



Mr. Thomas S. "Tommy" DeSimone

May 7, 1954 - January 27, 2020

UTICA - Mr. Thomas S. "Tommy" DeSimone, age 65, passed away unexpectedly on Monday, January 27, 2020 at his home with his wife and his canine companion Riley by his side.

Born in Utica on May 7, 1954, Thomas was the son of the late Samuel "Sam" and Josephine (Barbero) DeSimone. He was a graduate of T.R. Proctor High School/Class of 1972 and attended SUNY Morrisville in the Food Service Administration program. On November 15, 1975 Tom married his high school sweetheart, Florence A. "Flo" Cardinale. His reliable character and resolute work ethic were magnets to Flo's idea of a perfectly matched partner for life. She was right. In 1986 they adopted Amanda. Their family was complete, and their joy was overwhelming. They shared 44 years as the loves of each other's lives.

Tommy's first position in his cooking career came with Fred Grimaldi, Jr. at Alfredo's Restaurant. Tommy had learned to cook at a young age and had the privilege of working alongside a host of legendary cooks and sous-chefs. An opportunity was presented to him in a partnership with his friend Dick Graniero to carry on Alfredo's steadfast tradition of excellence, and as it turned out, Tommy's love of his craft and passion for pleasing his patrons' palates could be tasted in every meal he plated! In time, Tommy joined forces with his brother Joe in renovating and redesigning the facility, and they became prime Banquet Specialists for Utica and the surrounding area. The Ballroom was an elegant and spectacular facility, and a wide variety of

occasions were hosted with Tom's personal touches. He treated customers and co-workers as family,... and he was so respected. He humbly asked for their loyalty and he was complimented for his goodness; they were endorsements he earned during his years at this establishment. Tommy next took his talents to the Original Grimaldi's Restaurant, and at one time was the Food & Beverage Director at the Holiday Inn. Currently, and for over 10 years, he was the Manager and Maitre d' at Raspberries Café on Genesee Street. It would be remiss not to mention that Tom had a faithful following and fine associates who truly cared for him and became lifelong friends. And added to that recipe for success was the motto "Behind every good man is a good woman" — Flo was his best friend and motivator.

Tom's greatest grace was being a father, Amanda was daddy's little girl and there was nothing he would not have done for her. When she was a baby, he always braided her hair, painted her fingernails, and did things that toddlers thought were fun. He paraded her around with such pride, and they remained close to this very day. As she became an adult, they continued to enjoy each other's company partaking in daily activities and routines including hanging out in the pool and going out to lunch. He taught her to be adventurous, especially with food. Tommy kept an immaculate home, inside and out. His pool was a relaxing place, and his yard was impeccable. During Christmas time, his house was lit up like a mini "Trinkaus Manor". How he loved to decorate with accessories! The more unique the tree, the better,... and Flo was often the enabler!

Tom, along with Flo, found time to give back to the community when he served as a member of the American Diabetes Association where he volunteered, served on the Board of Directors, and was also a President of the local Utica Chapter; member of the local Mid York Chefs De Cuisine Association of America, and a volunteer for the Abraham House fundraisers. He respected his Catholic creed and attend mass regularly at St. Mary of Mt. Carmel/Blessed Sacrament Parish.

In looking back at Tom's life, we know that he gave 110% in fulfilling his

responsibilities. Friendships came easy to him, and he will be remembered by so many people, for so many reasons, including his unforgettable laugh. Tommy is survived by his beloved wife, Flo; his cherished daughter, Amanda N. DeSimone and David Ashe; and his brother and sister-in-law, Joseph A. and JoAnn DeSimone. He also leaves his faithful Beige Poodle, Riley, who was his little boy. He will also be remembered by his nieces, Nicole J. Ebelhar, and Danielle C. and her husband Bennett Kinningham; great-nephew, Jacob; many cousins, including Jack Potenza and family, Mary Ann and Jim Corleto and family, Tom and Ruth Desimone, Peter and Mary Kay Capponi and family; lifelong friend, Emmett Martin, Jeff and his co-workers at Raspberries; and friends, Marsha and Chet Kukowski, Bart and Roberta Colwell, Carol and Tony Carzo, Jeff Franz, Sylvia and Dick Hough, and Roberto Portalatin. He was predeceased by his father-in-law and mother-in-law, Sandy J. "Red" and Rose M. (Potenza) Cardinale; and his special friend, Robert P. "Bob" Mario. The family is grateful to longtime physician, Dr. Sudershan Dang; Dr. William Lindsey and staff at Advanced Wound Care; and Dr. Steven Williams and staff of Mohawk Valley Retina; the personnel at MVHS at St. Elizabeth Medical Center/ER, ICU, 3C; and the UFD/Rescue Unit for their timely response and efforts.

