

Mr. John J. Stevens

January 16, 1924 - August 25, 2019

John J. Stevens, 95, of Cortland, NY passed away on August 25, 2019. He died peacefully surrounded his family. “Johnny” was born in January 16, 1924, the son of Michael and Lena (Di Stefano) Stevens. Johnny was a lifelong resident of Cortland who loved the South and East Ends as well as anything Cortland.

During World War II, he served bravely in the US Army in Europe as a medic and cook. Upon returning home, he married his wife of 71 years, Mary Louise Stevens. Johnny, along with his wife, were the owners of Johnny’s “Famous” Drive-In Restaurant. Many friends patronized his restaurant to enjoy his hot sausage and the lively conversation. Johnny was a parishioner of St. Anthony of Padua Roman Catholic Church and enjoyed his time working at church events. Johnny loved to celebrate his favorite holiday, St. Anthony’s Day. He was also Member Emeritus of the Old Timers Band where he played the bass drum for many years.

Johnny is survived by his wife, Mary, his sister Beatrice (James) O’Mara and brother Robert (Kay) Stevens, his children Christy and James Stevens, grandchildren Susannah (Vernell) Ollivierre, Julie (Christopher) Simser, Darius Stevens and Autumn Rae Stevens, several great-grandchildren, great-great grandchildren and nieces and nephews. In addition to his parents, Johnny was predeceased in death by his siblings Albert (Helen) Stevens, James

Stevens, Dorothy (Robert) Stoker, Norma (Jerome) Lundberg and Betty Ann (Edward) Purser.

Our grandfather was proud of his country, his friends, his family, his faith and his Italian heritage. He will be greatly missed.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at St. Anthony of Padua Roman Catholic Church on Thursday, August 29th at 10:30 a.m. with Rev. Nathan Brooks serving as celebrant. Prayers of committal with full military honors will follow in St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, kindly consider a donation to St. Anthony's Church.

Arrangements are under the direction of Riccardi Funeral Home, Cortland, N.Y. 13045 www.riccardifuneralhome.com

Cemetery Details

St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery

4101 West Rd
Cortland, NY 13045

Tribute Wall

AN

“ *Anonymous lit a candle in memory of Mr. John J. Stevens*



Anonymous - February 21, 2020 at 01:40 PM

AN

“ *Anonymous lit a candle in memory of Mr. John J. Stevens*



Anonymous - February 21, 2020 at 01:40 PM

AN

“ *Gone in this world but not forgotten*

Anonymous - February 21, 2020 at 01:39 PM

SD

“ *Johnny was a most welcoming person - always greeting us with a warm smile and handshake at church! We will always have fond memories of Johnny as he got Steve's Dad, Wilbur, a seat playing in the Old Timers Band, after Steve's dad moved here from Michigan. Wilbur played the clarinet in the Ann Arbor Civic Band for about 50 years and that was one thing he was really going to miss. We were truly grateful for Johnny! ❤️❤️❤️
Much love to you, Mary, and your family,
Steve and Theresa DeHart*

Steve and Theresa DeHart - September 02, 2019 at 01:23 PM



“ *My mother and Hank Fragnoli always talked about them. I eat at their place one Christmas when I was with them. So sorry for your loss.*

Harry Callison - September 02, 2019 at 08:54 AM

AN

“ *Anonymous lit a candle in memory of Mr. John J. Stevens*



Anonymous - August 30, 2019 at 05:06 PM

KC

“ *Kim Caforio-nunciato lit a candle in memory of Mr. John J. Stevens*



Kim Caforio-nunciato - August 28, 2019 at 07:22 PM

LO

“ Mary and family, my thoughts and prayers are with you and Johnny will be tremendously missed. I remember watching my Dad, Frank Biviano, and Johnny playing in the Old Timers Band. Johnny had so many great stories about the old days and I always enjoyed listening to them. He always put a smile on our face and made us laugh.

Love to all.

Lori Canestaro

Lori - August 27, 2019 at 09:00 PM

MP

“ Mary and family, Johnny will certainly be missed. He was a very nice man. He always had a smile and a friendly handshake. I can remember a few years ago I was out for a walk and I met Johnny in front of his house and he invited me into his house and gave me a tour of their lovely home. He was always recounting stories of when he and my father were younger. He always put a smile on my face.

