



Mr. Guy Passeri

August 6, 1920 - October 11, 2014

Guy Passeri, 94, of Cortland, passed away October 11, 2014, at Cortland Regional Medical Center, Cortland, NY, after a long illness. Born August 6, 1920, in Ceccano, Italy, Guy was the only child of Giovannbattista "John" Passeri and Francesca D'Annibale Passeri. He immigrated to the United States in 1937 and became a naturalized American citizen in 1943.

Guy's 81 year career as a barber began at age 12 when he was apprenticed to become a barber in Rome, Italy. After arriving in Cortland, he was a student at St. Mary's High School and Cortland High School, working part-time at the barber shop of his future father-in-law, Nick D'Adamio and then starting his own barber shop on Clinton Avenue. A self-trained musician, Guy played guitar for the Round Up Riders with a weekly radio show in Ithaca in the late 1930's and played with the Cosimo Bros. Band in the early 1940's. During WWII, Guy served with the U.S. Army's 36th Division of the 5th Army and fought in North Africa, the Battles of Salerno, Anzio, and Cassino, and was also translator and driver, often going behind enemy lines as a liaison to the Italian partisans who were helping the Allies against Nazi Germany. Next, Guy was transferred to the 6th Army and fought in France and Germany. As a corporal, he was awarded the Bronze Star Medal in 1945.

After WWII, Guy finished his education through the G.I. Bill, graduating from Central High School in Syracuse and completing courses at Cortland Business College. After marrying Yolanda D'Adamio in 1945, Guy continued barbering in Cortland, Sampson Air Force Base (Geneva), Truxton, and at Cornell University from the 1950's to the 1970's, when he started the Trojan Hair Stylist and King's Den Barber Shop in Cortland. When he reached retirement age, Guy sold the King's Den, but his love of barbering and being with the public inspired him to return to the shop he had founded where he continued barbering until September of 2013 at age 93. A very enterprising man who always had at least two jobs until his 60's, barbering was not Guy's only occupation. Guy also had a summer grocery store at DeRuyter Lake and Guy's Boat Company, for boat and motor sales, in the 1960's.

Always full of energy and zeal for life, Guy was a loving and involved father to his three daughters, a devoted grandfather and great grandfather, an active communicant at St. Anthony's Church, member of San Rocco Lodge, and clarinetist for the Old Timers Band from its days as the Civic Band, even playing first clarinet until just a few years ago. After the death of his first wife, he married Ann Bartolone in 1975 and enjoyed many trips with her to Hawaii, Italy, and various locations in the U.S.

Guy is pre-deceased by his two wives and survived by his daughters, Stephanie (Robert) Passeri-Densmore, Deborah (Jerry) Coye, and Adrienne (Michael) Bruno and grandchildren Brent(Helene), Greg, Seth (Linda), Noel, Cristina (Derek), Vanessa, Erica, Monica, and Michael, and seven great grandchildren. Guy is also survived by step-children Pat (Cathy) Bartolone, Tony(Tammy) Bartolone, and Betty (Al Stauber) Bartolone and step-grandchildren, Sebastian(Becky), Renae (Jeremy), Christine (Michael), and Tony (Nicole) and seven step great grandchildren. Also surviving are many cousins in Italy and Canada and close friends, JoeTucci and Angelo DiPietro of Cortland. All family members and friends will miss Guy's warmth, humor, and dedication.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated by Father Joe Zareski on Friday at 10 AM at St. Anthony's Church with a luncheon to follow internment at St. Mary's Cemetary. The family will be present to receive friends at Riccardi Funeral Home, 69 N. Main St, Cortland, on Thursday from 4-8 PM. Condolences may sent to the family via www.riccardifuneralhome.com

Tribute Wall

KM

“ Guy was always instrumental in teaching me about our family the Passeri(y)s. He gave me a lineage lesson that I know I will never forget. His close relationship with my grandfather and his sisters, Guy's first cousins, is a memory I will treasure for all of my life.

Katrina (Atwood) Miner - May 18, 2018 at 11:10 AM

DS

“ Guy, was a wonderful person and boss. He was so proud of his family and had so many friends. I was honored to work with guy and gain his knowledge of barbering and stay in touch with him all the years.

