffy, Jennifer and family, We are so very sorry for the loss of Sean. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all during this very difficult time. May God give you the peace you need knowing Sean is in the arms of Jesus. May his memories live on in your hearts forever. Rest in peace, Sean.*  
*Cousin Ann and the Colucci family*

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**Ann** - March 26, 2024 at 11:16 AM

RO

“ Rose Cavo O'Toole lit a candle in memory of Lt. Sean Michael Dougherty, Ret. UPD



Rose Cavo O'Toole - March 26, 2024 at 10:48 AM



“ Blue Caribbean Bouquet was purchased for the family of Lt. Sean Michael Dougherty, Ret. UPD.



March 26, 2024 at 07:02 AM

LT

“ Roe and Duffy we are so sorry for your loss. May your son rest in peace. Love Joe & Lorraine T.

Lorraine & Joe Tartaglia - March 26, 2024 at 12:23 AM

MD

“ Roe and family: sending love and prayers to all of you during this difficult time. May Sean rest in peace and love with God.  
Mia DeBernardis

Mia Debernardis - March 25, 2024 at 10:56 PM

KK

“ Rosemary, Duffy and Jennifer, we are so sorry for your loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with you at this difficult time, Love Ken and Cindy Klein

Ken & Cindy Klein - March 25, 2024 at 09:20 PM

JZ

“ Sean was an amazing person to work with. He led with his heart and never had a mean word to say about anyone. His kind and compassionate manner made him a good friend and a great leader. He always made me feel like I mattered, just as he did with everyone he came in contact with Truly an awesome person. I am so very sorry for your loss.



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**Janice Zampa** - March 25, 2024 at 08:50 PM

DP

“ Roe, Duffy and Jenn, we're so sorry to hear about Sean, he was a sweet guy. We have great memories of such fun times traveling with the Rhythm Lites, it brings back the good ole days. May he rest in peace.... Dena and Pat Putrello



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**Deanna Putrello** - March 25, 2024 at 08:49 PM

TZ

“ Terry Zangrilli lit a candle in memory of Lt. Sean Michael Dougherty, Ret. UPD



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**Terry Zangrilli** - March 25, 2024 at 08:23 PM

KD

“ *Karrie DiNigro lit a candle in memory of Lt. Sean Michael Dougherty, Ret. UPD*



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**Karrie DiNigro** - March 25, 2024 at 08:01 PM

NW

“ *Sean was the best boss, and most kind human being. I enjoyed every second I got to work with him. We spent a lot of time together during my pregnancy, and I am so thankful. Sean will be deeply missed by so many, and I will miss his infectious smile and gracious personality! RIP LT!*

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**Nicole white** - March 25, 2024 at 06:45 PM

VF

“ *Sean will be sadly missed by all the Vellas; his niece Mia Vella, his nephews Christian, Colin, Carson & Marco Vella.*

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**Vella Family** - March 25, 2024 at 06:10 PM

CS

“ *Duffy and Rosemary, Jennifer and family , we are so deeply sorry for the tremendous loss of Sean. Our time together in hockey with our boys will always be in our hearts . Please know you are all in our thoughts and prayers. God bless you all with peace. May Sean rest in peace with our Heavenly Father  
Love Jerry and Charleen Sangiacomo*

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**Charleen Sangiacomo** - March 25, 2024 at 05:49 PM



“ *Blue Caribbean Bouquet was purchased for the family of Lt. Sean Michael Dougherty, Ret. UPD.*



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March 25, 2024 at 05:17 PM



“ *DEAR ROSMARY, DUFFY AND JENNIFER,  
WE ARE SO SO VERY SORRY FOR YOUR LOSS OF SEAN !!!!  
MY GOD WE HAVE KNOWN EACH OTHER FOR ALL THE THESE  
YEARS. DANNY AND SEAN ARE BEST FRIENDS. SEAN WAS  
SIMPLY AN ALL AROUND GOOD GUY !!! WE WILL MISS HIM  
DEARLY. OUR PRAYERS, CONDOLENCES, SYMPATHY ARE  
WITH YOU ALL !!!  
MAY HIS MEMORY BE ETERNAL !!!  
LOVE, Deacon Dan and Cindy Klockowski and Famil*