Mary Ann, Mary and Danny Piedigrossi

Mary Ann Piedigrossi - August 27, 2019 at 07:48 PM

MB

“ Johnny's enthusiasm for life, his love for his family, and his ability to keep a steady beat with the Band... and countless other gifts... Rest In Peace, dear John. You gave 110% and we are the better for it.

Marianne Bertini

Marianne Bertini - August 27, 2019 at 04:29 PM



OL

“Pals till the end” ❤️



Olivia - August 27, 2019 at 01:16 PM

DA

“ A iconic man, who even in his later years conveyed love to so many, myself included. These past few days have shown how many he touched in a sheerly positive way over his 95 years. Never was he malicious toward anyone (expect for riling up my father or Mimi haha), and had a spirit of gold and optimistic exuberance.

Darius - August 27, 2019 at 11:37 AM

SG

“ Scott Goodrich lit a candle in memory of Mr. John J. Stevens



Scott Goodrich - August 27, 2019 at 10:09 AM

BR

“ When I found out about the passing of Johnny I had a flashback too the late 1960 when Myself and about five other Coca-Cola drivers would stop at Johnny’s on Rt-281 for breakfast before going to Ithaca. We always had great times with Johnny and his workers. R.I.P you had a great life and touched the hearts of a lot of people. Richard Bushnell

Bushnell Richard - August 27, 2019 at 09:33 AM

PM

“ *Peggy Murdent lit a candle in memory of Mr. John J. Stevens*



Peggy murdent - August 27, 2019 at 09:14 AM

PM

Johnny you will be missed! Fly high my sweet angel

Peggy murdent - August 27, 2019 at 09:14 AM

WK

“ *Johnny Im going to miss our secret handshake and that wonderful devilish smile you always gave me. You are a wonderful man and will be truly missed by many. With Love, Wendy Knapp LPN*



Wendy Knapp - August 26, 2019 at 09:22 PM

SB

Johnny i will miss you.i will remember you looking out the window at the flowers...

Sean Boyce - August 28, 2019 at 07:58 AM



“ Johnny and Mary Stephens were among my parents most cherished friends.

Johnny always had a civil war story, an anecdote about football, or some story from the Old Timer's Band.

He played next to my father, Frank Biviano, for many years in that band -- Johnny on the bass drum and Dad on the snare drum.

Many a story I had of Dad talking to Johnny about "keeping a beat".

Truly, I will miss this sensational man - a true treasure of my life as a child and growing up as an adult! Many holidays were spent stopping by Johnny & Mary's on Port Watson for a glass of sambuca or amaretto. Always a welcome household -- always cherished our times together as friends.

We shall miss him greatly and while I had a tear or two at his passing, I'll always have such fond memories of the times Frank & Josephine Biviano and Johnny & Mary Stevens got together. Many, many, many laughs ;-)

Love to Mary -- Judy Biviano Lloyd

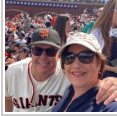
Judy Lloyd - August 26, 2019 at 09:11 PM

NI

“ Love of my life 💜👉👈



Nina - August 26, 2019 at 08:10 PM



Nina, I remember the first time I met you when you were maybe 3 or 4 years old. Your grandfather was SO proud of you! He just couldn't stop doting on you the entire time we were at their home. Please give Mary and your Mom a hug for me!

-- Judy Biviano Lloyd

Judy Lloyd - August 26, 2019 at 09:12 PM

TM

Whenever the Cortland Old Timers Band plays "Caderna" from now on, I will always think of Johnny singing it on the DVD, and playing it on St. Anthony's Day inside the church. Johnny was, and will forever be, in our musical hearts. May he rest in peace. Condolences to his family on such a huge loss.

Terry Mingle - August 27, 2019 at 10:01 PM



A gentle giant has left us. He will be remember so long as any of us who knew him are still alive. Prayer to the Family.

Jerry Natoli - August 28, 2019 at 09:37 AM

PC

Prayers to Johnny's family. He was a kind, caring man who loved all. He had such a passion for life and exhibited joy to all.

Pamela Lauren Cincotta - August 28, 2019 at 10:47 AM

JT

John and Mary always have reached out with friendly smiles and hello so many times. John will be missed for sure. The good thing is its not over, John has a reserved place.

John Tinkham - September 18, 2019 at 12:15 PM