Debra Sweet - May 18, 2018 at 11:10 AM

RC

“ I worked for Guy when The King's Den was in the "Cortlandville Mall" . He was the BEST employer and a very sweet man. I have fond memories of the days spent with Guy. My sincere condolences to his family.

Robbin Cochran - May 18, 2018 at 11:10 AM

BB

“ Guy has been a part of our family for 40 years. He will be missed and in our hearts forever.

Betty Bartolone - May 18, 2018 at 11:10 AM

AC

“ My thought s and prayers go to the family of Mr Guy Passeri, condoglianze from your friend Angela CHIellino

angela chiellino - May 18, 2018 at 11:10 AM

JC

“ I remember going to see Guy when I was growing up. He was always a joy to be around - humble, friendly and positive. All my best to his family.

Joe Compagni - May 18, 2018 at 11:10 AM

AP

“ To all the Passeri Densmore family,
With all the memories of your kind and pleasant Dad, I am far away but thought of all of you this week. My Mother (Theresa) also knew him, as well as my Dad (so long ago) as the fun musician and barber!! who knows what they talked about at the shop in Italian, as paesans for years!! Sending condolences to all.
Blessings and much love from our family,

Amy Tutino Piatak
Theresa Tutino
Orland/Cortland NY

Amy T Piatak - May 18, 2018 at 11:10 AM

SP

“ My family and I are heartbroken at the passing of our wonderful father Guy Passeri. He was a selfless, dynamic, courageous, loving, enterprising, and talented person who spent his life doing for others, especially his family and friends. We rejoice at the blessing he has been and will continue to be in our lives.

Final goodbye and thank you:

Yesterday, the staff of St. Anthony's Church surpassed itself with a wonderful goodbye to my father Guy Passeri, including the sensitive homily by Father Joe Zareski, the organization by Carol Partigianoni, the music direction by Nancy Stevens and the celestial voice of Katie Niver, the beautiful program by Phil Corsi, and the outstanding hospitality and delicious food by the bereavement committee, headed by Carl and Marianne Fadale, and many volunteers. I would also like to thank Bryan Riccardi and his staff for their incredible expertise and compassion in all phases of my father's calling hours and funeral and Cortland Flower Shop for their exquisite arrangements. Thank you also to all our relatives and friends who came together with us to say a final goodbye to our beloved father. Grazie mille a tutti! Stephanie Passeri-Densmore

Stephanie Passeri-Densmore - May 18, 2018 at 11:10 AM

MC

“ *Obituary for Mr. Guy Passeri* Dear Passeri family, I am so sorry to learn of the passing of Guy. While I only met him once, I was so enamored by his sincerity, his love of family and of life, not only did I ask to have my picture taken with him; on my return to Georgia, I wrote a story about my experience. During my very short time with this gentle man, I learned a great deal about honor; about life and values. It was truly the most pleasant time in a chair this 59 year old had the good fortune to spend. Had I known at the time Guy's back story - the one I read in the "Cortland Standard; why I think I would have allowed my hair to grow for my once-every-two-year visits north just to sit in that chair as he worked and talked softly of his life - his family - and, with luck, his Catholicism and music. If you would like to read what I wrote, I'd be proud to send it along. I am not a writer; I only write when I'm moved. Besides, how often does one write - or read - about a haircut? My deepest condolences from a fellow Catholic man who had the great pleasure of tipping an iconic human. Heaven just got more interesting. I'm sure my dear mother was standing at the gate to congratulate Guy on a job well done on her sons empty head. With affection Michael L. Coleman 2478 Dakota Trail Lilburn, Georgia 30047 USA 770.498.1582 Michael@benchmarkclothing.com Dhcmclc@aol.com

Michael L. Coleman - May 18, 2018 at 11:10 AM



“ *This may be a final tribute, a time to celebrate Guy's life and say your goodbyes; but it's not final. Everyday you'll celebrate in some little way, just by the virtue of how he touched your lives, the absolute and incredible fortune that you knew him as a dear father, a caring and loving Grandfather, a wonderful gentleman, good friend, and a blessed member of your family.*

Your memories of Guy are many and your time with him more precious than words can say.

To his immediate family, extended family, grandchildren, great grandchildren, . . . Our thoughts and prayers are with you as you celebrate the life of this wonderful man.

~

Bob and Donna Shady

October 16, 2014 at 12:00 AM