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**DEACON DANIEL A KLOCKOWSKI** - March 25, 2024 at 04:26 PM



*RO, DUFFY AND JENNIFER. Joanne and I are so sorry to learn of this. Sean was such a pleasant gentleman. Prayers and sympathy. Tom and Joanne Onisk*

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**Thomas Onisk** - March 25, 2024 at 09:20 PM



“ 113 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



**Eannace Funeral Home, Inc.** - March 25, 2024 at 04:18 PM

TS

“ *Terri Ae. Stewart purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Lt. Sean Michael Dougherty, Ret. UPD.*



**Terri Ae. Stewart** - March 25, 2024 at 03:59 PM

TF

“ *Our sincere condolences to the whole family with this tremendous loss. Sean became a part of our family and was a genuine person. He will be greatly missed.*

*The Weis family*

**The Weis Family** - March 25, 2024 at 03:30 PM

MA

“ *Roe and Duffy, I'm so very sorry for your loss. Sending you all thoughts and prayers.*

**Maria Aurigema** - March 25, 2024 at 01:55 PM

RB

“ Dear Rosemary, Duffy and family  
I am so very sorry for your tremendous loss. Please know that my deepest sympathy and my prayers are sent to all of you . Love to all Rosemary and Eddie Ajaeb .

Rosemary Ajaeb Brown - March 25, 2024 at 01:52 PM

DM

“ Duff and Rosemary - so sorry for the loss of Sean. He was an incredible person, police officer and co worker. He was such a pleasure to work with. Always a gentleman and always there for whatever was needed. A horrible and painful loss to everyone. All my prayers for you and the family.

Dave M

Dave Matrulli - March 25, 2024 at 01:02 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Lt. Sean Michael Dougherty, Ret. UPD.



March 25, 2024 at 12:54 PM

"D

“ "Little" Chuck Dougherty planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Lt. Sean Michael Dougherty, Ret. UPD.

"Little" Chuck Dougherty - March 25, 2024 at 12:54 PM

TA

“ Rosemary and Duffy so sorry for your loss. Deepest condolences in your loss.

Tammy - March 25, 2024 at 12:16 PM

NP

“ Duffy and family,  
I am sorry for your loss of Sean , he was a gentleman and great officer, prayers, may Sean Rest In Peace.  
Nick Parrotta  
Naples, Florida

Nick Parrotta - March 25, 2024 at 12:15 PM

FE

“ Frank + Leah Ewing purchased the Loving Lilies and Roses Bouquet for the family of Lt. Sean Michael Dougherty, Ret. UPD.



Frank + Leah Ewing - March 25, 2024 at 11:57 AM

BF

“ Duffy & family  
My sincere sympathy for your loss. May he be in peace in his new heavenly home. My God bless to all of you and the UPD.  
BOB Flo (Ret)

Bob Flo - March 25, 2024 at 11:49 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Lt. Sean Michael Dougherty, Ret. UPD.



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March 25, 2024 at 11:29 AM



“ From the Cohen/Gates/Brackett Crew planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Lt. Sean Michael Dougherty, Ret. UPD.

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**From the Cohen/Gates/Brackett Crew** - March 25, 2024 at 11:29 AM



“ Enduring Grace was purchased for the family of Lt. Sean Michael Dougherty, Ret. UPD.



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March 25, 2024 at 11:12 AM



“ Working with Sean always made the day a little better. In a place with such strong personalities, he provided a feeling of comfort and kindness. He is very special and will dearly missed.

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**John and Nicole Abel** - March 25, 2024 at 10:45 AM

JA

“ *John and Nicole Abel purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Lt. Sean Michael Dougherty, Ret. UPD.*



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**John and Nicole Abel** - March 25, 2024 at 10:38 AM

JA

“ *John and Nicole Abel planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Lt. Sean Michael Dougherty, Ret. UPD.*

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**John and Nicole Abel** - March 25, 2024 at 10:38 AM