



## Vincent T. "Captain Trip" Morreale

September 28, 1957 - September 27, 2016

Vincent T. "Captain Trip" Morreale, age 58, went home to his parents when he passed away on Tuesday, September 27, 2016 at the Faxton-St. Luke's Healthcare Center. The end of his journey came one day before his 59th birthday.

Born in Utica on September 28, 1957, Vinny was the first son of the late Thomas J., Sr. and Gloria R. (Cittadino) Morreale. He was a graduate of T.R. Proctor High School/Class of 1975. After graduation, Vinny moved to California where he resided with his cousins and met some very interesting people. In the early 1980's he returned to Utica to be closer to his family. At one time, he was married to the former Christine Southall.

Vinny worked as a food broker for an organization in Syracuse. He had unique ideas for merchandising that he implemented when he and his brother, Tom, made provisions for a traveling booth with their legendary goods to area Field Days. He also established what was not known to this area at the time, a DJ service that complemented any party or gathering. Because he was a true entrepreneur, Vinny ventured out with concepts he carried home from California to provide the Utica area with stores that were stocked with Rock 'n Roll merchandise, tie-dyes, handmade jewelry, and crystals. A bohemian at heart, Vinny was the first person in Utica to operate a "head shop" featuring these trendy, unique, memorable items that complement an alternative, informal, peaceful lifestyle.

Back in the day, Vinny resembled Jerry Garcia, the famous American singer-

songwriter and guitarist with the band the Grateful Dead. While in California his friends would refer to him as “Captain Trip”, a nickname which truly stuck. He was a devoted “Deadhead” who loved the Dead music and he traveled the country to see them in person perform their innovative, iconic, psychedelic music. With this in mind, he opened his first store, “Captain Trips Place” originating in Yorkville, and he expanded to Clinton with a second store called “Captain Trips II”. From 1995-2005 he and his brother operated a popular nightclub, “Rock n Roll Preserve” located at 2005 Genesee Street that showcased national, regional, and local bands that performed all genres of music. All of Cap’s ideas were inspired by his love of rock ’n roll and his natural talent as a DJ. If anything new or different came on the scene, he had his thumb on it. He was an independent businessman and a member of the Board of the Clinton Chamber of Commerce.

Jimmy (family nickname) was a good-hearted, amicable person who made his life decisions based on his own beliefs, and even though they may not have agreed with the mainstream — he clung to his convictions. He was fair-minded, sociable, and blessed with good friends. His parents taught their sons to care for one another and stay close. Vinny adored his parents and was proud to be their son, and from their lessons, both he and his brother became their “brother’s keeper”. Being Italian and blessed with a family who loved him unconditionally, his childhood came with traditions and customs that warmed his heart. He had no children, but he did have a faithful canine friend, “Max”, who was by his side, even appearing in his TV commercials. They had such a special connection, and Max was like a well-behaved son.

Vinny enrolled in sterling silver jewelry crafting classes at Munson-Williams-Proctor Arts Institute which served as a foundation for the finishing touches on some of his greatest jewelry pieces. He crafted necklaces and bracelets that had personal and poignant meanings, and he shared his talents with young people. During his spare time, he enjoyed games of chance, and in his younger years he frequented Vernon Downs and tried his luck at the “crap table” at the casinos where Lady Luck sometimes smiled down at him. Vincent

was a parishioner of St. Louis Gonzaga Church.

All in all, it has been a good life for Cap. He faced many medical obstacles, but he still "kept on truckin'"...

Grateful Dead

"Truckin'"

Truckin' got my chips cashed in. Keep truckin', like the do-dah man  
Together, more or less in line, just keep truckin' on.

Arrows of neon and flashing marquees out on Main Street.  
Chicago, New York, Detroit and it's all on the same street.  
Your typical city involved in a typical daydream  
Hang it up and see what tomorrow brings.

Dallas, got a soft machine; Houston, too close to New Orleans;  
New York's got the ways and means; but just won't let you be, oh no.

Most of the cast that you meet on the streets speak of true love,  
Most of the time they're sittin' and cryin' at home.  
One of these days they know they better get goin'  
Out of the door and down on the streets all alone.

Truckin', like the do-dah man. Once told me "You've got to play your hand"  
Sometimes your cards ain't worth a dime, if you don't lay'em down,

Sometimes the light's all shinin' on me;  
Other times I can barely see.  
Lately it occurs to me What a long, strange trip it's been.

