



Mr. Robert L. Fragnoli

November 24, 1932 - August 28, 2021

Robert L. Fragnoli, "Tex", born November 24, 1932, passed away peacefully at home on August 28, 2021 surrounded by his loving family and Savior Time caregivers. He was the son of Emilio and Antoinette Fragnoli. A native of Cortland, Robert truly valued his roots and lifelong friendships. Robert grew up in the east end of the city in a big Italian family with cousins, aunts, uncles and grandparents living next door. Robert graduated from Cortland High School in 1952 where he excelled as an exceptional athlete lettering in football, basketball and baseball. Robert co-captained his senior year football team and was nominated to the All American Football team in 1951. Upon graduation, he was recruited to play football at Ithaca College, however, chose to enlist in the US Navy with some of his closest friends (Danny Ciffonelli, Leo Mahar, Phil Cinquanti, Bill Garner, Al Dalola, Butch Calabro, and Jack Fox). After serving his country for four years, he was honorably discharged from the US Navy as an Aerographer Mate Petty Officer 3rd Class.

In 1957, Robert married his High School sweetheart, Jeanne Abdallah. They were married for 63 years before Jeanne predeceased him in September 2020. Robert graduated SUNY Cortland with Bachelors and Masters degrees in Recreation and Education. Robert played College football for the Red Dragons alongside his future colleague, Jack Radzavicz. The Red Dragon's team was highly talented on the gridiron and it was at this time, the famous Cortica Jug football trophy was created celebrating the winning team in this

long standing rivalry between the two Colleges. Robert went on to continue his education earning an Administrative degree from Syracuse University. This served him well as he grew from elementary Science teacher in Dryden, Groton and Pomeroy schools to an Administrator at Cortland Jr-Sr. High school for many years in the Cortland Enlarge City School District. In his retirement years, Tex enjoyed his weekly “meetings” with his former High School teacher colleagues, joining in on lottery and Powerball tickets and of course, eating his favorite meal, breakfast. Robert also shared his love for football as the Groton Head Football coach from 1962-1969 alongside his friends: John Gibbons, Teddy Carloni, and Dick Court.

Robert’s childhood nickname, “Tex,” exemplified his great passion and love for horses. He owned many over the years and often named his beloved horses after the people he bought them from-Big D, Doc, JD, Scheraga to name a few. He became an accomplished rider and equestrian even teaching himself, to play polo. He played alongside his mentor, BT Jones with the Cortland Apple knockers and later became an active member of the Central New York Polo club serving as President for many years. Robert was often thought of as the anchor which held the club together. Along with Danny Scheraga, Robert helped establish the Central New York polo tournament which to this day is held annually in August. Polo was Robert’s passion and he made lifelong friendships with Danny Scheraga, Peter Strumpf, Steve Kraus, Bob Stuerzebecher, Jan Suwinski, Julie Hanson and horse trainer Ron Bradford.

Robert was one of a kind; a gentleman who was true to himself. He was a kind, generous, loving and devoted father, grandfather, mentor and supporter to his family and many friends. He always had a smile on his face and wherever he went in town, he knew someone. Robert’s eighty eight years of life included overcoming tough times, adversity and hard work as he became a self- made man.

Robert enjoyed traveling to visit his beloved granddaughters in Vermont,

whether it be for a birthday, holiday, soccer game or concert, the girls cherished a visit from Gigi and Popa. It was with great joy to have his oldest granddaughter, Hannah at Ithaca College as it was a wonderful excuse to venture out and see her. Robert and Jeanne also enjoyed several vacations with his daughters traveling cross country and visiting Caribbean islands. When “the kids were out of the house,” Robert enjoyed vacationing with his beloved Sister Mary and Brother-in-law Johnny Stevens, Brother Henry and wife Mariann, visiting Maine, Arizona and New Mexico. Robert loved reconnecting with old Polo acquaintances in Wellington, Florida when vacationing with Jeanne midwinter. He leaves a legacy, we lovingly celebrate.

Robert is survived by his daughters: Robbin Heenan (Dan), Karen Fragnoli-Munn (Tom), special granddaughters; Hannah and Norah Munn, a special sister Mary F. Stevens, special nieces: Christy Stevens, Susannah Olivierre (Vernell), Julie Simser (Christopher), Elana Henner (Dave), Lauren McGrann (John), Sally Dolly (Blair), Jo Lynn Abdallah and Nanci Jo Abdallah. Special nephews: James Stevens, C.V. Abdallah (Mindy), a special cousin, Patty Patriarco and several cousins. In addition to his parents, Robert was predeceased by his .wife Jeanne, brother Henry Fragnoli, sister-in-law Mariann Fragnoli and brother-in-law Johnny Stevens.

