



## Bruce S. Churchill

August 12, 1935 - September 22, 2020

Bruce S. Churchill, 85, of East Syracuse, passed away peacefully on September 22, 2020 at Loretto. Born to the late Kenneth and Leah Mae (Squire) Churchill, Bruce was a veteran of the United States Coast Guard. He spent his career as a master electrician with IBEW Local 43. He was a volunteer fireman and former chief with the East Syracuse Volunteer Fire Department for over 30 years. He was also a long-time volunteer for St Mathews Church, Habitat for Humanity, Red Cross, and Meals on Wheels.

Bruce was that rare man who could fix or build anything. From carpentry, masonry, roofing, plumbing, drywall – he was copious in his knowledge and generous with his skills. He could fix anything from cars to appliances and anything mechanical. He leaves a legacy of his handiwork from major construction projects like the Carrier Dome and Carousel Mall to renovations and remodeling projects in every family and friend's home.

The specialized skills and attention to detail that made Bruce so accomplished with his hands also served him well during his more than 30 years with the ESFD. He was always prepared for that call for help. His truck was always backed into the driveway for fast response. His boots and beeper were next to the bed. His first aid kit was nearby. He took great pride in training future generations of firefighters how to drive those big trucks and survived teaching many grandchildren how to parallel park.

Bruce was a helping hand to many people over the course of his life. When asked how and why he did all that he did, his stock answer was "it's just common sense". He will be dearly missed.

Bruce is survived by two sons, Kenneth J. Churchill, Sr., and Bruce T. (Deborah) Churchill; two daughters, Carmalee A. (Donald) Blok, and Hillary C. (Jeffrey) Shaw; numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren; a sister, Nancy M. Churchill; along with several nieces, nephews, and cousins. He was predeceased by his loving wife of 59 years, Barbara in 2015.

In keeping with Bruce's wishes, funeral services will be private. Bruce will be laid to rest at Woodlawn Cemetery, Syracuse. Funeral arrangements entrusted to THOMAS J. PIRRO JR. FUNERAL HOME.

Bruce's family would like to extend a special thanks to the staff of Loretto 13th floor for their compassionate care during his stay.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the East Syracuse Volunteer Fire Department, 204 North Center St. East Syracuse, NY 13057.

# Cemetery

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## **Woodlawn Cemetery**

800 Grant Blvd

Syracuse, NY, 13203

# Comments

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“ A tribute video has been added.



**Thomas J. Pirro Jr. Funeral Home** - September 28, 2020 at 12:04 PM

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“ I was very sorry to hear of Mr. Churchill's passing. I grew up just 4 houses away and have lots of great memories. Condolences to Ken, Bruce, Carmalee and Hillary from all of the Hiovich family.

Alice (Hiovich) Golas

**Alice (Hiovich) Golas** - September 29, 2020 at 12:45 PM

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“ Carm, Hillary, Bruce and Ken...  
I'm so sorry to hear of your dad's passing. The first 20 years of my life were spent right next door and your dad installed the electrical panel in my house. I still love telling this story (and often do)...  
When I was in girl scouts, I needed a ride to the Memorial Day parade in the village of East Syracuse. Mr Churchill offered to take me - ON THE FIRE TRUCK - he had to to take it to the parade anyway, so why not LOL. We drove to the station to get the truck and then on to the parade. So yup, all my friends got to see me get out of the truck. On the way home, we didn't go back to the station, he dropped me at the house and blew the siren as we pulled up. Fifty years ago and I still carry that memory and that story.

Debbie Smith

**Debbie Smith** - September 27, 2020 at 10:09 PM



“ I love that memory Debbie! He was one of a kind!

**Alice (Hiovich) Golas** - September 29, 2020 at 12:47 PM

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“ Ken, Bruce, Carmalee & Hillary

I'm so sorry for your families loss. I remember your dad well from Franklin Park. He was a great man. My thoughts and prayers are with all of you.

Debbie Ferguson

Debbie Ferguson - September 27, 2020 at 11:07 AM

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“ My Heartfelt thoughts. Bruce and I have been on over 1,000 fire call together with so many great memories and 'stories'. He was was the one that helped me in the dept starting 40 years ago, as we held many positions. Just a great guy!!!

John Minnick - September 27, 2020 at 10:06 AM

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“ SO SORRY FOR YOUR FAMILY AND THEIR LOSS HE WAS A GREAT MAN RIP BRUCE!!

Dan and Gene Georgevich - September 26, 2020 at 07:50 PM

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“ Hi everyone  
I am so sorry for your loss. Your dad/ grandpa/ great grandpa was once of a kind. I always remember is quiet demeanor and any time he worked on the house for my mom, he would always teach me something. I know me don't talk anymore, but I am here for all of you and love all of you dearly. Sending a huge hug. Love Margie



margaret carno - September 26, 2020 at 11:55 AM

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“ Ken, Bruce, Carmalee and Hillary,

We are very sorry to hear of your Dad's passing. Many fond memories of growing up in Franklin Park & spending time with the family. Our love goes to to you all.

Tom & Lisa Matthews

**Lisa MacBride-Matthews** - September 26, 2020 at 08:20 AM

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“ Ken, Bruce, Carmalee and Hillary

Sorry for your loss. I remember your Dad being involved with all of the kids growing up in Franklin Park. He was a man of principle and doing what was right. My condolences to you all.

**Mike Cartini** - September 26, 2020 at 07:13 AM

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“ Always enjoyed working with Bruce on the fire ground. Another great gentleman and firefighter... We got you, Bruce

Kerry Rose, Past Chief, Fayetteville

**Kerry Rose** - September 25, 2020 at 09:53 PM

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“ -- Henderson Harbor back in the 60's -- we had the best of it. Uncle Bruce was at the helm of his Chris Craft, the 4 C's. What a great guy. Our sympathy to my cousins, with Love, Pete & Sally.

**Pete Cimilluca** - September 25, 2020 at 12:08 PM