



Phillip Russ Rizzo

June 28, 1933 - April 29, 2017

Phillip 'Russ' Rizzo, age 83, went home to be with the Lord on April 29, 2017 after a valiant battle with cancer. Russ was born June 28, 1933 to parents Louis and Anna [nee Russell] Rizzo in Brockway, PA. As a child, he moved to North Tonawanda which became his lifelong home. Russ served his country in the United States Army from 1951 – 1953. He married Mary [nee Keane] in 1959 and together they had four children: Joe (Valerie) Rizzo, Anne (Craig) Hering, Holly (Mike) McGinnis and Shari (Joe) Vitro. Russ cherished his role as 'Papa' to his seven grandchildren: Russell and Jocelyn Rizzo, Emily and Joey Hering, Colin and Connor McGinnis, Christian Clark, Lizzy (Steven) Riley, and great granddaughters, Isla Belle Clark and Lilly Harwood. He is also survived by his loving nephews Mark (Kathy) Jaccarino, Tom (Cindy) Jaccarino, Louis Rizzo, and niece Pamela Tylee along with great nephews and niece. Russ was predeceased by his dear step father, Joseph Lombardo, and his siblings with whom he and Mary made many happy memories: brother and best friend, Louis 'Red' Rizzo (Elvira 'Rod') and sister Teresa Jaccarino (Joe 'Jack'). Russ was an avid Bills fan and proud season ticket holder from day one. He enjoyed being an active member of his community as a parent, parishioner, volunteer, business owner and public servant. He prided himself on service his whole adult life. He was co-owner of Rizzo and Ricotta Office Products from 1980 – 2010. In 2000, he began a new chapter in his life serving North Tonawanda as Alderman for 15 years and as Niagara County Legislator for 2 years. He was honored to serve his community as Common

Council President from 2014 – 2016. Russ was extremely humbled to be awarded the key to the city in February of 2017 when he retired from service. Russ sincerely treasured his time in office. He loved helping his constituents, and was so thankful to have a part in improving Gratwick Riverside Park, often referring to it as the 'Jewel of the 1st Ward'. He was greatly honored to learn that a shelter was recently dedicated in his name there. Russ loved God, family, friends, the Buffalo Bills and his city. His friendly "hello" and bright smile always lit up the room. He will be remembered not only by his words, but for his actions. His heart of service was evident in all he did. He will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved him. Friends and family welcome at Wattengel Funeral Home, 533 Meadow Drive in North Tonawanda on Friday May 5th from 2-8 PM. A Mass of Christian burial will be held at 12 PM on Saturday May 6th at St. Jude the Apostle Parish , 800 Niagara Falls Blvd, North Tonawanda. In lieu of flowers, donations to Niagara Hospice graciously appreciated.

Cemetery Details

Mount Olivet Cemetery

4000 Elmwood Avenue
Town Tonawanda, NY 14120

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 5. 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Wattengel Funeral Home
533 Meadow Drive
North Tonawanda, NY 14120
(716) 693-0440

Mass of Christian Burial

MAY 6. 12:00 PM (ET)

St Jude the Apostle Parish
800 Niagara Falls Blvd.
North Tonawanda, NY

Burial

MAY 6 (ET)

Mount Olivet Cemetery
4000 Elmwood Avenue
Town Tonawanda, NY 14120

Tribute Wall

JO

“ *Holly & Mike,*

My deepest, heartfelt sympathies go out to you and your family. May you find comfort in all the many memories you have of your father.

*Best
John Olszowka*

John Olszowka - May 05, 2017 at 10:39 PM

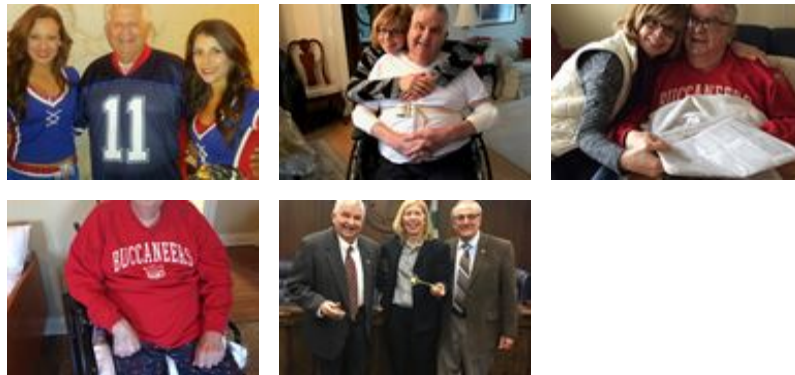
EA

“ *Mary and family our sincere condolences on the loss of Russ. I remember as a kid the backyard picnics at the house on Payne Ave. lots of fun and lots of us kids. God Bless Ed and Jackie Addy.*

ed addy - May 05, 2017 at 04:38 PM



“ *71 files added to the album LifeTributes*



Wattengel Funeral Home - May 04, 2017 at 12:38 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Phillip Russ Rizzo.*



May 04, 2017 at 09:03 AM



“ *JOHN GUIDO & FAMILY purchased the Beautiful Whisper for the family of Phillip Russ Rizzo.*



JOHN GUIDO & FAMILY - May 03, 2017 at 10:31 AM



“ *AMATO, FOX & COMPANY purchased the Memo ries to Treasure for the family of Phillip Russ Rizzo.*



AMATO, FOX & COMPANY - May 03, 2017 at 10:21 AM



“ *Russell was a wonderful man of faith, kindness and sincerity. He attended Mass faithfully every week and loved our Lord . He delighted in people and had a great smile. I will keep his dear soul in my daily prayers. Peace, Fr Ted Jost*

Rev. Ted Jost - May 02, 2017 at 09:06 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Phillip Russ Rizzo.



May 02, 2017 at 05:08 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Phillip Russ Rizzo.



May 01, 2017 at 12:13 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Phillip Russ Rizzo.



April 30, 2017 at 10:03 PM



“ Guiding Light Bouquet was purchased for the family of Phillip Russ Rizzo.



April 30, 2017 at 06:04 PM

JU

“ *I met Mr. Rizzo during physical Therapy at Degraff Wellness Center. Such a nice man and very friendly. We'd both talk about our treatments. He will be missed. Praying for all of his family.*

Julie - April 30, 2017 at 02:35 PM

BS

“ *Bill Snyder lit a candle in memory of Phillip Russ Rizzo*



Bill Snyder - April 30, 2017 at 12:17 PM

PH

“ *We are so sorry to hear about Russ... He was a wonderful man... He gave back a lot to nt's community... Prayers sent to the Rizzo family... God bless you all... Jim and Phyllis Hojnowski...*

Phyllis Hojnowski - April 30, 2017 at 08:47 AM

MA

“ *Dear Mary and family,*

I was sadden ti read about Russ passing. I know in my heart that he put up a hell of fight. Every time we did meet he always had a smile and ahand shake for you, he was the ultimate gentleman. My prayers and thoughts go out to all of you.

Michael Addy

Michael Addy - April 30, 2017 at 06:35 AM

PC

*Dear Mary and family,
I was very sad to learn of Russ' passing. This world has lost a real gentleman.*

It was always a pleasure to work with Russ.

He will be missed.

Penny Creasey

penny creasey - April 30, 2017 at 06:49 AM

CC

Mary, My thoughts and prayers with all of you! I know the twinkle in his eye is gone but that great spirit he had will always be remembered 🙏

Carolyn and Don Clancy - April 30, 2017 at 02:40 PM