



Mr. Vincent "Jim" Salerno

June 22, 1919 - February 27, 2022

NEW HARTFORD – Mr. Vincent “Jim” Salerno passed away peacefully at age 102 on Sunday, February 27, 2022 with his family at his side. At the time, he was a resident of the Sitrin Health Care Center in New Hartford.

Jim was born in Utica on June 22, 1919, the youngest son of the late Joseph and Catherine (Tantillo) Salerno. Following his graduation from Utica Free Academy (Class of 1939), he began working at Utica Drop Forge’s Tool and Die Department. At the start of World War II, he enlisted in the United States Army Air Force and served stateside and in India. He was honorably discharged in 1946 from the 323rd Air Service Squadron as a Master Sergeant in the field of Bombsight and Autopilot Specialist and then returned to Utica. He remained a member of the American Legion Fort Schuyler Post for the rest of his life.

On October 16, 1946 he married Rose F. Vassallo. They had a devoted and happy marriage, lasting 62 years until Rose’s passing on June 20, 2009. God blessed their marriage with two devoted children, Catherine Romano and Joseph Salerno.

Together with his three brothers, John, Phil and Tony, he owned and operated Salerno’s Food Market on Blandina Street. He later owned and operated Super Value Foods on the corner of Eagle Street and Seymour Avenue, with the help of his wife and children.

After selling his business, he went to work for Smith Packing Company where he was a highly regarded employee for over 35 years and was always treated

as family by Wesley, Mark and Eric Smith.

Surviving are his daughter and husband, Catherine and Ronald Romano of Ogdensburg, NY; son and husband, Joseph Salerno and Alan Urek of Philadelphia, PA; granddaughter, Susan Romano of Clifton Park, NY, grandson and wife, Ronald and Brandi Romano of Canton, NY; and two great-grandchildren, Nathaniel Vincent and Alexa Rose Romano. He is also survived by his favorite nephew, Rev. Joseph Salerno of Utica; nieces, Joanne (Greg) Jamrosz of New Hartford, Angela Pardi of Utica, and Barbara Salerno of Panama City, FL; and nephews, Richard (Suwan) Vassallo of Sacramento, CA, and Anthony Constabile of Utica.

In addition to his immediate family, Jim was blessed with a large circle of devoted friends who always looked out for him in his later years. Especially after the passing of his wife, they served as extended family members and helped him to live the very independent life he cherished well past the age of 99. His children express their sincere appreciation to his workmates at Smith Packing; his bar buddies at Paul's Pub, especially Butch, Paul, and Lucille; his former neighbors and helpers at the Wedgewood Apartments; the friends he retained from his days living in East Utica, Corn Hill and Sauquoit; and the many others who've been there for him. Special thanks go to Judy Butler for her devotion and extra efforts over the past several months.

The family also expresses its gratitude to the staff at Cedarbrook Village, and in particular, Amanda Beyer for making Jim feel so at home during the 2 ½ years he lived there.

Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend Jim's Mass of Christian Burial with Military Honors conferred which will take place at Mary, Mother of Our Savior Parish (Our Lady of Lourdes Campus) on Monday, March 7, 2022 at 10:00 am with his nephew, Rev. Joseph Salerno officiating. The family will receive visitors at the conclusion of Mass.

In lieu of floral offerings, if you wish to honor Jim's memory, consider a donation to the charity of your choosing or – like him – simply show tolerance and kindness to all the people you encounter in everyday life.

The tribute was lovingly composed by Jim's family.

Previous Events

Funeral Service

MAR 7. 10:00 AM (ET)

Mary, Mother of Our Savior Parish, Lourdes Campus

2222 Genesee St.

Utica, NY 13502

<https://www.motherofoursavior.org/CatholicChurch.php>

Tribute Wall

KG

“ I worked with Jim at Smith Packing back in the early 90s. Such a wonderful man. I have the fondest memories. Always would get the best salads for me for lunch. RIP Jim. You lived an amazing life and touched so many people. My condolences to his family. Kelly (Groszek) Gassner

Kelly A Gassner - March 08, 2022 at 09:19 AM

MS

“ *Father Joe and Family:*
I was very sorry to read of your Dear Uncle's passing. You were special to him and that is a gift you shared, to be a Special Nephew. My prayers are with you at this difficult time Father. God bless,
Michele Simmen

Michele Simmen - March 07, 2022 at 03:24 PM

WK

“ *One thing I can say about Jim is that whenever I saw him when he worked for Smith Packing he was always professional. He always had a clean white work coat on and his shoes were always polished. Perhaps you don't think people notice what a fine example you were to others but I can say you were a man of distinction. My sympathy to the family. Signed. Karen from Maynard Frozen Foods 5 yrs*

Wilson Karen - March 06, 2022 at 11:11 PM

JD

“ *The ties to the Salerno family go back decades to the Blandina St. store where my uncles Enzo, Tony, and Roc Rosati worked as teenagers, and then to the Seymour Ave store where we also were active. Jim and Rose were regulars at my cousins’ Restaurants at The Boat and the Ramada Dining Room and when my parents were in town, they frequently met there on a Saturday night. His smile was as warm as was his nature. Our deepest condolences.*

Jim Delitto - March 05, 2022 at 09:14 AM

CS

“ *Father Joe and Family,
We are so sorry for your loss . When the Lord calls a loved one home, he leaves a gift of precious memories in their place. May those memories comfort you and your family at this sad time . Love and prayers to you and your family.
Phil and Carol Scampone*

Carol Scampone - March 05, 2022 at 09:10 AM

FW

“ *I am very sorry for the loss of Jim Salerno, Father Joe you and your family have my love and prayers. It is with Our Dear Lord, that your uncle Jim will find a eternal resting place. May God be with all of you. Fiorinda Flo Wilson*

Fiorinda Wilson - March 04, 2022 at 08:20 PM

JN

“ I remember visiting his store almost daily. in addition to having the best selection of fresh meats, he had a most pleasant demeanor. He had a lot of patience with all the special cuts of meats and special request that my very particular mother would require me to make. With his wife, and his daughter, Cathy, a visit to the store always felt like a visit with very close friends.

My sincere condolences to his family.

John Nasto - March 03, 2022 at 03:05 PM

JL

“ I as a child went to his corner store. It was always fun spending my change on the penny candy and remembering how excited it was to go there for our goodie's. That store is always going to be a great memory for all of us in the neighborhood. May he RIP and God bless him and all of his family. Prayers are with you all 🙏🙏🙏

Josette Lucenti - March 03, 2022 at 07:32 AM

MS

“ I never had the privilege of meeting Mr.Salerno but my brother Joe spoke very well of him. Joe always looked up to him. May he rest with the Lord in peace. Mark Suppa.

Mark Suppa - March 03, 2022 at 02:59 AM

DR

“ Dear Cathy and family, my deepest condolences on the loss of your father. It was my honor to care for him while at Cedarbrook. We had many good conversations and laughs together. May Jim Rest in Peace . Sincerely, Debbie Rivera

Debbie Rivera - March 02, 2022 at 09:33 PM

BO

“ *My condolences and prayers Fr. Joe and family. May he RIP.*

Bob Ollerenshaw - March 02, 2022 at 03:09 PM