What in the world ever became of sweet Jane?  
She lost her sparkle, you know she isn't the same  
Livin' on reds, vitamin C, and cocaine,  
All a friend can say is "Ain't it a shame?"

Truckin', up to Buffalo. Been thinkin', you got to mellow slow  
Takes time, you pick a place to go, and just keep truckin' on.

Sittin' and starin' out of the hotel window.  
Got a tip they're gonna kick the door in again  
I'd like to get some sleep before I travel,  
But if you got a warrant, I guess you're gonna come in.

Busted, down on Bourbon Street, Set up, like a bowlin' pin.  
Knocked down, it get's to wearin' thin. They just won't let you be, oh no.

You're sick of hangin' around and you'd like to travel;  
Get tired of travelin' and you want to settle down.  
I guess they can't revoke your soul for tryin',  
Get out of the door and light out and look all around.

Sometimes the light's all shinin' on me;  
Other times I can barely see.  
Lately it occurs to me What a long, strange trip it's been.

Truckin', I'm a goin' home. Whoa whoa baby, back where I belong,  
Back home, sit down and patch my bones, and get back truckin' on.  
Hey now get back truckin' home.

Vincent is survived by his brother Thomas J. Morreale, Jr., his best friend and

confidant and Tom's love Jill Fonner; his aunt Carmella "Mell" Cittadino. He was blessed with great cousins, close friends, some from high school, and he was a generous person to many patrons and friends.

The family is grateful to Dr. Dilip Kachare who gave Vinny hope and was a determined friend and physician; his brother, Thomas, who was his healthcare advocate and was mindful of the good works and concerns of the staffs of the Intensive Care Unit at the Faxton-St. Luke's Healthcare Center and the St. Elizabeth Medical Center who exhausted their intense efforts to assist him. Thanks are also extended to the personnel of the Sitrin Health Care Rehabilitation Center and The Pines at Utica who were instrumental in guiding Vinny to walk again; Fr. Anthony P. LaFache who gave the boys solace and a few smiles and laughs; and Chorbishop John D. Faris for his prayers and encouragement.

Cap. made it clear that when this day came, he wanted to be remembered by those who loved him by recalling their favorite memory of him, and never let it go...

Family and friends are respectfully invited to attend Vincent's Memorial Mass of Christian Burial which will commence on Tuesday at 1:00 at St. Louis Gonzaga Church celebrated by Chorbishop John D. Faris. The family will receive visitors at the conclusion of the service. Those wishing to express an act of kindness in lieu of flowers may make a donation to the Stevens-Swan Humane Society, 5664 Horatio St., Utica, NY 13502 or online at <https://stevens-swan.org>; envelopes will be available at the service. Inurnment will take place in St. Agnes Cemetery at the convenience of the family.

# Cemetery Details

## **St. Agnes Cemetery**

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

# Tribute Wall

LG

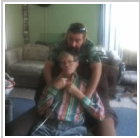
“ *Tom, I'm so sorry for your loss! You were a great, devoted care taker to your brother, even when it wasn't very easy. God bless you! RIP Vinny!* ”

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**Lisa Gilberti** - October 19, 2016 at 10:48 AM

LG

*(His PT from The Pines)*

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**Lisa Gilberti** - October 19, 2016 at 10:52 AM



“ *Condolences to the family. Vinny was a cool guy; him & his businesses hold a special place in hearts & memories of many.* ”

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**Gerald Smith** - October 04, 2016 at 07:06 PM

DB

“ *My dear cousin. You gave us such a great place to see a lot of great bands. You gave Utica a place to savor going out. May the next adventure be even better...* ”

*-Dante Blando (Cheech's son), now in Tulsa*

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**Dante Blando** - October 02, 2016 at 09:16 PM



Norman Bommarito

“ *My condolences tom may captian trip RIP* ”



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**Norman Bommarito** - October 02, 2016 at 05:40 PM



Sweeney

“ Hey Vinny, I'll always remember all the backroom talks thru the years at the Rainforest, over in Yorkville, up in Clinton along with the other times we would meet up... I think of U often with fond memories including Max who was always by your side. Rest easy my friend, your gone too soon but will never be forgotten ...You were always a good man, my Captain.... My condolences to Tommy, Jill & also to Chris



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**J Sweeney** - October 02, 2016 at 10:10 AM

SH

“ Vinny was a great guy who was always thinking of others. I remember having pizza parties with friends, while listening to good music at his store in Clinton and his dog Max. RIP and shine on - Shana and Krysta K.