Visitation will be held Friday from 4:00-7:00 at the Eannace Funeral Home, Inc., 932 South St., corner of Hammond Ave. The family will remain until all visitors have been seen. Those wishing to express an act of kindness in Tommy's memory may make a donation to the Stevens-Swan Humane Society online at <https://stevens-swan.org/donate>. Envelopes will also be available at the funeral home. Tommy's funeral service and Celebration of Life will commence on Saturday morning at 11:30 from the funeral home and at 12:30 at the Church of Our Lady of Lourdes where his Mass of Christian Burial will be offered by his long-time friend Rev. Joseph Salerno. Interment will take place in Calvary Cemetery at the convenience of the family.

Cemetery Details

Calvary Cemetery at the convenience of the family

2407 Oneida Street
Utica, NY

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 31. 4:00 PM - 7:00 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>

Tribute Wall

AM

“*Flo, Amanda, Uncle Joe, Aunt JoAnn, Nicole and Danielle:
Our deepest condolences during this difficult time. Tom was always
welcoming and friendly whenever I saw him. He loved to laugh and
share memories. These qualities made him not only great at what
he did but a good person, family member and friend. He will be
greatly missed.*

Ananda and Brian Berlin

Amanda - January 31, 2020 at 04:39 PM

FA

“*Tommy was genuine. When I was home for Christmas we made it a
point to go to Rasberries so that I could say Hi to Tommy. I hadn't
seen him in a very long time and it was like no time had passed. I
am so glad that my son Samuel had the opportunity to have met
him and work alongside him at the restaurant. When I was with
WKTV, Tommy would host our bridal shows every year. Many a
conversation was had between us in the kitchen during the show
over an abundance of the best tomato pie I ever had. My
condolences to his family and he will be dearly missed.*

Frank Abbadessa

Frank Abbadessa - January 31, 2020 at 02:15 PM

AR

“ Flo and family. So sorry to hear about Tommy. What a sweet man. Remembering you from our days at Carl's and than my daughter working for Tommy at the Holiday Inn. And of course my brother taking care of your pups. Tommy will be missed by all of us. Always so sweet and kind with a smile that would lite up the room. So sorry I can't make the services tonight but please know you have both touched our family at some point in our lives and you and yours will be in our thoughts and prayers.

Annette Rivera - January 31, 2020 at 09:20 AM

EF

Flo and Amanda, we are so sorry for your loss of Tommy. He was always a breath of fresh air and enjoyed keeping us up to date on how Amanda was doing. We send our heartfelt sympathy. Edward & Joan Freeman

Edward & Joan Freeman - January 31, 2020 at 05:37 PM

AR

“ Annette Rivera lit a candle in memory of Mr. Thomas S. "Tommy" DeSimone



Annette Rivera - January 31, 2020 at 09:16 AM

DD

“ Flo, Amanda and the DeSimone Family,
My deepest sympathy and condolences on your loss you are in my prayers and thoughts at this difficult time.
Donna Magaro Dye

Donna Magaro Dye - January 31, 2020 at 08:06 AM

DD

“ Flo and family,
Just want to express my deepest sympathy to you and your family. Tom was a true gentleman. I worked for him when I was 16 and what a great man to learn from . Later in life your family has always taken care of all of our weddings and events for our families, you guys are first class and true friends of the family. We will be praying for you, I live out of state otherwise I would attend services.

David Domenico. Formerly of Aqua World

David Domenico - January 30, 2020 at 08:55 PM

BP

“ Our deepest sympathies and condolences to the DeSimone family. I didn't know Tommy but from what I have read about him on his tribute wall, he was a good man who touched many and will be missed by all.

In lieu of flowers, I have supported the Stevens Swan Humane Society which I believe is something he would have appreciated. May he rest in peace.

Bill & Audrey Parker

Bill Parker - January 30, 2020 at 08:07 PM

JC

“ My very deepest and heartfelt sympathy to Flo, Amanda and the entire DeSimone Family. Tommy truly was a one of a kind gentleman and friend. Always smiling with a true concern for everyone.

This community has truly lost someone very special. Rest In Peace dear friend and know you will be missed.

We've lost The Best Of The Best 🙏

Jeanne Castronovo

Jeanne Castronovo - January 30, 2020 at 06:22 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Mr. Thomas S. "Tommy" DeSimone.



