



Mr. William F. "Bill" Meola

February 11, 1946 - January 10, 2017

Mr. William F. "Bill" Meola, age 70, passed away from the world that he loved on Tuesday, January 10, 2017 at New York Columbia Presbyterian Hospital after a valiant battle with complications of a liver transplant. His loving family never left his side.

Born in Utica on February 11, 1946, William was the son of the late William G. "Bill" and Rosemary P. (Balsamo) Meola. He was a graduate of T.R. Proctor High School/Class of 1964. He furthered his education at Utica College of Syracuse University where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology. He continued to work towards his Master's degree at SUNY Oswego. Bill married his high school sweetheart, the former Angela M. Fusco, with whom he shared nearly 50 years. They were the love of each other's life and were equally a pillar of strength for one another. Bill and Angela were inseparable and their marriage was an inspiration to their children.

Bill began his career as a science teacher at Notre Dame High School. He subsequently accepted a position with the Utica City School District teaching 7th and 8th grade science at Seymour Grammar School. Bill was a compassionate teacher with inspiring ideas, and he touched the minds and hearts of his students. In 1972, Bill charted a change in his career course which brought him to several insurance and investment companies. He uniquely associated himself with the banking industry and eventually he would establish insurance agencies within the banks. Bill was particularly proud of his affiliation with the Jim Caldwell Insurance Company and the formation of

the Meola Agency within the company where his wife was his “go-to” person. For many years, he taught a New York State Insurance Licensing course as well as continuing education courses.

Bill was a generous, giving man, and if you were his friend, you were golden. He also had strong convictions and many stories. He had an education in all facets of life and a strong work ethic. His handshake was a contract that he honored. He was a good provider and an inspiration to his loved ones. As a dad and poppa, he was the best-of-the -best! He made you feel loved and pampered. He invested all his energy in his children and grandchildren, and his legacy lies within them.

Bill was a true gentleman and a people magnet! He was authentic, motivational, well-versed, optimistic, and energetic. He appreciated good food and good times filled with family and friends. He was proud that he was true to his word, a lost virtue in today’s world. He was politically minded and a staunch Republican involved in local politics. He was always athletic and played sports on a personal level. He knew the game and coached many youth teams. Bill was an “honorary” dad to so many local young people who were blessed by his guidance and remember him to this day. When his granddaughter came along, he came to appreciate the art of ballet, enduring many hours of performances. Bill was a longtime communicant of St. Agnes Church and continued to practice his Catholic faith at St. Anthony & St. Agnes Parish.

Bill is survived by his wife, Angela; his son and daughter-in-law, William A. “Bill” and Jodi Meola of Rome; his daughter and son-in-law, Kara and Craig Stitsinger of Ohio; his grandchildren, Gianna Meola, Ryan & Samantha Smith; Jake Stitsinger, and Marc Stitsinger; and his great-grandchildren, Grace and Cash. He also leaves his siblings, Joseph and his wife Marcia Meola of Iowa, Donna Brutto of Utica, Dan Meola of Syracuse, and Danette Meola of Whitesboro; his nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, cousins, aunts and uncles, Joan Velletto, and Sally and Raymond Arcuri; and his in-laws, Patty and Dan Sanders of Rome, and David J. Delaney of Chittenango.

Bill was blessed with his Columbus Avenue family, his Monday Night card buddies, his garage crew, and his “brother”, Mike Macchione, who was by his side from the beginning to the end. He was predeceased by his father-in-law and mother-in-law, Anthony J. and Mary R. Fusco; and his sister-in-law, Regina M. Delaney.

The family extends their appreciation to Dr. Fred Talarico and staff for their support and concern; and to all those who were generous with prayers, gifts, and tokens of love.

Visitation will be held Sunday from 3:00-6:00 at the Eannace Funeral Home, Inc., 932 South St., corner of Hammond Ave. By family request, please omit floral offerings. William’s funeral service and Celebration of Life will commence on Monday morning at 10:30 at St. Anthony & St. Agnes Church where his Mass of Christian Burial will be offered by Rev. Mark Kaminski. Entombment will take place in Christ Our Saviour Mausoleum in Calvary Cemetery at the convenience of the family.

