



Donald A Licata

August 7, 1931 - November 17, 2020

Family, friends and loved ones, it is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of our father, Donald. Sonny, as many of you know him, went peacefully in his sleep after a short hospitalization, joining our mother Ann, who he missed dearly, nearly four years after her passing.

All of you who knew dad will remember his ever-pleasant attitude, kindness towards strangers, generous heart, and unbounded love for his family. He held three to four jobs at a time since he was barely a teenager, first supporting his mother and then his wife and children. He delivered papers, shucked clams, delivered milk, polished shoes, laundered linens, sold insurance, and at Bell Aerospace started as a janitor and worked his way up to quality control manager.

He was a night concrete foreman on the Niagara Power Project. He told stories of coming off his shift in the early hours of dawn and heading to the local saloons. He saw more than one fellow worker lose their lives under the massive concrete buckets.

He was a unionist, and after Textron shut down Bell and moved jobs to Mexico, he, in his retirement, with fellow union members, formed a “Networking Club” to help find jobs for his unemployed younger colleagues.

In spite of all the work, he managed to find time to spend with his family. Picnics, horseshoes. bocce, beer and barbecue. He always made sure you were fed and had a drink.

He loved to garden, planted a huge garden in the back of our yard for years, and then enjoyed his time helping Sandy and Carl bring their produce to the market.

He was proud to be a Sicilian-American, and he was thrilled to meet after so many decades his cousins in the “old country”. I had the privilege of traveling to Europe with dad and my brother Joe in 1994, seeing our cousins in Sicily and Belgium, and visiting Spain and northern Italy. Those are among my most cherished memories. Cousins that we had never met welcomed us as if they had known us all our lives.

Dad was a 1st chair trumpet player by the time he became a teenager. He was a member of the NY National Guard, and in 1953 at the rise of the Korean War, enlisted in the Army. The recruiter asked him if he could play french horn, and of course he said yes (though he had never touched one). He was stationed with the the 82nd Airborne Division Band Fort Bragg.

Dad is survived by countless grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and he cherished every one of them. Nothing made him smile more than seeing pictures of his new grandbabies.

We will miss him, while each of us who knew and loved him carry a piece of him in our hearts.

—Domenic

Cemetery Details

Mt. Olivet Cemetery

4000 Elmwood Ave
Kemore, NY

Tribute Wall

JL

“ I had the pleasure of working with Don at Bell Aerospace and he was always kind, helpful and caring. When Bell closed, he ran the Outplacement Center on Niagara Falls Blvd and found many of his co-workers new jobs including myself. In my case, Donny submitted my resume to the University at Buffalo when I was out of town in Washington DC. When I returned to Buffalo I learned I had an interview at UB. That interview turned into 25 years of continuous employment. I will be forever grateful to Donny for what he did for me and my family.

My sincere condolences to his family. You lost a truly great man!!!

Jim Leahy

James A Leahy - November 26, 2020 at 10:03 AM

DG

“ Joe, Sandy, & Domenic,

So sad to learn about your dad's passing. Our parents were long life friends for 60 plus years. They all lived long lives now in the hands of God Our Father. My thoughts and prayers to you and your family.

Deb Gillmor (Reinacher)

Deb Gillmor - November 22, 2020 at 09:53 AM

CR

*I was saddened to hear about Don. My condolences to all of the family.
Charles Rizzone.*

Charles Rizzone - November 22, 2020 at 07:09 PM

ML

*Dear Joe, Sandy and Domenic
My deepest sympathy on the loss of you Dad. Our parents were good
friends. They are reunited in heaven. Fondly. Maryann Aronica
LaRussa*

Maryann Aronica LaRussa - November 22, 2020 at 11:20 PM