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**shana** - October 02, 2016 at 09:53 AM

BO

“ Tommy my condolences and prayers. There were many memories your brother and I shared through the years. From our years in grade school, on the lower East side playing pool in your attic on Kossuth Ave., then high school and on. There were many nights we hung, there was our coffee click with Ang, Vinny Panuch, myself and Vinny, then all the nights Ang, myself and Vinny spent betting "The Ponies" as he would say. As we grew older our paths split, but when we saw each other we'd go down memory lane and talk of all the old times. Sorry he lost his battle in the last couple of months but he's now reunited with your parents, I can see your mother with open arms saying "Jimmy your home". RIP my old friend until we met again.

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**Bobby Ollerenshaw** - October 02, 2016 at 08:52 AM

BO

“ Tommy my condolences and prayers. There were many memories your brother and I shared through the years. From our years in grade school, on the lower East side playing pool in your attic on Kossuth Ave., then high school and in. There were many nights we hung, there was our coffee click with Ang, Vinny Panuch, myself and Vinny, then all the nights Ang, myself and Vinny spent betting "The Ponies" as he would say. Add we grew offer our paths split but when we saw each other we'd go down memory lane and talk of ask the old times. Sorry he lost his battle in the last couple of months but he's now reunited with your parents, I can see your mother with open and saying "Jimmy your home". RIP my old friend until we met again.

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**Bobby Ollerenshaw** - October 02, 2016 at 08:49 AM

TF

“ Peace and prayers to the Captain and Family.



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**Tim & Colleen Moylan Family** - October 02, 2016 at 08:28 AM

AL

“ I found out this afternoon about Vinnys passion. I remember that his and Joe Gee have the same birthday on the same day. They grew up close to each other. Tom I feel for you but he is in a better place now.

There are so many memories from the time we both lived in California and we had Strawberry Daiquiri Thursday. To the time he moved back to Utica and never drank. To the days at the store and just drinking diet soda. Oh ya Ticketmaster, to the time at the Rainforest with Dr Dirty in the back room signing some girls breast. Or with Warren Zevon before a show and we bought him the wrong sandwich. The time at Vernon Downs with another Warren and government Mule, The time we did Woodstock together for 5 days, trips to see the Dead.

One last memory of us in the basement of the Smith Theater in Geneva, NY, with Bob Weir, Tom you are in the picture. So much more to tell... You will be missed by many. RIP.

Allan Landesman

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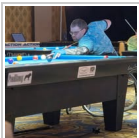
allan landesman - October 01, 2016 at 10:09 PM

DD

“ I had so many great memories of working with and hanging out at the house with Vinny, Tom Sr, Gloria, Aunt Mella, Tom Jr. I am forever grateful to the entire Morreale family for taking me in on holidays when I was younger. Vinny you will be missed thank you for everything you did for me. RIP Vinny "Captain Trip"

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Dave Dunn - October 01, 2016 at 09:37 PM



“ A kind and loving soul, gone too soon. Im glad I had the chance to run into the Captain a couple months ago. I will always appreciate the "pizza boy" specials he gave me at the Clinton Store. .... What a long strange trip its been.... Rest easy and peaceful Captain Trip.

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Lyle Cornish - October 01, 2016 at 08:29 PM

KD

“ I'll always remember him and Max in the Clinton store. He was a nice guy. He's embedded in my childhood memories for sure! RIP good sir!



Kellie Deraway - October 01, 2016 at 06:54 PM



“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



David Bolton - October 01, 2016 at 06:45 PM

WH

I remember printing those decals and shirts for Cap. He kept HiRollet Screenprinting hopping for years. Truly a local icon and will be missed

wayne hesler-mondore - October 02, 2016 at 07:23 AM

BP

“ I have enjoyed knowing Vinnie for good amount of years. I would visit the Captain Trip's store in Clinton where I bought some great items including a Beatles calendar at one time. I will miss the days when he was at the store and talking about the Grateful Dead and other great bands that we both liked. He will be missed and certainly he will be joining all the other Grateful Dead fans up there with Jerry and Pigpen.