Cemetery Details

Calvary Mausoleum

2407 Oneida Street
Utica, Ny

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 15. 3:00 PM - 6:00 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>

Funeral Service

JAN 16. 10:30 AM (ET)

St. Anthony & St. Agnes Church
422 Tilden Ave.
Utica, NY 13501
(315) 732-1177
<https://www.stanthonystagnes.com/>

Tribute Wall

MK

“ To the Meola Family,
I remember spending a great deal of time at your house with my parents, John and Nettie Simonetti, and loved every minute of it. I was so sorry to read of Bill's passing and hope that happy memories will ease this difficult time for you. He is at peace now and not suffering and I hope you can take comfort in this. Please know that you will all be in my thoughts and prayers.
Sincerely,
Marguerite Simonetti Kershaw

Marguerite Simonetti Kershaw - January 18, 2017 at 11:12 AM

JM

“ To The Meola Family - It's difficult to transfer something one would say "heartfelt" to a text tribute, but we grieve for the loss of our friend, neighbor, and part of our family. We extend our condolences to all of you from all of us @ 1109.

Joseph A. Montanaro - January 17, 2017 at 11:16 AM

KM

“ Angela,

Our thoughts and prayers go out to you and the family. I always looked up to Bill and judging from these tributes - I wasn't the only one. He will be missed by many.

- Kris & Christy Meola

Kristopher Meola - January 17, 2017 at 08:41 AM

FM

“ My thoughts and prayers go out to the entire Meola Family. Mr. Meola was a great man and role model for guys like me growing up in East Utica. Take care and God Bless.

Frank Martello
DeBary, Florida

frank martello - January 17, 2017 at 07:38 AM

LS

“ Angela and family,

I am in Texas working and was not able to come to the services. Please know how much we all loved him. He stood by me when we were growing up and no one wanted Tony's little sister around. I cherish those memories at the house on Welsh Bush Rd and all the fun we had. Love to you all,

Liz LaFache Sacco

Liz Sacco - January 16, 2017 at 08:23 PM

SR

“ Bill was a dear friend of my father's (Jim Coulthart) and I have many fond memories of him growing up - he was so funny! He struck me as such a kind and loving person who cared so very deeply for his family and his friends.

He will be greatly missed. Sending our love and sympathies.

-Sara, Michael, Renee (Coulthart) Haag

Sara, Michael, & Renee - January 15, 2017 at 05:10 PM

SH

“ Sara, Michael, & Renee (Coulthart) Haag lit a candle in memory of Mr. William F. "Bill" Meola



Sara, Michael, & Renee (Coulthart) Haag - January 15, 2017 at 05:08 PM



“ I met Mr. Meola when we worked with my father at MVP in the 1990s. He had a personality that was larger than life and one of those people you never forget. Although I was a kid at the time, he always made the time to talk to me and joke with me. A true class act, he will be missed by all that knew him.

Steve Coulthart,
El Paso, TX

Steve Coulthart - January 15, 2017 at 02:57 PM

JD

“ Dear Angela, Bill and I are so sorry to hear of Bill's passing. Tho' we had lost contact over the past several years, we always held Bill and you in our thoughts and remember lovingly our many dinners together and lively conversations.

Our condolences to the kids and grandkids and to all the family and your many friends.

Much love being sent your way.

Judy and Bill DuBiel 📿🙏📿

judy dubiel - January 15, 2017 at 02:10 PM

MG

“ Angela and the entire family I am truly heartbroken with the loss of Bill. They didn't come any better. He was one of the greatest that anyone could be lucky enough to have in their lives. He will be missed by many. I love you all with my heart!