January 30, 2020 at 05:40 PM



“ Dick and I are so blessed to have had Tom and his wonderful wife Flo as our friends. Over the last few years Tom and Flo have faced many challenges with dignity and grace. We all have people in our lives that inspire us. Tom and Flo are those people for Dick and I. I have told Tom and Flo many times that they are our HEROES. We sometimes think these people have to be famous. I believe that they can be our friends or people we know can also be the most influential and inspiring in our lives.
Tommy you meant so much to Dick and I. We will miss you and hold our memories of you to our hearts forever.
Love you!!

Dick and Sylvia Hough - January 30, 2020 at 03:52 PM



“ The Grimaldi family purchased the Enduring Grace for the family of Mr. Thomas S. "Tommy" DeSimone.



The Grimaldi family - January 30, 2020 at 03:12 PM

MS

“ Peace to Tom & prayers to his wife & daughter. Mary & Mark Shulsky
Deerfield, N.Y.

Mary Shulsky - January 30, 2020 at 02:22 PM

MS

“ Mary Shulsky lit a candle in memory of Mr.
Thomas S. "Tommy" DeSimone



Mary Shulsky - January 30, 2020 at 02:18 PM

PS

“ So sorry for your loss. I always remember his beautiful smile and
red rosy cheeks. May he RIP. I hope in time you and your family will
find comfort in knowing what a wonderful husband and father he
was.

Patty Fusco Tartaglia Sanders - January 30, 2020 at 11:28 AM

PA

“ Flo and Amanda, I am so sorry for your loss. Tom was an awesome
guy! Such a kind soul! You were inseparable, Heaven now has a
beautiful and kind angel. May he Rest In Peace. My prayers to you!
Paulette DeSimone

Paulette - January 30, 2020 at 11:21 AM



“ Flo, we're so sorry to hear of Tom's passing. He was such a gentle soul who always greeted you with a smile and kind word. Our world has lost a champion for decency. Sending our prayers and deepest sympathy. May Tom rest in peace.

Frank and Clorinda Mondì

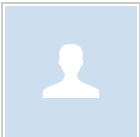
Frank Mondì - January 30, 2020 at 10:05 AM

LW

“ Tom first entered my life when he was at Alfredo's. Never will I forget the night he and his wife brought over food and a cake his wife baked a couple weeks after my son was killed on Route 5. Their compassion and kindness touched my heart, especially at that time when my family and I were in the depths of grieving but finally ready to eat. Years later we often spoke at Raspberries. He was a genuine, kind, giving man, a gentleman.

Louise White

Louise White - January 30, 2020 at 06:32 AM



“ Sweet Tenderness was purchased for the family of Mr. Thomas S. "Tommy" DeSimone.



January 30, 2020 at 03:22 AM

LJ

“ Shocked to see this. I've known Tom and Flo since school days. Tom was the ultimate gentleman and a true friend to all and there will never be another like him. So sorry Flo and Amanda at this very difficult time. You, family, and close friends will be in our prayers.

Lorraine Joslin - January 29, 2020 at 08:22 PM



“ I have all fond memories of TOM ALWAYS LOOKED FORWARD TO SEEING HIM WHEN EVER i RETURNED TO UTICA . My thoughts and prayers go out to you Flo and Amanda

Vito Marrone - January 29, 2020 at 07:11 PM

CF

“ I had the pleasure to work with Tommy and Flo on the committee of volunteers for the American Diabetes Assoc. He was the nicest guy you could ever meet..He was loved by all who knew him and will be dearly missed. My deepest sympathy to his family.

Carolyn Faccioli - January 29, 2020 at 06:40 PM

CP

“ Our sons went to school with Amanda and attended many events as a group. Tom was always present and helped make the after event parties special. His outgoing personality made it a pleasure to converse with and visit with Tom. He was a wonderful father and human being. Tom will be missed by many.

Carla & Frank Percia - January 29, 2020 at 05:28 PM

JL

“ JoAnne Lehman lit a candle in memory of Mr. Thomas S. "Tommy" DeSimone



JoAnne Lehman - January 29, 2020 at 04:30 PM

JL

“ Flo and Amanda, my heart goes out to you at such a sad time!! I have many good memories of Tom, you and Emmett in high school. It's true he always had a smile for every one and if it'd been awhile he always remembered something special! Each of us who had the pleasure of knowing him will always have a special place in our hearts

JoAnne (Custodero) Lehman

JoAnne Lehman - January 29, 2020 at 04:29 PM

AD

“ To say that Tom was a GREAT man doesn't even do him justice. His sweet and caring nature and sense of humor made him so special. I will not forget all my time working with him and how wonderful he treated people including my young son and how truly compassionate he was. He will be so truly missed! Thoughts to you Flo and your family.