Bradford Paulson - October 01, 2016 at 06:16 PM

SR

“ *Big hearted, fun lovin man that loved music and peace! I'm at a loss for words and my heart goes out to Tom and Jill. Cheeseburgers in Paradise\* xoxoxoxoxoxo*

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**Sherry Seymour- Van Roekel** - October 01, 2016 at 06:02 PM

GM

“ *I remember him well, he let me bead hair in his Clinton store when I visited from Australia He was my friend and a gentleman my heart is with his family , who I had met. I even remember Max. Trip on Captain- forever and always! You will always be remembered and trully missed.*

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**Gail Mulvihill** - October 01, 2016 at 05:53 PM

  
Jennifer  
Goodridge

“ *Jennifer Goodridge lit a candle in memory of Vincent T. "Captain Trip" Morreale*



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**Jennifer Goodridge** - October 01, 2016 at 05:29 PM

JE

“ *I spent many a weekends with him in Clinton hanging out and helping when it got busy. I'm thankful to have met him, he had a kind heart and a good soul. Rest easy Captain you'll be missed*

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**Jeremy Evans** - October 01, 2016 at 04:34 PM



“ Vinny, your friendship meant a lot to me  
heard great music, in your club  
bought many cool things, in your head shop  
Utica NY, will never be as good, without you

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**Dave Morgan** - October 01, 2016 at 03:57 PM



“ The Captain always made time for me and the shirts he made. Went  
out of his way to get my special big and tall ones for me. Bless you  
Captain.

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**Robert Reardon** - October 01, 2016 at 02:15 PM



“ Vinny , a great guy that will definitely be  
missed, he was a unique person, he will always  
have a place in our hearts. I spent lots of time  
around the Captain to know the real man he  
was, no more suffering and now shining down  
with his beautiful parents. Watch over us old  
friend until we meet up again. Prayers to the friends and Family God  
Bless  
RIP CAPTAIN TRIP  
DAN NOWLIN



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**Dan Nowlin** - October 01, 2016 at 01:57 PM



“ R.I.P. "CAPTAIN"

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**NICK DARDANO** - October 01, 2016 at 01:07 PM

GS

“If there's a rock n roll heaven...”,  
then I'm sure YOU booked all the bands.

*May the love and light you gave in this life, come to you Heaven's  
speed now. I wish comfort and peace to the family.  
Love, G*

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**Gina Scampone** - October 01, 2016 at 10:45 AM



“Very sorry to hear of his passing. Spent a lot of my teenage years in  
his stores and will always remember him and Max. Always the  
nicest guy , the world has lost a good one for sure.

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**Dan Williams** - October 01, 2016 at 10:01 AM



“I will miss Vinnie. I'll never forget the store in Clinton. I use to go and  
buy concert tickets all the time. I did a commercial for him with  
Rattlebasket at the Yorkville store. Lots of shows at the Rainforest.  
A local legend and a friend.

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**Patrick Curley** - October 01, 2016 at 09:48 AM



*That's the first commercial I saw that turned me in to rattlebasket. I  
think I still have the CD somewhere in my collection. Thanks for the  
memory all the way here in Texas!!!*

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**Jeff Alberico** - October 01, 2016 at 01:17 PM

AT

“ My condolences to Tommy, Jill and the entire Morreale family. The few times I had the pleasure to hang out with Vinny were at Captain Trips, he always treated me with kindness and it was a pleasure to work and play there, The BEST rock club the city of Utica has seen. He will be missed but the memories will definitely live on TT

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**Anthony Touris** - October 01, 2016 at 09:02 AM

CL

“ I remember days when I visited your shop, joyful that you brought the spirit of The Dead into my small town. There are also sweet memories of nights spent rocking out to tunes at the bar. You were always a kind soul that spread love. Many cheers to you as you make this journey to your final resting place. My thoughts are with your family, especially Tommy and Jill. May your love light shine on.

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**Carissa Leary** - September 30, 2016 at 06:37 PM

TM

“ vin, It's only been a few days but I miss you so much. Every time the phone rings I expect it to be you. You were my best fiend. Until will meet again. I hope you were with ma and dad for your birthday. Love Tom

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**Tom Morreale** - September 29, 2016 at 12:51 PM

JE

Tom sorry for your loss. Vinny was a good man I have fond memories of hanging out with him at the Clinton store, the club and many concerts at smith opera house.

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**Jeremy Evans** - October 01, 2016 at 05:51 PM

BE

*Vinnie.....such a kind man who touched so many lives. You helped me through some of the darkest moments of my life. Till we meet again, my friend.*

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**Becky** - October 03, 2016 at 07:51 AM