Michelle Gulla - January 15, 2017 at 10:17 AM

MG

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Michelle Gulla - January 15, 2017 at 10:08 AM



“ So sorry to hear of Bill's passing. He was one of my T.R. Proctor High School classmates. I remember him as a very nice guy. Thinking of you Angela; my deepest sympathy to you and your family.

Carole Testa Dapice

Carole Dapice - January 14, 2017 at 03:00 PM

SZ

“ I first met Bill when he was my Science teacher at Seymour School and periodically kept in touch with him. Over time I lost touch with Bill, but it was a real joy to reconnect with him at Meola's garage some years ago while visiting family in Utica; over the past years I always looked forward to chatting with him and the rest of the crew. My sincere prayer for the repose of his soul, and prayers to the Mother of God that she comfort and bring peace to all his family.

Stan Ziobro - January 14, 2017 at 01:03 PM



“ European Sympathy Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Mr. William F. "Bill" Meola.



January 14, 2017 at 09:57 AM

FS

“ Very sorry for your loss. May Bill rest in peace.

Francine Sansone - January 14, 2017 at 09:36 AM

JT

“ I will never forget the good times we had together . I was so proud to call you my friend. John & Carol Toukatly

John & Carol Toukatly - January 14, 2017 at 08:44 AM

MS

“ Angela & Family we are so sorry to hear of your loss . Bill was a great guy you have many good memories . We will keep you in our prayers. With our Deepest Sympthy Jimmy & Maryrose Schiavetta

maryrose schiavetta - January 14, 2017 at 07:48 AM

JT

“ *Angela and family,
Words cannot express how sad and sorry we are to hear about Bill's passing. Joey kept us up on Bill's condition and I would keep in touch with Patty. May God watch over all of you. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.*
Joe and Lorraine Tartaglia

Joe & Lorraine Tartaglia - January 14, 2017 at 12:32 AM

SR

“ *Mrs. M and the entire family words can not express the lose you must feel. I got to know Mr. Meola growing up around Proctor. But my fondest memories will always be when I first came back to the area and work with my dad. Our offices were right down the hall at the GPO building. Mr. M always had a smile and a hot cup of coffee for anyone who needed it. I can not count the number of times I wondered down that hall as a young naïve business person, always to find Mr. M with hot coffee and priceless business advice from a seasoned business veteran. He always made you fell like you knew the answer and he was just helping you find it. Never to judge, but always to guide. Like a fine friend and father figure would. He will be missed but those lessons never forgotten, I still utilize them today. My heart and prayers are with you during this time of grief.*

Stephen Roefaro - January 13, 2017 at 09:37 PM

JB

“ As you pass through life, there are but a few people, other than family, that you will always remember. Bill Meola will be one of my few. I feel sorry for the people that never crossed paths with him, they missed someone special.

We have been friends for almost 60 years. His moving to Columbus Ave completed our neighborhood. Many, many summer nights went by just sitting in his garage and discussing anything from the Yankees, to the grandkids, to anything and everything that came into our heads.

It would be futile to try and capture the words to describe the person he was and what he meant to me. I only wish we had more time together. There was so much more we had to do.

Go in Peace Bill. Go knowing that you left behind many people with many wonderful memories.

Joseph Bianco - January 13, 2017 at 07:23 PM



“ Blue & White Sympathy Floor Basket was purchased for the family of Mr. William F. "Bill" Meola.



January 13, 2017 at 05:31 PM

“ DEATH IS NOTHING AT ALL
~Henry Scott-Holland~

*Death is nothing at all.
It does not count.
I have only slipped away into the next room.
Nothing has happened.*

*Everything remains exactly as it was.
I am I, and you are you,
and the old life that we lived so fondly together is untouched,
unchanged.
Whatever we were to each other, that we are still.*

*Call me by the old familiar name.
Speak of me in the easy way which you always used.
Put no difference into your tone.
Wear no forced air of solemnity or sorrow.*

*Laugh as we always laughed at the little jokes that we enjoyed
together.
Play, smile, think of me, pray for me.
Let my name be ever the household word that it always was.
Let it be spoken without an effort, without the ghost of a shadow
upon it.*

*Life means all that it ever meant.
It is the same as it ever was.
There is absolute and unbroken continuity.
What is this death but a negligible accident?*

*Why should I be out of mind because I am out of sight?
I am but waiting for you, for an interval,
somewhere very near,
just round the corner.*

All is well.

