



John C. McCarthy Sr.

December 17, 1939 - May 12, 2019

John Carl McCarthy Sr. 79, of Camillus passed away May 12th, 2019 kicking & screaming for one more day. Born in Syracuse his mother was Lucille Pizzuto & his dad was Carl McCarthy. His parents were the greatest & he had the best of two worlds (Italy & Ireland). Raised on Mechanic St. in the Village of Camillus (also called the Alley) he attended the Village School until it closed in 1955 & then went to West Genesee graduating the 2nd year it was open, 1957. He joined the Army at 17 on Sept 3rd, 1957 and spent 2 & ½ years stationed in Vicenza, Italy. He was a member of the US Army Boxing team and also held “top secret” clearance. He was honorably discharged from Fort Hamilton, Brooklyn, NY in 1960. He married Phyllis Carfagno 3 months later and had 5 children, never understanding how or why she put up with him for 47 years (she passed away in 2007).

John served a 5 year Union Plumber apprenticeship & worked 35 years holding positions of Vice President, President and Business Manager of Plumbers Local 54. As Business Agent, he negotiated the largest raises in the history of the union. He traveled extensively for work doing jobs in Pascagoula, MS on an oil refinery – Iran & Kharg Island in the Persian Gulf – Georgia at the Hatch Nuclear Plant - Virginia at the Coors Brewery – Peach Bottom Nuclear Plant in Pennsylvania – Watts Bar Nuclear Plant in Tennessee – and also spent 4 yrs in Las Vegas building & working on 11 different Casino projects. John was a life member of the Camillus Elks Lodge.

His greatest and proudest achievement was his children until they gave him grandchildren! Later in life, as he had more time, he loved to visit - just to see them would make his heartbeat with joy.

He knew that when it was time to go “upstairs” his dad would be reading the paper in his favorite chair and ma would be at the stove with water boiling for macaroni & a pot full of sauce with meatballs, sausage & a little veal waiting for him (don’t forget the roasted peppers soaked in oil & garlic for starters). He’d also find his loving wife Phyllis waiting for him at the table & he would know that everything would be ok!

He was predeceased by his father Carl C. McCarthy in 1987, his mother Lucielle (Pizzuto)

McCarthy in 1999 and his wife Phyllis (Carfagno) McCarthy in 2007.

He is survived by his five children Theresa McCarthy of Morrisville, Tina Galvin of Williston, FL, Carmella Karagosian of Syracuse, John C. (Brenda), McCarthy, II of Memphis, and Dan (Cindy) McCarthy of Camillus; nine grandchildren Jeremy (Mary), Jessie, Jaime, Jackee, Katherine, Meghan, Erin, Nikolas, and Giovanni; two great grandchildren Kaebrey and Kamryn; his sister Sharon LaRobardiere of Parish; his loving companion Judy Peterson and many lifelong friends.

His favorite saying was “fly now, pay later” something he hoped his kids will take to heart as we are only here for a short time and it should be a good time! Some of his last words were “yesterday I was just a kid playing in the alley”.

Calling hours are Friday 5 to 8 pm at B.L. Bush & Sons Funeral Home, 10 W. Genesee St., Camillus. A Mass will be celebrated on Saturday at 9 am at Holy Family Church, Fairmount. Burial with military honors will be held in Maplewood Cemetery, Camillus.

Contributions in lieu of flowers may be made to DAV Transportation, c/o Syracuse VAMC, 800 Irving Ave, Syracuse, NY 13210.

Please sign his guestbook at www.BLBUSH.com

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 17. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

B.L. Bush & Sons Funeral Home
10 W. Genesee Street
Camillus, NY 13031
info@bushfuneralhome.com
<https://www.bushfuneralhome.com/>

Mass

MAY 18. 9:00 AM (ET)

Holy Family Church
127 Chapel Dr,
Syracuse, NY 13219
<http://www.holyfamilysyr.org>

Tribute Wall

WP

“ I have a lot of great memories of John. He was a super guy, so full life. So glad I got to spend time with him on our motorcycle ride to Sturgis and out West with Don & Jim. I'll always remember those times with a smile. Rest in peace, John. Ride Free. Wayne Passage

Wayne Passage - May 17, 2019 at 04:16 PM

LW

“ John, there are so memories from Mechanic St and from the visits to the farm to share here. You, Phyllis and the kids coming for a visit and ending up in Ma's kitchen table sharing a dish of macaroni, of course. Now you are with Aunt Lucy, Uncle Weazle, Ma "Aunt Fan" and "Uncle Al", and the rest of the family. Enjoy reminiscing with them until we get there and we will have more stories to tell. Watch over your family here on Earth.



Lee Nagy West - May 17, 2019 at 08:17 AM



“ Cheryl Bishop lit a candle in memory of John C. McCarthy Sr.



Cheryl Bishop - May 16, 2019 at 12:51 PM



“ It was an honor to know John, even a little bit! I loved his bright, shining eyes and inviting smile. My dog, Gracie, thought he was one very special person. I always enjoyed watching John help Judi prepare for her semi-annual yard sales - making sure that everything was "just right" and then finding a comfy chair in the shade, a bit away from the sale so that Judi could deal with her customers and he could enjoy his quiet. John, I honor you for your service in WWII. You truly were part of the greatest generation and the world is a little darker without your light shining in it but heaven is a little brighter. Gracie and I shall miss seeing you. Peace to your loved ones!!

