



## Mr. Ralph G. Race

July 6, 1930 - July 9, 2017

Ralph G. Race, 87, died at Cortland Regional Medical Center on July 9, 2017. He was the son of Harold and Carrie Lamb Race, and was born in Cortland on July 6, 1930. Ralph graduated from Cortland High School in 1949 and served on the USS Midway during the Korean War. While on the Midway he was baptized Catholic off La Spezia, Italy and was confirmed by the Spanish Archbishop on Palma de Mallorca. He and his beloved wife, Margaret Neugebauer were married at St. Mary's Church on August 9, 1952.

Ralph was a journeyman electrician with the IBEW 43 for 68 years and served as business agent in Cortland for 10 years before they joined Syracuse. Ralph was also a member and past President of the Emerald Hose Co. and life member of the Cortland Fire Department. He was an usher for 50 years at St. Mary's Church.

Ralph enjoyed cutting his sons' and friends' hair, hunting, playing chess, and was an avid racquetball player until he was 75. In the summer, he enjoyed swimming a mile everyday after work in Tully Lake. He always enjoyed when the family got together for birthdays and holidays.

He is survived by his wife of 64 years and 11 months Margaret, his sister Marina (Lawrence) Twomey and his children Mary Lee Durant, Richard (Patricia) Race, Robert (Colleen) Race, Charles (Ann) Race, Nancy (Charles) Dalley, Carla (Michael) Shanahan, Kathleen (David) Lee, John (Kristen) Race. Ralph leaves 16 grandchildren: Steve Natoli and Kathryn Durant, Joseph, Marleah (Flanigan) and Patrick Race, Charles Jr. and Matthew Race, Clinton and Alexander Dalley, Joseph, Kurt and Nicholas Shanahan, Justin and Brian Lee, and Chelsea (MacKinnon) and John Thomas Race and 9 great-grandchildren. Ralph was predeceased by his youngest son R. Andrew in 2009 and his parents.

Ralph always said he had a very good life because he chose a good wife.

Calling hours will be held on Thursday from 4-6 p.m. In the Chapel of Riccardi Funeral Home 69 N. Main St. Cortland, N.Y. 13045

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Friday at 10 a.m. at St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church. Prayers of committal will follow in St. Anthony's Catholic Cemetery, Groton, N.Y.

In lieu of flowers donations can be made to: Alzheimer's Central New York Chapter, 441 West Kirkpatrick Street, Syracuse, NY 13204 or St. Mary's Church for the restoration of the Guardian Angel/Emerald Hose window. Condolences may be sent to the family by visiting [www.riccardifuneralhome.com](http://www.riccardifuneralhome.com)

# Tribute Wall

RR

“Dad, Everytime I do electrical work, troubleshoot something, or play racquetball, you're always on my mind. Thanks for the skills and fun times!

Robert Race - May 18, 2018 at 10:48 AM

DB

“Holding the Race and Shanahan families in our hearts and prayers at this sad time. We've heard so many wonderful stories about Ralph! We know he will be greatly missed! Love, Mike and Donna Briner and Joe's "Corinth family"

Donna Briner - May 18, 2018 at 10:48 AM

J(

“Dear Peggy, Marina and Family, We will always treasure the memories we have of Ralph and time spent together. We were so glad he was able to be at my dad's 80th a few years ago and I will never forget him visiting me when Maeve was born. He assured me all would be well with her. Peggy and Ralph set a wonderful example for all married couples of love, devotion and compromise. He will be missed. Love, Joan, Tom, Erin, Regan and Maeve

Joan Dadey (O'Donnell) - May 18, 2018 at 10:48 AM

SR

“Mr. Ralph G. Race

Stephanie Race - May 18, 2018 at 10:48 AM

CK

“My thoughts and prayers are with your family at this difficult time.

Cindy Kane - May 18, 2018 at 10:48 AM

CC

“So many fond memories of Mr. Race. He was always very kind to me and welcomed me into his home and around his dinner table, even though it seemed like there were 100 kids running in and out of that house all the time! Mr. and Mrs. Race raised a beautiful family. May he rest in peace. Love to all of you.

Christa Carsello - May 18, 2018 at 10:48 AM

MN

“ I work with Rob at Arcadis in Tampa and I did not know his dad but I wanted to send my condolences to Rob and his family. My prayers and thoughts are with all of you.

Maryann Nespolini - May 18, 2018 at 10:48 AM

BL

“ I was born in England. My Mother was blind and deaf, my Father was deaf and we were dirt poor. When my sister Marina was ten she was sent to New York to be adopted by Ralph's parents, Harold and Carrie. Carrie was my Father's half sister. A year later, at age seven, I was sent to be adopted by my Father's half brother, John and his wife Mary. Marina and I crossed the Atlantic, not on an airliner but on the Queen Elizabeth ocean liner. John and Mary owned a bakery and had busy lives. Summers they sent me to spend a few weeks with Ralph and Peggy. I felt so loved there. The first summer, I was about ten. Peggy was nursing her first baby. I asked her, "Does one side give white milk and the other chocolate?" In 1965 my my birth parents came to visit for the first time and they stayed at Ralph and Peggy's cottage on Tully Lake. I taught everyone how to talk to my blind and deaf Mother on her hand. Many years ago Ralph said that the English are screwy. They drive on the wrong side of the road. I said no, they drive on the left side. Then I learned why. In the olden days, when Knights on horseback walked down the road, if they were on the right side they would have to swing their lance across to the left. On the left side they could easily knock the other guy off his horse. In the US Air Force, 1965 to 1969, I was trained and then taught the electrical trade. In the late eighties I started a small manufacturing company. The entire building needed an upgrade to it's electrical service. Ralph had just retired. I flew Ralph and Peggy out and put them up at our cabin at Mount Hood. For the better part of a week Ralph and I re-wired the entire building. Even Peggy helped. When Marina told me that Ralph had passed away I sobbed. I'm sorry that I couldn't be there for the funeral. Ralph, for me, was a man from whom I could learn how to be a man.

Bob Lamb - May 18, 2018 at 10:48 AM

AK

“ Thinking of you at this difficult time, our thoughts and prayers are with you

America Kane - May 18, 2018 at 10:48 AM

DB

“ I'm so sorry "Dad" for not visiting you as I should have. You now join dad (Duane), George & Gerry up at the volunteer firehouse in the sky. Many memories of the family get togethers, fireman field days, & times at the camp. Was fun being the other son, though it confused the other 'siblings' until they caught on to our game! Rest in Peace and Dance On!

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**Doug Bonawitz** - May 18, 2018 at 10:48 AM