Nothing is hurt; nothing is lost.

One brief moment and all will be as it was before.

How we shall laugh at the trouble of parting when we meet again!

Angela, Bill, Jodi, Kara, Craig and all his beautiful grandchildren,

Words can never express the profound sadness that Bill's passing brings, not only our family, but to so many others as well. Bill was truly a one of a kind friend and neighbor. Unless he was on his way to church, he would never just drive or walk by the house without stopping to check up and see how everyone was doing.

When we moved to this block 24 years ago, the neighborhood kids were grown and our family was just beginning. As our children were growing throughout the years, Bill made sure he looked out for them as they played and walked to school every day. His home was always open to anyone who passed by and both he and Angela were always so warm and welcoming. We will forever cherish the memories we have with Bill and the void he left will never be filled.

He was so proud of his family, and the smile that lit up his face whenever he talked about his beautiful children and grandchildren was just a testament of the wonderful family man he was.

I truly pray it brings each of you peace and comfort to know what an impact and lasting impression your husband, father, and grandfather has left on so many peoples lives.

Bill, may you now reap your eternal reward in heaven. Continue to watch over us all and know that you will never be forgotten and forever loved. Columbus Ave will never be the same without you.

With love, prayers, and our deepest sympathy,

Terri, Nick, Nicole, Maria, & Vinny Panuccio

Terri Panuccio - January 13, 2017 at 03:52 PM

TF

“ *Angela and family, we are very saddened to learn about Bill. He was a very wonderful and kind hearted man. We all send our deepest sympathies and may he rest in peace with all the angels and saints in heaven. May You all find peace and comfort in the days ahead. God Bless Bill and all of his family.*

Tammy Francis and family



Tammy Francis - January 13, 2017 at 03:33 PM

JZ

“ *Bill was truly a "good guy." He always helped a friend and made everyone laugh when we were all new teachers at Seymour.*



Joyce Zongrone - January 13, 2017 at 03:27 PM

JC

*Angela and family
Bill always had time to stop and say hello and was truly a great man.
Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this trying time.
Jim and Janice Ciancia*

Jim Ciancia - January 16, 2017 at 08:02 AM



“ *Healing Tears - All White* was purchased for the family of Mr. William F. "Bill" Meola.



January 13, 2017 at 01:42 PM



“ *Meola Family purchased the Fields of Europe* for the family of Mr. William F. "Bill" Meola.



Meola Family - January 13, 2017 at 12:55 PM



“ *Ralph Paladino lit a candle in memory of Mr. William F. "Bill" Meola*



Ralph Paladino - January 13, 2017 at 12:28 PM

CC

“ *Some people leave this world like a whisper and their passing goes relatively unnoticed....others pass on and their loss is felt like a tornado, affecting everyone in it's path.....Just like a storm, Bill left a wonderful and lasting impression on everyone that was lucky enough to be placed in his life path. I will mourn your passing for the rest of my life.....my backyard will never be the same. I will miss waking up and looking out my bedroom window and seeing you basking in the sunshine by the pool. Sitting by my pool I came to know you better than I ever imagined possible. We talked about everything from soup to nuts and somehow over the years you and Angela became our family. My sadness is endless. May you be at peace and may God and the Holy Spirit comfort Angela and your family thru this impossible ordealConnie and Angelo*

Connie Citriniti-Giacovelli - January 13, 2017 at 11:51 AM

MD

“ *Dear Angela and Family--*

Please know that you are in my thoughts and prayers, way over here in Erie, PA. Though I've lived away from Utica for about 40 years, there's still Fusco blood running through my veins and connecting me to your grief. I'll always remember Bill as one of my "big cousins." He was very supportive of me, though we didn't see each other nearly enough. Now--if our faith tells us anything--we're closer than ever. . . .