Cheryl Bishop (& Gracie)

Cheryl Bishop - May 16, 2019 at 12:50 PM

KI

“ Kimmy purchased the *Crystal Cross Bouquet* for the family of John C. McCarthy Sr..



Kimmy - May 16, 2019 at 09:30 AM



“ So sad to hear about John. He was so full of life, and of mischief! He and my Dad sure got into a lot of trouble together, and I will miss his funny stories. My dad will miss his buddy immensely, but I'm sure he will think of him and smile everytime he gets into his old corvette that he took such great care of... We only owned the Clubhouse together for a short time, but it was a lot more fun with the McCarthy family there! Both he and Phyllis were like second parents.... Please know that I am thinking of and praying for all of you, and I hope time and happy memories will help to heal your pain.

With Sympathy, Sue Maus Stevens

Susan Stevens - May 15, 2019 at 10:36 AM

JW

“ Dear McCarthy Family And Judy

I am so sorry to hear of John's passing, it was a shock to me. I knew John thru my brother Don, They kept in contact with one another thru the years after we moved to Michigan. I remember John & his sense of humor. He always had a smile on his face & his laugh was contagious. Our bike trips out West with John, my brother & I are memories I will cherish forever. That's where I got to really know John & the love he had for his family. May you rest in peace my Friend!

Jim Wielosinski

Jim Wielosinski - May 15, 2019 at 10:01 AM

RR

“ Richard R. purchased the *Basket of Memories* for the family of John C. McCarthy Sr..



Richard R. - May 14, 2019 at 01:41 PM

JU

“ I grew up with John's sister. He was enough older to be a bit intimidating, but later on he was my landlord for a short time and I found him to be a good man. May he rest in peace and may his family be comforted in their sorrow. Judy (Stone) Hyatt.

Judy - May 14, 2019 at 01:00 PM

JO

And Sharon, if you're reading Judy's comment, we've been looking for you for years!
Johanna Lutters

Johanna - May 14, 2019 at 02:00 PM



“ it was my great pleasure to meet john whee we started our. Apprenticeship together. We worked together at Burns Bros. He was one of a kind always great to be around. it was my great pleasure to call John My Friend . May You Rest In Pease. Bob Barrett local54

Robert Barrett - May 14, 2019 at 08:58 AM

SE

“ Most conversations John and I had involved baked goods: (“Hey, John, this is Sandy. Would you like muffins or brownies?”) or advice (“Hey, John, this is Sandy. Who can I call for _____ problem?”). When the HOA had its picnics and holiday dinners, his was the first check received for himself and Judy. And when I'd see John tooling around in his new wheels, I'd ask for a ride — if Judy wouldn't mind. Thank you John. You will be missed terribly.
Sandy Van Epps

Sandra Van Epps - May 14, 2019 at 08:58 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of John C. McCarthy Sr..



May 14, 2019 at 08:49 AM

JG

“ A deluge of memories is what I'd like to share, there isn't enough room here to scratch the surface though. Everyone who knew him knew what an upstanding, generous, hilarious, honorable man he was, for me though what stands out the most were the stories. Listening to his military days, his family, growing up in Camillus...all the stories told with humor and a lesson. I count myself blessed I got to know him, and the wonderful family he left behind. My heartfelt condolences love and prayers for you all.
John Gilbert

John Gilbert - May 13, 2019 at 08:24 PM

HS

“ His Sister purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of John C. McCarthy Sr..



His Sister - May 13, 2019 at 07:00 PM

DP

“ Dear Judy & McCarthy Family,
We are so very sorry for your loss. We are fairly new neighbors and are pleased to say we have had the opportunity to visit with John, at the neighborhood picnic and Christmas dinners. He always had a smile on his face and was very kind and friendly. Our sincerest thoughts and prayers are with you at this most difficult time. He will be missed in our little community! May he RIP.

Sincerely, Rose & Dave Prior

D Prior - May 13, 2019 at 06:47 PM

LB

John & I were neighbors, we made our first communion together & was in every classroom together up until Camillus School centralized to West Genesee then graduated together in 1957. I had the pleasure of A visit in my home in Florida with John & Judy. We also had lunch last year in Camillus. We reminisced & laughed about the golden days. I have many fond memories, I am saddened by his death. I know he fought hard & was so lucky to have Judy in his life. RIP John

louise boots - May 14, 2019 at 09:32 AM

JV

Johnny, Even though we know you are in a much better place now, and without pain, we will miss you occasionally stopping by for coffee and chit-chat. We always had a few laughs and memories of the past. So happy we had a nice visit a couple of weeks ago and you got to enjoy the watermelon and éclairs. We will never forget your parting words whenever you left our house, or even on the telephone; "I Love you guys". God Bless You. Love, Janet and Bill Valletta

Janet & Bill Valletta - May 14, 2019 at 04:40 PM

GD

John: A Classmate since 9th grade but after graduation didn't see you again until we met with the Valletta's and you & Judy for lunch trying out restaurants in Seneca Falls or Cortland. Always thought of you as a special man who left us with lots of memories of the past and present. You will be missed. Paul & Glenna Dickson

Glenna Dickson - May 15, 2019 at 10:01 AM

NS

Sharon, We are saddened to hear of your brothers death. Our sincere thoughts and prayers are with you during this most difficult time like this. No more pain and suffering. God Bless, Norma Jean & Mick Soloff

Norma Jean Soloff - May 17, 2019 at 04:30 PM