



# Robert Angelo Cafarelli

OCT 1, 1919 - APR 18, 2012



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## **Robert Angelo Cafarelli**

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**R**obert Angelo “Turnaround Bob” Cafarelli, 92, of North Syracuse, NY passed away Wednesday at the Veterans Affairs Hospital in Syracuse. Bob was a generous and outgoing man, who seemed to know everyone in the greater Syracuse area, an area to which he gave everything; above all else, he gave Syracuse his own joy for life.

Born October 1, 1919 to Salvatore (Sam) and Angie (Lena) Cafarelli right here in Syracuse, Bob would be the first to proclaim that he lived a long and lucky life. He would say this with a mix of pride and humility, and with a true appreciation and gratitude of a life filled with love, devotion, family, friendship, and most importantly, the ability to recognize all of this and to occasionally just yell out, “Yippie”!

Bob graduated from Morrisville College of Agriculture and Technology in 1940, where he was a star athlete in football, basketball and baseball, and where he is now named in Morrisville’s Wall of Fame. He served with the Army from 1942 to 1946 and attained the rank of Technical Sergeant in the Signal Corps. While stationed in France, he was the Message Center Chief and established a new coded logging system for incoming messages. He met the love of his life, his “Rock”, Elma Jean Williams, while stationed at Camp Crowder in Joplin, Missouri in 1943, and they were married in 1945. After World War II, he returned to Syracuse to raise his family and build his American dream.

Bob worked for the US Postal Service for 27 years, and he was the clubhouse manager for visiting teams at MacArthur Stadium for decades. He coached Little League and helped organize Pop Warner Football. He was a founding member of the Italian American Athletic Club and he launched IAAC’s Athlete of the Year Scholarships for local high school athletes. Bob Cafarelli was the first—THE FIRST—to award scholarships to female high school athletes, and he was involved in the development of the Greater Syracuse Sports Hall of Fame.



## Obituary

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Bob Cafarelli loved...well, he loved everything. He loved music, particularly what he called “Pre-Pearl Harbor music”, and he learned to enjoy attending jazz concerts with his beloved wife Jean. He loved to sing. He loved to dance. He loved playing cards at the IAAC, watching Westerns, and of course, baseball! He loved to bowl, and his unique bowling style forever earned him the nickname Turnaround Bob. He loved to tell stories—oh, how he loved to tell stories! He told them often, and he told them well, remembering each nuance with precise detail. As the moment of his passing drew near, he asked aloud, “Who’s going to do all the talking when I’m gone?” And the answer is ...no one. No one will ever tell the stories as well again. But we will remember those stories for as long as we draw breath, and we will still hear him telling them to us within our hearts.

Turnaround Bob is survived by the light of all his days and nights, his cherished wife of 67 years, the former Elma Jean Williams of North Syracuse, NY; sons Art (Patti) Cafarelli of Columbus, Ohio, Rob (Barb)Cafarelli of Clifton Park, NY, and Carl (Brenda) Cafarelli of Clay, NY; daughter Denise (Tony) Dees of West Meon, England; sister Mary DeAngelis of Syracuse, NY; eight grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, numerous nieces, nephews and brothers-and sisters-in-law, all of whom he loved as much as anyone has ever loved anyone, and enough true friends to fill the city of Syracuse. He is predeceased by his parents; his brothers, Arthur Cafarelli, Daniel Ventura and Albert (Tot) Cafarelli; his sisters, Connie Klusyk, Rose Concolino and Helen Sands, and granddaughter Stephanie Dees.

A Memorial Mass will be held at 11:00 am, Friday April 27 at St. Rose of Lima Church, 409 South Main St. in North Syracuse.

Contributions may be made in Robert A Cafarelli’s memory to the Veterans Affairs Hospital, 800 Irving Ave., Syracuse, NY 13210 or to the Morrisville Alumni Fund, PO Box 901, Morrisville, NY 13408.



