



Stephen J. Zizzi

July 18, 1920 - November 17, 2009

Mr. Stephen J. Zizzi, age 89, of Utica, passed away on Tuesday, November 17, 2009 in the comfort and privacy of his home.

Born in Utica on July 18, 1920, Stephen was the son of the late Stephen and Antoinette (Semeraro) Zizzi. Raised and educated locally, he was a graduate of T. R. Proctor High School. He furthered his studies at the Ithaca Conservatory of Music where he received a Bachelor's degree in Music. He never stopped learning, and was proud of his accomplishment of earning a Master of Science degree at the State University of NY at Albany. He continued to add to his knowledge by furthering his education in the area of Administration, taking courses at Syracuse University and SUNY Albany. He was proud of the fact that he was able to provide the funds for his education through sacrifice by playing with dance bands locally. On August 12, 1945 he married the former Mary Jo Carach with whom he shared 64 years.

Stephen was touched that his love of music and piano playing inspired the musical abilities of his family. A gifted musician, he established his teaching career in the field of Music with the Forestport and Brookfield Central Schools. He then gained a position with the Utica City School District as a classroom teacher and then as an attendance supervisor, the position from which he retired. He loved music and shared his talents for many years playing different venues, offering his virtuosity as a professional musician into his 80's. He also enjoyed performing locally with the Red Band, and took pleasure in people being entertained by his music. He was a member of the Mohawk Valley

Musicians' Association Local 51, and a parishioner of St. Anthony & St. Agnes Church.

Stephen is survived by his wife, Mary Jo; his daughters and sons-in-law, Rosemary and Eugene Galime of Clinton, and Ellen and Joseph Karwacki of Marcy; and his grandchildren, John Karwacki and fiancée Maureen Judycki, Kristen Karwacki of Brooklyn, Curtis Karwacki, and Joey Karwacki. Survivors also include his nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, cousins, and in-laws, Vinnie Esposito, and Helen and Chuck Hendrickson. He was predeceased by two infant brothers, and his sister, Palma Stanford.

The family would like to express sincere thanks to the Utica Police Department and the Utica Fire Department for the care and professionalism in their response.

Visitation will be held Saturday from 11:00-12:00 noon at the Eannace Funeral Home, Inc. 932 South St. corner of Hammond Ave. By family request, please omit floral offerings. For those wishing to do so, please consider memorial contributions in Stephen's honor to the Mohawk Valley Musicians' Association Local 51 Stephen J. Zizzi Memorial Fund, 1805 Baker Ave., Utica, NY 13501; envelopes will be available at the funeral home. Stephen's funeral service will commence on Saturday afternoon at 12:00 from the funeral home and at 1:00 at St. Anthony and St. Agnes Church where his Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated. Interment will take place in Calvary Cemetery at the convenience of the family.

Tribute Wall



“ *Ellen and Joe-*

My thoughts are with you. Losing a parent is hard. It makes one feel adrift in a way. Kendra (my wife) lost her mother of the same age just last week. May we all live as long as these parents did.

Roy###imported-begin###Roy Stock###imported-end###

November 20, 2009 at 07:51 PM



“ *Dear Joe & Ellen & Family*

My deepest sympathies to all of you on the loss of your dad, father-in-law, grandfather. May the memories you all shared together be a source of great comfort to you at this time.

Judy Oster###imported-begin###Judy Oster###imported-end###

November 20, 2009 at 08:49 AM



“ *I was a student at Seymour School (North Utica) in the 1950s when Mr. Zizzi taught a science class there. What I remember was how distressed he became at the unruliness of the class. I didn't realize it at the time, but this was really an expression of how much he cared about the students, and his frustration that they did not attend better to what he was attempting to teach. Must have been a very difficult situation for a sincere and caring person.###imported-begin###Ray Widrew###imported-end###*

November 20, 2009 at 06:54 AM



“ Steve was a fine man and a talented musician. He will be missed.##imported-begin##John Karwacki, Scarborough Maine##imported-end##

November 19, 2009 at 04:47 PM



“ Steve was an excellent and dedicated musician. I enjoyed playing various jobs with him.##imported-begin##Tito DiTata##imported-end##

November 19, 2009 at 02:32 PM