



Mr. James David Natale Sr.

April 12, 1947 - February 8, 2026

It is with great sadness that we share the passing of James David Natale, Sr. our dear, wonderful Jimmy. A loving husband, devoted father, doting grandfather and loyal brother.

James passed away peacefully at home February 8, 2026, at the age of 78, surrounded by his loving family.

James is survived by his wife of nearly 60 years, Sandra Natale. They fell in love in second grade and never looked back. James and Sandra shared a love so strong and so true. A lifetime of love, but even still, it was not enough time.

James was the foundation of our family, and we will miss him every day. He shared his strength simply through his presence. Always with his generous heart, wisdom, humor, sarcasm, hard work, and patience. James showed his love in everything he said and did.

James was born on April 12, 1947 in Cortland, New York, to the late Louis and Ada Natale. He graduated from Cortland High School in 1965. With great pride, he then answered the call to serve his county, enlisting in the United States Air Force in 1966 to serve during Vietnam, stationed in Takhli, Thailand. Upon his return to the states, James earned his Associate degree in

Applied Science from Tompkins Cortland Community College. James was a member of the American Legion 489.

James owned and operated Lou's Donut Shop, a true Cortland staple, for 30 years. James took over the shop after his father's own 30-year legacy. James had worked side by side with his father since childhood, perfecting recipes and offering warm, friendly hospitality that made the shop so loved. Even after retirement, James never lost his love for bakery life. He worked as a traveling bakery salesman.

James was also deeply committed to his service as a paid firefighter with the Cortland Fire Department, where he served with great courage for over two decades. He was honored to serve as the president of the local firefighter's union for many years.

James will be deeply missed by many, including his wife, Sandra Natale; James {Corrine} Natale Jr., Melissa Natale-Delegato, and Patrick {Margaret} Natale; his grandchildren Nicholas and Jakob Natale, Nicholas Delegato, Cecilia and Montgomery Natale and his step granddaughter Victoria Jackowski; his siblings William Tally {Denise Kipple}, Lonnie {Michael} Seagriff, Jacqueline {Eugene} Egan and Julie Natale; and many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. He also treasured the family he gained through marriage, who became an exceptional and cherished part of his life.

James family expresses heartfelt gratitude to all who offered prayers, support, and comfort during these past few years. A special thank you to the staff at Misty Glen for always caring for, supporting and encouraging James. A special thank you to Dr. Noble for taking such good care of James.

Calling hours will be held Monday, February 16, from 1030am to 1230pm at Riccardi Funeral Home, with a Catholic Mass to follow at 1pm at St. Mary's

Church, Cortland, NY.

In lieu of flowers please make donations to St. Mary's Catholic School or
Cortland Fire Department

Tribute Wall

KW

“ Karen (Jones) Williams lit a candle in memory of Mr. James David Natale Sr.



Karen (Jones) Williams - March 25 at 10:11 AM

JB

“ It's been many years since I've seen Jim, he worked for me part time in the late 80's through the early 90's.

After he had taken early retirement from the fire department a mutual friend had him contact me. I owned multiple newspaper distribution businesses which included a motor route for the Cortland Standard.

Jim was trust worthy and just a wonderful man. As a teenager growing up in Oneida NY I worked for a family that owned a bakery so we that in common and talked about that.

He loved the business but I believe it was an allergy that he developed to maybe baking powder.

After I sold that route we rarely saw one another and it now saddens me greatly I never spent more time with him.

To his family our deepest condolences.

John & Linda Bennett

John Bennett - February 16 at 11:25 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mr. James David Natale Sr..*



February 13 at 03:55 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Mr. James David Natale Sr..

February 13 at 03:55 PM



“ *U.S. Futaba, Inc. purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Mr. James David Natale Sr..*



U.S. Futaba, Inc. - February 13 at 07:19 AM



“ *U.S. Futaba, Inc. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mr. James David Natale Sr..*

U.S. Futaba, Inc. - February 13 at 07:19 AM

K(

“ *Karen M Jones (Williams) lit a candle in memory of Mr. James David Natale Sr.*



Karen M Jones (Williams) - February 12 at 07:36 PM

K(

RIP dear cousin. Thank you for the memories.

Karen M Jones (Williams) - February 12 at 07:37 PM

TF

“ *The Zogheib Family purchased the Heavenly Grace Spray for the family of Mr. James David Natale Sr..*



The Zogheib Family - February 12 at 05:00 PM