



Mr. Peter J. Murray

April 22, 1936 - July 21, 2020

NEW HARTFORD-Mr. Peter J. Murray, Retired Utica Fire Department Captain, age 84, passed away on July 21, 2020. Born in Utica, NY, on April 22, 1936, Peter was the son of the late Hugh and Irene (Miller) Murray. He was raised and educated in Utica, attending St. Francis De Sales School K-12. He will be forever grateful to his parents for sending him to parochial school. After graduation in 1954, he learned the residential building trade. In 1955, he joined the United States Navy, proudly serving on a jet fighter squadron aboard the U.S.S. Intrepid. He would often reminisce about his many adventures at sea and the amazing opportunities it afforded him to see the world. On September 19, 1959, he married Sophie (Zosia) Ann Mackos, with whom he shared 60 years together, years filled with much love, devotion and respect for family life. He said it was the best decision he ever made.

On June 21, 1959, Peter began his career with the Utica Fire Department where he served as a firefighter stationed at the Firehouses at Central, Bleecker, Mohawk and Arthur. He was recognized for his outstanding leadership and service and rose to the rank of Lieutenant in 1966 and Captain in 1973. Peter received multiple commendations for his bravery. He was a member of the International Association of Firefighters Local 32 and served on its Executive Board. Upon his retirement from the UFD in 1985, he served on the Executive Board for Retired Police and Firefighters.

Peter was a member of the Fraternal Order of the Eagles #97 and the VFW 7393. He made many friends in his associations and they would often comment about his quick and easy banter. He found his passion for golf soon after his retirement and enjoyed the game for over 35 years. He was an avid Yankees fan and followed Syracuse sports. He loved the challenge of crossword puzzles or any word game. He would fondly reference and attribute his word interest to his Latin education by the brothers at St. Francis. Peter loved old movies, especially featuring John Wayne. He loved the songs of Johnny Mathis and regaled his children and grandchildren with stories about his memorable high school dances. Other childhood stories included waking up to the roar of the lion at the Utica Zoo from his Cornhill home, hopping the train to NYC without any money, 25 cent movies at the Stanley, and milkshakes at the Square View.

He regularly vacationed with his family and friends to Eagle Bay, NY. When not

vacationing at Fourth Lake, Peter enjoyed his yearly family trek to the ocean. Hampton Beach, NH, was the quintessential spot to enjoy a generous lobster and a cold one (Brown's was his favorite lobster shack). He and Zosia made many other happy memories in retirement travelling to Las Vegas, Hawaii, Scotland, England, Italy, and Sicily. The majority of their travel, however, was dedicated to visiting and spending time with their children and their seven accomplished granddaughters. Peter was very proud of his grandchildren who fondly called him "beepa", a name that was very endearing to him. Peter was blessed with many special friends throughout the years. He will be missed for his quick wit and easy ability to converse with others. We will miss his smile and beautiful blue eyes. He was a loving father and husband who cared deeply for his family. He is survived by his wife, Sophie (Zosia) Ann and his three beloved children: Dr. Colleen Murray Zangla (Steve) of PA; Christopher Murray of AZ; and Cathleen Luker (William) of CT; seven granddaughters: Dr. Emily Zangla, Carly Zangla, Kate Zangla, Kelly Luker, Kristy Luker, Courtney Luker, and Shannon Luker; sister, Irene Murray Sbiroli and sister-in-law Linda Mackos; several nieces and a nephew. He was predeceased by his sister and brother-in-law, Catherine and Anthony Caruso; his niece, Patricia Caruso; brother-in-law, Philip Sbiroli; nephew, Michael Sbiroli; father-in-law and mother-in-law, Stanley and Mary Mackos; sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Lorraine and Donald Pemberton; nephew, Carey Pemberton; brother-in-law, Robert Mackos.

Relatives and friends are invited and may call Tuesday from 4-6 pm at McGrath, Myslinski, Karboski & Nunn Funeral Directors, 470 French Rd., Utica. Please wear a face covering and be mindful of our 33% capacity restriction. Funeral services will be Wednesday at 10 am at the Church of Our Lady of Lourdes where a Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated. Inurnment will be in St. Stanislaus & Casimir Cemetery, Whitesboro. Those wishing to express an act of kindness may make a donation to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital or The Abraham House (Utica). Envelopes will be available at the funeral home.