Cousin Michael DeSanctis

Michael DeSanctis - January 13, 2017 at 09:52 AM

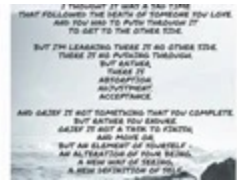
DM

“ *Bill was such a kind and loving man who loved his family more than anything. Being a friend of his daughter he made me feel like family too. Sending hugs and all my love to the Meola family.*

Darcy Markussen - January 13, 2017 at 09:37 AM

CP

“ *Our hearts will never forget the kindness and love of Bill.*



Carlo & Joanne Perugia - January 13, 2017 at 09:26 AM

AC

“ *We are So Sorry for your Loss! Our Thoughts and Prayers are with You! R, I, P, Bill, Andy & Linda Convertino*

Andy & Linda Convertino - January 13, 2017 at 08:48 AM

DM

“ *Don Marino lit a candle in memory of Mr. William F. "Bill" Meola*



Don Marino - January 13, 2017 at 08:35 AM

DJ

“ I have only meet Bill a few times since my niece married his son but he was always friendly and welcomed me into his loving family Rest in peace and best wishes g or the family as they process his passing Donna Prettyman

Donna Prettyman. aunof Jody - January 13, 2017 at 08:01 AM

RA

“ Angela & Family: My deepest condolences for the loss of your beloved husband/father. Sending thoughts & prayers to you. My Dad (Sam Simbari) is in Florida and also sends his condolences.

Becky (Simbari) Almstead

Rebecca Almstead - January 13, 2017 at 07:52 AM

LD

“ So sorry for your loss Kara. All the girls at Medina Hospital know how much your family means to you. Love and prayers for all of you. Lori

lori donnelly - January 13, 2017 at 06:22 AM

JA

“ I have known Bill for more than 50 years. In all that time I have never met a more caring individual. Bill and Angela were made for each other. If I had to sum up my opinion of Bill it would be that he is the epitome of what a true Human Being should be. All of these kid's today should stop looking to professional athletes as hero's and look to people like Bill who every day showed the best that we as Human Beings have to offer. He will be truly missed.

John Alsheimer

John Alsheimer - January 13, 2017 at 06:22 AM

PP

“ Deeply sorry to hear about Bill. Childhood Friend to me and always went out of his way to say hello and talk with me. Will miss seeing him and will always think of him with that warm smile. Sympathy to all of the Meola Family, Angela, the Children, Joe and Donna. God Bless you Bill

Peter Palleschi - January 13, 2017 at 06:13 AM

AA

“ Bill was a great man. He taught at MVCC where I had him as an instructor. Everytime I saw him he was always genuinely interested in how I was doing and our conversations covered almost everything. RIP Bill I will never forget you.Anthony Amodio

Anthony Amodio - January 13, 2017 at 03:38 AM

JA

“ Jim & Carol Abiusi lit a candle in memory of Mr. William F. "Bill" Meola



Jim & Carol Abiusi - January 12, 2017 at 10:36 PM

JE

“ What a great man I was truly blessed to have known. Always so pleasant to talk too. To his family... He was so proud of you all, and the love he had for you all shined bright. Be proud of the wonderful person he was, and take comfort in the wonderful Legacy he leaves behind. Rest In Peace Mr. Meola

Jill Evans - January 12, 2017 at 08:10 PM

BE

“ *Barbara Evans lit a candle in memory of Mr. William F. "Bill" Meola*



Barbara Evans - January 12, 2017 at 07:52 PM

BE

“ *An amazing man. He will certainly be missed. He fought the fight, then God seen that he was getting tired and called him home. Bill will soar with the Angels. Special thoughts and prayers to his loving family Wife, Father, Grandfather, (PaPa) and friends. He will leave an everlasting legacy, À teacher, à friend, à great man. What more can i say. Love Barbara.*