A Mass of Christina Burial will be celebrated on Saturday, September 4th, 2021 at 11 AM in St. Anthony of Padua Roman Catholic Church. Private graveside services will follow. There are no calling hours. Robert’s family would like to thank his family, friends, caregivers of Savior Time Homecare and Hospice for the excellent care given to Robert in his home. In leu of flowers, donations may be made to Hospice & Palliative Care Services, 11 Kennedy Parkway, Cortland NY. Arrangements are under the direction of Riccardi Funeral Home, Cortland, N.Y. www.riccardifuneralhome.com

Previous Events

A Mass of Christian Burial

SEP 4. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

St. Anthony's Church
50 Pomeroy St.
Cortland, NY 13045

Tribute Wall

AA

“ I'm just hearing about this loss, Karen (and Robbin). Your dad was always so friendly and kind, fair. My mom and dad both respected him as an upstanding person. My father passed June 2021. It helps knowing so many people cared about them. Take care and keep your faith. I hope you are doing well. Ann (Gamel) Adams

ann m Adams - April 03, 2022 at 10:01 AM

WB

“ My deepest sympathies for your loss. Mr. Fragnoli was a great man. He taught me more manners than anyone in my life. I did not understand his motivation at the time, but I grew to know that he cared deeply about each young person and want them to always do their best. Thank you, sir, for making a positive difference in my life and in the lives of generations of students in the Cortland area. Rest In Peace.

Wendy Betts - September 05, 2021 at 02:00 PM

SA

“ Karen and Robbin- my deepest sympathies to both of you on the loss of such a kind dad. I remember going to dinner with both of your parents at The Butcher Block in Plattsburgh (they were so sweet to include me) and the time they moved us into our first apartment house on Couch Street. We thought it was a fantastic house while both our dads looked at each other thinking we were crazy as they made their way up and down the crooked staircase! After college I remember watching your dad play in a polo match in Saratoga. Prayers to you both.

Sharon Aniolek - September 05, 2021 at 10:22 AM

LN

“ *Fragnoli Family,*

We are very sorry about your great loss. Your father was such a nice guy. He was always good to our 4 kids in school both as a principal and as a defensive driving instructor.



We regularly talked to him while he was taking care of his horses in the back of our land. We all liked seeing the horses and sometimes our kids would feed them apples.

He is in a better place up there with your mom and all their relatives.

May he rest in peace!

*God Bless,
Armando & Livia Natale & Family*

Livia Natale - September 04, 2021 at 01:32 PM

CB

“ *Mr. Fragnoli found out that I had quit the football team in my Jr year. He corned me ,literally by the gym doors by the CHS cafeteria. He wagged his finger in my face and scolded me. Now, at 58 years old. I wished I had listened. R.I.P*

Colin Brackett - September 03, 2021 at 07:19 PM

SB

“ *Sally and Blair purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Mr. Robert L. Fragnoli.*



Sally and Blair - September 03, 2021 at 03:39 PM

JM

“ *My heart goes out to Robbin and Karen and all of your family.*

I remember Tex bringing his horse to the neighborhood and patiently leading the horse around the field while we were in the saddle. The neighborhood kids would line up and one-by-one we'd get to "ride." It was very generous of him to give us this experience and it always lifted my spirits.

I'll always remember your father as a kind and generous man with a big heart.

Sending comforting karma your way.

Jo Anne Mandarano-Seccurra

Jo Anne Mandarano-Seccurra - September 03, 2021 at 01:02 PM



“ *Mr. Fragnoli was my science teacher when I attended Pomeroy through my elementary years. When I moved to the old Cortland Junior High School I had no idea he also moved to become a principal. In fact my first day of 7th grade I found my new locker was exactly the first locker next to his new door. I heard his voice and turned around to find him standing there smiling at me. In 7th grade my stature was one all of maybe 4'3" and Mr. Fragnoli promptly stood me next to his door frame and marked my height. Expressly noting we will see how you grow over the next years, not realizing he meant it in more than one way. I never knew of his Naval career or some of his other accomplishments until reading his obituary. I only knew him as a good teacher and an honest and devoted principal. RIP sir. Jeff Frost CHS Class of 1981*