Events

JUL 28 Visitation 04:00PM - 06:00PM
McGrath, Myslinski, Karboski & Nunn Funeral Directors
470 French Road, Utica, NY, US, 13502

JUL 29 Funeral Mass 10:00AM - 11:00AM
Church of Our Lady of Lourdes
2 Barton Ave, Utica, NY, US, 13502

Comments



“ Zosia and Family, so very sorry for your loss. May beautiful memories sustain you. Zosia, Lorraine and I were great friends and graduated together from WCHS. Take good care of yourself. Sincerely, Carol Ann Fukes-Mahar

Carol Ann Fukes-Mahar - July 28 at 12:56 PM



“ Dear Ann: So very sorry to hear about Peter's passing. As you know I worked with him at Central and Wemore/Bleeker for years. He was a great leader and I have many fond memories of him.

My deepest sympathy to you and your family. My heart and prayers are with him and you.

Love, Jim Mauthe

Jim Mauthe - July 28 at 11:00 AM



“ Chris, Cathy and family - I'm so sorry to hear of your loss. I met him only once or twice but sounds like an amazing man. My thoughts and prayers are with you. Godspeed to him. Mary Ann Hallak-Serwatka

Mary Ann Hallak-Serwatka - July 28 at 10:31 AM



“ So sorry to hear of Peter's passing. I played in his AM golf leagues at the Eagles since 2005. It was sad when he gave up the game, but he couldn't stay away. He showed up at the end of the morning rounds to share a beer and banter usually with myself, Paul O'Hara, and Danny Vanno. One of my fondest memories besides all of the on the course golf antics was him sitting on the bar stool eating a peanut butter sandwich out of a paper bag while boasting about the most recent Yankees' victory or trying to avoid the quick retorts on the mornings after they lost. I was big on the latter as I have always hated the Yankees so he and I had lots of fun going back and forth on that issue.

We also hashed over lots of 40s, 50s, and 60s music. He was 10 years older than me, but I really have a thing for the big band sound of the 30s and 40s. I could also bug him by singing 60s and 70s rock songs around the greens that pertained to the actual events transpiring at the time.

I'm going to miss his loud and gracious hellos on Tuesday and Thursday mornings

and his taking me aside to quietly exchange some gossip about this or that member and then his giggle at having spilled some beans.

He was a very genuine man and I am going to miss that about him and that grin will be with me forever.

My deepest sympathy,
Terry Cleveland.

Terry Cleveland - July 26 at 01:28 PM



“ ANN,
SO SORRY FOR YOUR LOSS. MAY HE REST IN PEACE. OUR PRAYERS ARE
FOR BOTH OF YOU.
LEO AND LINDA FADEL

LEO FADEL - July 26 at 06:18 AM



“ Dear Ann- I was so sad to hear of the passing of your dear Peter. I did not know him, but I knew you and agree with him that you were the best decision he ever made. Miss you and your wonderful support and smile. Love, Ginny (Mele) Pulitzer

Virginia Pulitzer - July 25 at 06:12 PM



“ Ann..... Eileen and I are so sorry to hear that Peter has passed. The two of you had a very full life together. It also appears you two raised a family who are all extremely successful, and their children as well.

Ann, you were always such a ray of light to greet all of us teachers first thing each morning. You were always there to help in so many different ways. New Hartford struck it rich when they hired you! You wore so many different hats and that helped shape the success of the high school. You are cherished by the faculty.

Our condolences to you and your entire family.

Doug and Eileen Pens

Doug Pens - July 25 at 12:49 PM



“ Pete was a very good friend of my parents, Joe & Kay Peplinski. My Dad served for many years with Pete on the Utica Fire Dept. When my Dad was in St Josph's Nursing Home, Pete would come and pick him up and bring him to the VFW for a cold beer and talk about some great memories. My condolences in his passing. He was a good man.

Joe Peplinski Jr

Joe Peplinski - July 25 at 08:51 AM



“ Dear Ann, I am so very sorry to know of the death of Peter. You both had such a love and care for each other. Whenever we would meet after leaving NH, we'd always laugh about the wedding we went to where I had to leave early and I asked Peter if I could eat his meat! My heart goes out to you and your family. Know that love never dies and when you aren't grieving so hard, you'll begin to have "signs" from him, believe them. Thank God also for our memories and the love you both cherished.
Louise

Louise White - July 25 at 06:56 AM