Barbara Evans - January 12, 2017 at 07:51 PM

HR

“ *Amazing man gone too soon. Such a loving family and i send them my love and condolences. Much love everyone, just remember he has an amazing view to look down on you all now. No more struggling through pain. He'll always be with you guys. <3*

Hannah Rotenberry - January 12, 2017 at 07:41 PM

RP

Billy-Bob, Angela, Joe, Donna, Donna, Danette, Danny, extended family. Just heard of Billy's passing. He is with his family, now, he suffered, fought hard, loved his family and lived life to the fullest, with his family first and foremost in his heart, we were fortunate to call him our friend. The many years spent at the Meola home, all the good times, great memories. We know that Jesus promised everlasting life. Billy loved the lord, and attended Mass with his wife Angela. He leaves a void in all our lives. Billy-Bob, you fought the good fight and now have the prize of Christ Jesus in Heaven. We will never forget you.

Ralph and Rosemarie Paladino

Ralph Paladino - January 13, 2017 at 11:03 AM

PJ

Angela: I am so sorry about your loss. I know what a long and painful struggle it was for Bill. I am grateful that I got to see him in the hospital. How could I ever forget our days at Proctor???

Phillip Macero, Jr. - January 13, 2017 at 11:34 AM

JS

Deb and I are so sorry for your loss. Kara is our beautiful and smart daughter in law. I only wish her boys are more like Bill than me, their other grandpa. Bill is/was a great man. And Angela, if you ever come to Florida you have a place to stay. You are always in our thoughts. Jack & Debbie Stitsinger

Jack B Stitsinger - January 13, 2017 at 11:46 AM

PZ

Angela and Joe, and family; we didn't lose a great one, we gained a lion to protect us in his "after life" as he did in our earthly life. Billy and Angela made a great team; and inspiration to us all. Joe, I also was blessed with an awesome Big Brother, and I know what you are going through. Gob Bless Billy and all of you.....

Peter S. Zogby - January 13, 2017 at 12:28 PM

CF

*Angela, My most heartfelt love to you and your family during this difficult time of Bill's passing. I will always treasure the time I got to spend with Bill during my childhood. He mentored me in so many ways and instilled in me true Christian values and a strong work ethic that has served me well in life. I can never thank you and Bill enough for being the wonderful people you have been to my family. The love and respect you and Bill always showed my mother and father is so deeply appreciated, but that's the kind of folks you are! I will keep you in my prayers, especially as I pray my daily rosary. God Bless You ! All my love,
Carlo Fanelli*

Carlo Fanelli - January 13, 2017 at 10:54 PM

JS

To Angela and the Meola family. I had the pleasure of knowing Bill through our formative years at Albany Street School and at Proctor High - -and as I said, "It was my pleasure". We didn't see a lot of each other after that but did so once in awhile. The tributes say it all. A great guy - -and the Lord took him much too soon. Please accept my sympathy. John Scala

John Scala - January 14, 2017 at 02:21 PM

RV

O Captain! My Captain!

O Captain! my Captain! our fearful trip is done,

The ship has weather'd every rack, the prize we sought is won,

The port is near, the bells I hear, the people all exulting,

O Captain! my Captain! rise up and hear the bells;

Rise up—for you the flag is flung—for you the bugle trills,

For you bouquets and ribbon'd wreaths—for you the shores a-crowding,

For you they call, the swaying mass, their eager faces turning;

The ship is anchor'd safe and sound, its voyage closed and done,

From fearful trip the victor ship comes in with object won;

Exult O shores, and ring O bells!

Excerpted from: WALT WHITMAN

From first we met on playing field in 1958 and for 6 years thereafter at old Proctor High until last I shook his hand at the 50th Class Reunion Bill's truly unique sense of Integrity has inspired me and made him my Captain.

Rest In Peace...

Richard Valeriano - Los Angeles, CA

Richard Valeriano - January 15, 2017 at 08:52 PM