Jeff Frost - September 03, 2021 at 11:50 AM



“ *Love's Journey was purchased for the family of Mr. Robert L. Fragnoli.*



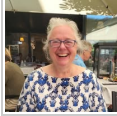
September 03, 2021 at 10:50 AM



“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



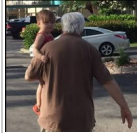
Lisa Court - September 02, 2021 at 05:58 PM



Here's a photo from the Groton HS 1964 yearbook with football coaches Richard Court and "Tex" Fragnoli.

Deepest sympathies to the Fragnoli family. Your father was a wonderful fellow.

Lisa Court - September 02, 2021 at 06:03 PM



“ *Sincerest condolences to family and friends. I worked with Tex at the school. He always had the kids as the most important part of our work. RIP.*

*Jim Ochsner
former teacher at CHS*

Jim Ochsner - September 02, 2021 at 02:10 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mr. Robert L. Fragnoli.*



September 02, 2021 at 01:26 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mr. Robert L. Fragnoli.*



September 02, 2021 at 10:07 AM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mr. Robert L. Fragnoli.*



September 01, 2021 at 08:18 PM



“ *Very sorry about the passing of Mr. Fragnoli, we had great conversations with lots of laughs !!*

God bless !!

Rick Partigianoni - September 01, 2021 at 08:14 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mr. Robert L. Fragnoli.*



September 01, 2021 at 06:45 PM



“ *Sending my deepest condolences to Robbin and Karen and your families! I did not really know your father like I knew you two and your mom but he sounds like he was a wonderful person! I know he will be deeply missed!*

Brenda Yale Modery - September 01, 2021 at 11:51 AM

AP

“ *Condolences to Fragnoli and Stevens families. what a great life and so many life achievements. Know from CHS kids how he was much loved. RIP. TO his list of friends, sweet memories. Eternal rest*

Amy Tutino Piatak - September 01, 2021 at 08:44 AM

FP

So Sorry For Your Loss. Mr. Fragnoli Made Alot Of People's Lives Special; He Will Be Greatly Missed. Faith (Barber) Phoenix

Faith Phoenix - September 01, 2021 at 09:05 AM

JH

“ *Remembering Mr Fragnoli as principal at CHS. Being well behaved, I only had to sit in his office for discipling once. Skipped a day of school, also called pretending to be a parent to excuse the absence. He knew I was a good kid at heart and lectured me not to keep going down that path. Actually taught me to think for my self, and be "a leader not a follower". After that he remembered me and would always take the time to say hello in the hallways. After graduation, staying in Cortland area and working with the public, would always run into him, amazingly, even after 10++ yrs, he could still recall my name. I think it helped that we also kept horses (living at home) and shared some of the same contacts mentioned. Giving my condolences to the family for your loss of a legendary leader at CHS and dedicated member of the Cortland area. I'll remember him fondly, and honored to have known him. Keep the memories close to your heart. MEMBER of CHS CLASS OF 1994*



Jill Haines - August 31, 2021 at 09:20 PM

JU

“ Karen and Robbin, I was so sad to hear from my Aunt Carol (Cifonelli) Heifferon today of "Tex" passing.



Funny, I always thought he was called "Tex" because he told a good story ;-) I sure remember many stories he would tell over a Manhattan or two at Frank and Josephine Biviano's home or at your home on Abdallah Avenue.

Your parents were wonderful, devoted friends who helped my parents and were always there for them.

Please give Mary Stevens a hug for me and know that we will be thinking of Tex and Jeannie with such fond memories.

Hope you and your extended families are well - we will be thinking and praying for you in coming days. Let us know if we may be helpful in any way.

Love,

*Judy (Biviano) Lloyd, Tim & Michael Lloyd
Danville, CA*

Judy - August 31, 2021 at 07:45 PM



“ Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mr. Robert L. Fragnoli.



August 31, 2021 at 04:05 PM

FL

“ *Karen: Barbara and I are sorry to hear of the passing of your father. We fondly remember when we all met in Plattsburgh when you and Sharon moved into your college apartment. What a palace!! Please accept our deepest condolences.*

Frank and Barbara Longo

Frank and Barbara Longo - August 31, 2021 at 03:35 PM