



## Mr. Truman T. "Mr. B" Bonifazi

April 8, 1927 - March 25, 2017

SOUTH UTICA - Mr. Truman T. "Mr. B" Bonifazi, age 89, went home to his father in Heaven as he passed away peacefully on Saturday, March 25, 2017 surrounded by his children.

Born in Utica on April 8, 1927, Truman was the son of the late Frank and Elinor (Skinner) Bonifazi. He was a graduate of Syracuse University majoring in Art Education. A proud veteran of the United States Army, Truman served his country from 1950-1952 as a Staff Sergeant during the Korean Conflict as well as a Reservist until his honorable discharge in 1956. On September 4, 1954, at the former St. Agnes Church, he married the former Stella Scarano and shared with her nearly a half a century. They admired each other's talents, balanced one another's personalities, and loved unconditionally.

Truman has missed his "Stellina" since the day of her passing on March 7, 2004, and they are now reunited.

Mr. B began his professional teaching career in the Herkimer, West Canada, Ilion, and Poland School Districts. He then accepted a position with the Utica City School District at JFK High School as an Art and Photography instructor and was appointed Department Head for the program. He was well-respected and regarded as "Mr. B", retiring in 1987. During his high school teaching career, he concurrently enjoyed his position as Instructor of Photography at M.V.C.C. It was remarkable the number of students who remembered him in his later years.

Truman was also a bass jazz musician and a longtime member of the Utica

Musicians Union. He performed locally and his gigs included weddings, celebrations, and local gatherings. Jazz was his passion and among the many professionals he admired, Charlie Parker was the most prominent. Truman and his wife Stella worked as a team, while studying at the Munson-Williams-Proctor Arts Institute, as well as setting up exhibitions of paintings, photos, and sculptures throughout the country. Truman, his late wife Stella, Guy Danella, and Anthony Mancini were of the first abstract painters in Central New York.

Truman's family made him most proud. He was a convert to Catholicism and embraced its creed. He and Stella attended Holy Trinity Church as a couple in their earlier years. He also served as Chairman of the Oneida County Right-to-Life Committee. Truman was a peacemaker, and an intellectual. He was reserved, respectful, and had a high regard for life.

Truman is survived by his children and their families, Frank P. and Wendy Bonifazi of Colorado, Joseph A. Bonifazi, a great son, caretaker, and best friend with whom he shared a home, and Bettina Lindsey and companion Bruce Palmer of South Utica; his grandchildren, Jesse Bonifazi; Katelyn Lindsey, and Shannen Lindsey; and his great-grandson, Jasper. He also leaves his niece, Michelle Vekved and her husband Steve; cousins, friends Bob and Marilyn Brooks, neighbors who visited and were always available to help in any way; and Delores Mitzler who brought company, comfort, and Holy Communion to Truman. He will also be missed by his feline "boys", Gary and Scruppy, who were his companions. He was predeceased by his brother, Remo Bonifazi; an infant sister; and his brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Frank P. and Helen Scarano.

The family extends heartfelt thanks to Dr. Francis Chabot, outstanding professional and trusted family friend, Dr. Clifford Soultz, and Dr. Alicia DeTraglia, all of whom collectively monitored and treated Truman throughout his illness; and Father Kevin Bunger for his prayers which were of great comfort and compassion.

Visitation will be held Friday from 5:00-7:00 at the Eannace Funeral Home,

Inc., 932 South St., corner of Hammond Ave. Expressions of sympathy in the form of donations may be made to the Stevens-Swan Humane Society online at <https://stevens-swan.org> in lieu of floral offerings; envelopes will be available at the funeral home. Truman's funeral service and Celebration of Life will commence on Saturday morning at 10:30 at St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church where his Mass of Christian Burial will be offered by Rev. Kevin Bunger. Military Honors will be conferred by the United States Army in the vestibule after 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

APR 1. 10:30 AM (ET)

St. John the Evangelist Church  
60 Oxford Road  
New Hartford, NY 13413  
(315) 732-8521

# Tribute Wall

LM

“ So sorry for your loss and I always enjoyed seeing the family at Aunt Grace's house and visiting them Now he is with Stella and the Angels. Loretta Marks/Pineville NC

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**Loretta Marks** - March 31, 2017 at 08:38 AM

MC

“ I remember Mr. B from Art Class in Elementary School at Poland Central in the mid-60's. Prayers to his family.

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**Mary Lou C.** - March 30, 2017 at 07:06 AM

 Barbie Palm

“ Mr B was an awesome art teacher. I always enjoyed his classes. I think his favorite art critic was , " it needs more shading." Mr B had a fashion sense all his own, corduroy jacket and knit tie. My prayers to the family. Barbie Michalski Palm. Kennedy student 80- 83'

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**Barbie Palm** - March 29, 2017 at 08:48 AM

ED

“ Our condolences -

*Ellen Damsky and Susan (Damsky) Mancini*

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**ELLEN DAMSKY** - March 28, 2017 at 09:23 PM

DR

“ I always called him "True Blue B". A great teacher who helped me explore the power of imagery in photographs and how much you could say in just a single picture. Always remembered him challenging me to look beyond the mechanics of taking a picture and concentrate on the vision that you were trying to convey. Always had time to for you as a student.

*A great and blessed man. My prayers to family and friends.*

*David Roy - Kennedy Student*

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**David Roy** - March 28, 2017 at 03:12 PM

DM

“ *Deepest condolences to his family! Mr. B was an awesome man!*

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**Donna Excell McGovern** - March 28, 2017 at 01:23 PM

 Wayne Paquette

“ *Mr. B was an amazing man, spent 4 years in photography class learning the art of taking photos, and 4 years being my Home Room Teacher....Mr B, may God embrace you and your talents starting a new path with the Lord Almighty....God Bless!*

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**Wayne Paquette** - March 28, 2017 at 12:45 PM

SC

“ *Mr B..A really classy gentlemen. May he rest in peace. It was a pleasure to have been a student of his.*  
*Scott Ross...*

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**scott** - March 28, 2017 at 08:17 AM

AT

“ He was the best teacher in Kennedy me and my friend Lisa was always in his class or in the darkroom can gentle man he was I was glad to see him when it was at the nursing home he will never be forgotten rest in peace mr. B

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**Anna Turner** - March 28, 2017 at 06:50 AM

FP

“ My Condolences to the Family of "Mr B."

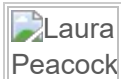
*He was a kind soul. My Photography and homeroom teacher at Kennedy High School.*

*I know he will be missed! The world needs MORE "Mr. B's"*

*Frank P*

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**Frank P** - March 27, 2017 at 05:26 AM



*I remember Mr. B. I had him in both art and photography class which I didn't do well in either but he didn't care. He was one of a kind. Prayers to his family and friends. Laura LaFave John F. Kennedy High School 80-83*

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**Laura Peacock** - March 30, 2017 at 07:46 AM