# Tribute Wall

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PN

**Patricia Nappi** lit a candle in honor of Robert .

So sorry we were out of town,Bobby was a great person,God Bless him and your family. Love Kate Nappi ,Patty,Tom, and Tommy Dery

April 29 at 12:43 PM



PS

**Pat Scully** posted:

Sorry to hear that "one of the good guys" is gone. Our thoughts & prayers are with you Jean.Pat & Paul Scully

April 25 at 7:54 AM

CW

**Colin Williams** posted:

I will always remember those stories that he would tell and what an absolute joy it was to be around him. A true life force that many many people fell in love with. My family sends much love and condolences to his family and friends.Colin (Uncle Bob called me Kid Candle)

April 23 at 9:28 AM

DS

**Diane Verone, Summit, Nj** posted:

I am so sorrow for your loss. Mr. Cafarelli always had a smile on his face and a story on his lips. I have many fond memories of breakfasts out with him and my father. What a truly lovely man he was. My thoughts and prayers are with you at this very difficult time.Diane Verone

April 23 at 3:03 AM

CF

**Clara R. Fike** lit a candle in honor of Robert .

April 22 at 6:46 PM



CF

**Clara R. Fike** April 22 at 6:47 PM

Carl, Brenda and Meghan: We're sorry for your loss. Ken, Clara and Sarah Fike (and Katie Everett)



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GD

**Gary David** posted:

Art - I am sorry for the lost of your Dad, he loved baseball, especially the chiefs. Our prayers go out to your family.Gary David - Murrells Inlet, SC

April 22 at 2:48 PM

RV

**Robbie Wells/Vegas** posted:

I remember years ago at the Chiefs how Bob would always take care of everyone. What a Super Guy and when he saw you his smile was always on his face. He will definetly be missed by antone that knew him. Rest In Peace & God Be With You Bob.

April 22 at 1:01 PM

NK

**Nancy Kieffer** posted:

I am so sorry for your loss. My prayers are with you and the rest of the family!Nancy Kieffer

April 22 at 12:13 PM

AN

**Anne & Duane D. Norris** posted:

Jean- we are so very sorry for the loss of Bob. We will always remember how much he enjoyed our JASS concerts.Sincerely, Anne & Duane Norris, JASS

April 22 at 11:00 AM

MC

**Mark Cordone** posted:

Our condolences go out to the Cafarelli family. We have very fond memories of Mr. and Mrs. Cafarelli, Denise and our families growing up in North Syracuse. More recently, on December 2011, a very wintry day in Syracuse, Mr. Cafarelli, escorted by his son, attended our Dad's wake. We were overwhelmed with pride and honored by Mr. Cafarelli's presence to make the difficult trek and pay respect to our Dad. That speaks volumes about the character of a man. We are deeply sorry for your loss.The Cordone Family (Anthony, Josephine, Michele and Mark)

April 22 at 6:49 AM



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JM

**Jody Mahonik** posted:

Jean, I was so sorry to read about the recent passing of Bob. I remember how great both you and Bob were to my grandmother Irene Thomas and I enjoyed visiting with you each time you were there when I was. I know Bob, and you, were/are great people and I think you had an amazing marriage. I will remember you both always for the kindness you showed to my grandmother. I'm glad you have your children to help you through this trying time. Jody Mahonik

April 22 at 3:08 AM

PS

**Peter Salamino** April 22 at 10:31 AM

IT WAS A PLEASURE TO KNOW BOB FOR OVER 60 YEARS I HAD MANY MEMORIES AND LAUGHS ...TO JEAN IM SURE YOU WILL MISS HIM VERY MUCH ITS A TERRIBLE LOSS WHEN YOU LOSE YOUR LOVE FOR SO MANY YEARS. MY HEART GOES OUT TO THE CAFARELLI FAMILY AND TO JEAN I WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER OUR DANCING DAYS PETER SALAMINO

DR

**David Reed** April 22 at 9:47 AM

I was one of the beneficiaries of the IAAC Award and Scholarship some 37 years ago - and still recall the event (and Mr. C) fondly. My thoughts and prayers are with his family.



## **Memories only last if you share them**

Join us in honoring Robert by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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