



## Harold "Yankee" Holland

February 7, 1967 - November 28, 2025

Harold F. Holland, 58, passed away peacefully on Friday after a brief illness. Born and raised in Utica, NY, Harold—fondly known as Yankee—later moved to Syracuse, where he began his career at Joey’s Italian Restaurant. This opportunity launched a long and dedicated life in the local food industry.

Yankee spent many years as a cook at Shifty’s Bar and Grill, where he became well-known for his warm smile, quick humor, and the memorable wings he served to countless guests. His presence, friendship, and laughter will be missed by many.

He was predeceased by his parents, Leo and Marion Holland.

He is survived by his brother, James (Tanya) Holland; his nieces, Kristina (Nick) Aldrich, and their children, Teddy and Addie; and Sabrina (Fernando), and their children, Ellianna and Gabriella.

In keeping with his wishes, there will be no public services.

The family extends heartfelt thanks to Karin, Shannon, Traverse, Molly, Ron, Vicky, Jean, and Fran for their support, friendship, and the exceptional care they provided to Yankee during his final days.

Arrangements are entrusted to B.L. Bush & Sons Funeral Home, Camillus.  
Please share memories and sign his guestbook at [www.BLBUSH.com](http://www.BLBUSH.com)

# Tribute Wall

JB

“ Yankee, my friend. I think I can speak for all of us when I say we always looked forward to seeing you and laughing back and forth about whatever, anytime the band was in the house. You always took care of us with a late night meal, and you were just good for the soul. We'll miss you.

Jake Bunger - December 05, 2025 at 04:24 PM



“ I met Yankee at Shifty's, he was kind always had a smile and never a bad word.  
I will never eat a Ruffles again, thank you Yankee

JoAnn Gratien-Rhoades - December 05, 2025 at 08:51 AM

PO

“ Yankee was my best friend since 1985 we met at college. The laughs, the times, the love, and now the greatest loss. I love you Yankee



Patricia oatridge - December 02, 2025 at 09:56 AM

JA

“ Yankee, you will be missed dearly! Thanks for your friendship and kindness. RIP my friend!  
Johnny A

John Aliasso - December 02, 2025 at 07:09 AM

PA

“ Patrick Aregano lit a candle in memory of Harold Holland



Patrick Aregano - December 01, 2025 at 09:22 AM

MH

Thank you

Mary Holland - December 08, 2025 at 05:13 PM

RJ

“ Rest in peace Yankee❤️❤️ You will always have a piece of my heart and will always be missed. I will forever reflect on our memories ❤️❤️

Rhonda Jerrett - November 30, 2025 at 08:27 PM

MH

Thank you Rhonda

Mary Holland - December 08, 2025 at 05:14 PM

MR

“ Oh yankee,I'm soo very sorry to hear you have left us,wego back a long way,from traditions and juniors to name a few,your laid back,happy attitude was priceless, the world has lost an angel and heaven has gained one.

Maria ralkoszkotak - November 30, 2025 at 06:10 PM

SI

“ I am so sad that you left this world so young, but I know now that you are with your mom who you have missed for so many years, and I'm sure chewy was waiting for you 🐾🐾🐾 you and Jason always had a special place in my heart, even though you two hid dishes inside the oven. You've always been there for me and the dogs. I will miss your sense of humor your beautiful smile and your beautiful eyes, rest in peace, beautiful Yankee❤️❤️❤️

Sharon Isyk - November 29, 2025 at 03:09 PM

JS

“ So many memories and fun stories I'm not sure where to begin. Be it at live music events, camp, or just visiting Yankee ALWAYS was the one everyone gravitated towards. I remember them bringing Chewy to camp, and he loved the wide open so much, we had to wrangle him up when it was time to go Much love brother, you will always be in our thoughts and prayers, and I'll think of you often. Hope you're at peace, and save me a spot to your left🙏✨🎵

James Smith - November 29, 2025 at 12:56 PM

NI

“ I met Yankee last year at Shiftys Sloppy Jo fest ! It was take leftovers he said u need to take mine they're delicious with his smile and they were ! 🙏🙏🙏RIP

Nicole - November 29, 2025 at 07:09 AM

PA

“ Yankee and his buddy Jason rented my house years ago on the northside. Super nice guy , great tenant. Friendly always smiling. Will miss him. My condolences to the family and close friends.

Packman - November 28, 2025 at 09:38 PM



*Thank you*

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**Mary Holland** - December 08, 2025 at 05:17 PM

M(

“ Our hearts are completely shattered hearing about Yankee. It’s hard to put into words what we’re feeling. He had just texted us “Happy Thanksgiving,” and we were rushing back from Ohio hoping to see him. I still can’t wrap my head around the fact that he’s gone. It feels like someone took a piece of our Brick Alley family with him.



Yankee wasn’t just a friend—he was truly like a brother to us. He had that sarcastic, upbeat way about him that could pull you out of any bad mood. Every time we asked how he was, he’d hit us with, “Well, I woke up six feet above ground,” and it never failed to make us smile. That was so him—finding humor even when life was messy.

He had the craziest stories from growing up in Utica—things only he could get away with—and he told them with such pride and mischief. He lived his life full force, a risk-taker for sure, but with one of the biggest hearts we’ve ever known. If you needed help, he didn’t hesitate. He just showed up.

He adored his family. He talked about all of you constantly—always with love, always with pride, especially when it came to his nieces. You could hear it in his voice how much he cared.

Losing him... it feels unreal. It hurts in a place that’s hard to explain. We loved him, and we will miss him deeply. Please know we’re holding his family close in our hearts. He loved you all so much, and he made sure we knew it. May his memory be eternal, I know it will be in our hearts!

Rob & Maggie Mahshie

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Magdalena Mahshie (Maggie) - November 28, 2025 at 07:53 PM

MH

*Thank you*

Mary Holland - December 08, 2025 at 05:19 PM

DW

“ I will always remember Yankee's big smile and even bigger heart.

Dr Kelvin White - November 28, 2025 at 07:20 PM

CL

“ Ahhh Yankee. I will never forget the first time I actually met Yankee. It was when a friend and I went to see Los Blancos at Shifty's. We had a freaking blast rocking out- and were hanging as the band packed up. Along came Yankee, pushing a broom right in front of me. I said “Hey man, how's it going”. And my buddy Colin said “Hey, Yankee, I want you to meet my friend Chanda. You two have a lot in common.” At which point we commenced yammering and I knew right away he was far from the cranky, curmudgeonly, gruff dude he portrayed. It was the start of a beautiful friendship with the coolest, most down to earth dude. I'm gonna miss him like crazy. But I'm so extremely blessed to have known him. Sending love and condolences to my sweet Yankee's family and friends.

Chanda Lindsay - November 28, 2025 at 06:23 PM

MH

*Thank you*

Mary Holland - December 08, 2025 at 05:21 PM

GH

“ Yankee was always a smiling joyful friend after hours at Shifty's and a favorite chef. We will surely miss him. ❤️🙏

Greg Hoover - November 28, 2025 at 06:21 PM

FB

*We remember Yankee bartending at the Loop Grill. Always joking and smiling while serving a cold one. Rest easy my friend, life just won't be the same. You will be truly missed and always remembered. Love ed and Felicia.*

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**Felicia Bowman** - November 29, 2025 at 01:15 AM