anne derose - January 29, 2020 at 04:12 PM

DE

“ I am so sorry for your loss. My prayers and thoughts are with Flo and Amanda at this very sad time. Tom was one in a million. He made everyone feel special. May he Rest In Peace.
Deanna Santino



deanna - January 29, 2020 at 01:02 PM

JL

“ Joanne Viscelli Lafluer lit a candle in memory of Mr. Thomas S. "Tommy" DeSimone



Joanne Viscelli Lafluer - January 29, 2020 at 12:45 PM

JL

Such sad news,RIP Tommy

Joanne Viscelli Lafluer - January 29, 2020 at 12:46 PM

JA

“ JoAnn Attili sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Thomas S. "Tommy" DeSimone



JoAnn Attili - January 29, 2020 at 11:50 AM

JA

Flo and Amanda, I am so sorry for your loss. I first met Tom in our homeroom in high school. He was truly a wonderful person and always had a smile on his face. No matter where you were and he seen you he always had the time to say hi.

JoAnn Attili - January 29, 2020 at 11:53 AM

JD

*What a wonderful man he was . He made my wedding day so special .
May God comfort all your hearts . My Very Deepest Condolences .
Jeanne Betro DeSantis*

Jeanne Betro DeSantis - January 29, 2020 at 12:04 PM

LC

*“ We grew up together. We lived next door to each other. We were
the best of friends. He would make peas and macaroni for us. He
was a great friend to me and he will be missed by so many people.
So sorry Florence.*

Liz Cardillo - January 29, 2020 at 11:38 AM



*“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for
the family of Mr. Thomas S. "Tommy" DeSimone.*



January 29, 2020 at 11:00 AM

DD

*“ Flo and Amanda,
So sorry to hear of Tom's passing! He was a great person and a
beautiful soul!! He always had a smile on his face and a chuckle in
his heart! Our deepest sympathy for your loss!*

Al and Debbie D'Accurzio

debbie daccurzio - January 29, 2020 at 10:39 AM

DZ

“ Flo, Amanda, Uncle Joe and Aunt Joanne and family, I am so sad to hear the news of Tom passing. I have great memories of Tom from Alfredo's when I was little and most recently Raspberries. Tom was always so welcoming to my little boy, Anthony loved going to Raspberries to see Tom. Thank you Tom for always being so kind to us, and making us feel welcome. I will miss you driving by and beeping and stopping when we are playing outside. Rest in Peace.

Dana Zito - January 29, 2020 at 08:07 AM

LP

“ I won't ever forget our growing up years Tommy Flo and Amanda so sorry for your lossCousin LuLu

Lucille Puleo - January 29, 2020 at 08:02 AM

MM

“ Spent so many weekends at Alfredos with Tommy and Flo, what a talented chef and gentleman . Loved seeing him at Raspberry's Restaurant , and talking about “old times”. Rest In Peace Tommy, you will be missed by many. Mary Anne Marrone

Mary Anne Marrone - January 29, 2020 at 05:43 AM

SB

“ to tom's family so sorry for your loss, last we saw tom was at danielle's and he came over to say hi to me and my parents and had a conversation with him. tom may you rest in peace, god bless.

sal barbero - January 29, 2020 at 03:25 AM

 Elise
Avella
Feiner

“ Dear Flo and Amanda,

I just saw this, I can't even begin to tell you how sad Marc and I and the rest of our family are. You and Tommy were a part of every important day in the lives of our family. We could have never done it without the help and work of you and Tommy. He was so loving and kind, a true gentleman, family man, friend, chef, and a wonderful friend to us for so many years. We are just devastated over this. Our hearts go out to you both, he was one in a million, God bless you both and may he Rest in Peace...

With much love,

Elise and Marc Feiner and family...

Elise Avella Feiner - January 29, 2020 at 01:07 AM

AC

“ Flo, Amanda & Family

My heartfelt condolences to you all with the passing of Tommy. Tom was a great mentor to me in all the years at Alfredo's and his friendship went behind the restaurant years. His laughter, kindness and genuine love and caring to the people who were important in his life will surely be missed. I always joked that I would pick Tom up for a hunting trip at 3:00am, you can all imagine Toms response to that!

Thank you Tom for all you did for me over the years...your the Best

Mark Cavalier

A Mark Cavalier - January 28, 2020 at 10:48 PM

DG

“ *My heart is saddened by the loss of a friend...I've known Tommy for about 50 yrs...a terrible loss of another classmate..my heart goes out to his wife and family..prayers to your family*



Denise Giruzzi - January 28, 2020 at 09:42 PM

DB

“ *To the DeSimone Family. My heartfelt sympathies are with you and your family. May he rest in peace.*

Debbie Barbero - January 28, 2020 at 07:12 PM