



George C. Lagana

January 1, 2024

George was born on March 6, 1942 in Dunkirk , NY to Mary (Ingavo) and Carmelo Lagana.

He was youngest of 7 brothers and sisters. Predeceased by Frank, Peter, Pat & Catherine Lagana.

Survived by Mary (Lagana) Kopec & John Lagana.

George's younger years were that of school and working hard on the family farm. He loved music & played trombone in the school band (which he picked up again later in life with a church band and lastly, New Horizons band in Rochester) In his teenage years- He worked at Boothies Big Dipper, where he met his wife (of 59 years) Rita (VanDette). After marrying in 1964-they relocated to Rochester, NY. He went on to have 3 children of his own- Mark (Jennifer), Deana (Anthony) & Tricia. He also has 2 amazing grandchildren Madison & Jake who he loves wholeheartedly.

George was in the Army Reserves for 7 years. He attended Bryant & Stratton and went on to work as an air conditioning/heating technician until he retired at 54. At that point, Rita & George enjoyed many travel adventures in their RV, one that included traveling thru Canada to Alaska and coming back home via the U.S. They loved Alaska so much they returned just a few years ago but on a cruise ship to view this beautiful state from a different angle. Though not quite a pro- he loved playing a weekly game of golf with his buddies. He had at least 100 random garage sale clubs and had no shame! Grip and rip! And last but not least- George loved to sing to anyone & everyone who would

listen. Sometimes for a treat he would attempt to sing in Italian (HIS version). George & Rita bought a park model home on a golf course, in Davenport, Florida where they would spend their winter months. George golfed and was a pro key player on his cornhole team. Biking, too, was a huge part of George & Rita's adventures.

George was a fierce lover of family, they all meant the world to him. His yearly highlight would be going to his huge family reunion to sing, eat and prank everyone. He loved jokes and laughing. He was very close to his brothers and sisters, nieces and nephews. He was loved by all.

Whenever help was needed in any way- George could be counted on to be first in line to offer a hand, no matter what the task. His heart for helping was bigger than life. He had always carried those deep emotions of love, family, honesty, integrity and willingness to help in any way he could.

Brought up to be a hard worker, goal-oriented go-getter, Aging never stopped him from getting the job done 100%.

In his last stretch of a well-lived life blessed by God, Rita was by his side as his sole caregiver.

George (dad, poppie, Georgie, papa) will be carried in our hearts always. He was an amazing teacher/rolll model. All those lessons will remain & shine in all we do for the entirety of our lifetime.

Family and friends are invited to his Celebration of Life Service Saturday, January 6, 2024 at 10am at Calvary Assembly, 3249 Chili Ave. Rochester, NY 14624. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the 700 Club Operation Blessing at www.ob.org/#donate-now.

Previous Events

Funeral Service

JAN 6. 10:00 AM (ET)

Calvary Assembly
3429 Chili Avenue
Rochester, NY 14624

Tribute Wall



“ I knew George back in high school. RIP George. Gary Wilson

Gary Wilson - January 08, 2024 at 11:45 AM



“ The Veterans Outreach Center extends our deepest sympathy in George's passing.
We acknowledge and are truly grateful for his service to our country.

Joan Brandenburg - January 07, 2024 at 03:04 PM



“ Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of George C. Lagana.



January 05, 2024 at 09:43 PM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of George C. Lagana.



January 05, 2024 at 04:42 PM

AS

“ Always enjoyed George’s sense of humor as we traded HVAC/R service related stories, Rest In Peace George , your a good soul , Anthony Simeone

Anthony Simeone - January 05, 2024 at 02:10 PM

MM

“ Rita and family, We were sorry to hear of George's passing. I enjoyed working with him and his unique sense of humor for many years. He was a very strong man and will be missed by many. Sincerely, Brian and Melissa Mawn

Melissa Mawn - January 05, 2024 at 10:39 AM

AE

“ Dear Tricia, Please accept my deepest sympathy for the loss of your Dad. Sending prayers for comfort and peace to you and family.

Anita Elsbree - January 04, 2024 at 06:31 PM

JL

“ It was with a broken heart learning of Uncle George's passing. Thank you for the beautifully written obituary that perfectly described my uncle. He was fun, witty, & truly cared about people. His high morals and incredible work ethic were always obvious. He will be so terribly missed.

Joan Marie Littlehale - January 04, 2024 at 01:04 PM

LQ

“ So sorry to hear....Rita, he will be remembered for his walks and bike rides around the neighborhood and his sense of humor...he always had a joke to brighten our day! So sorry for your loss!

Liz Quick - January 04, 2024 at 09:03 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of George C. Lagana.



January 04, 2024 at 07:18 AM



“ My prayers, thoughts and condolences are with all the family, i worked with George for many years at P&J. He was a great guy and everyone loved him.

Mike Schum - January 04, 2024 at 06:44 AM



“ With Love, Peter & Mary Noto planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of George C. Lagana.

With Love, Peter & Mary Noto - January 04, 2024 at 06:05 AM



“ Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of George C. Lagana.



January 04, 2024 at 06:05 AM

RD

“ My wife Cathy and I send our deepest sympathies to Rita and family. We are snowbirds at Regal Ridge and our paths crossed on a number of occasions when we were out walking. During one of our conversation we discovered that your Rochester home is close to our son. It is a small world!
Rob

Rob Dewey - January 03, 2024 at 06:43 PM

PC

“ Dearest Rita and family. I may not have seen you both often however I will hold the memory of being with you both at Peg Carmen's wedding. John and I enjoyed you both so much. It was a fun time spent together. I can still see George's smile and his laughter. Rita and kids. My love and prayers are with you all. Gods blessings surround you all during these very tender days. Love you.
💔🙏🙏🙏💔🙏🙏🙏

penny Carriero - January 03, 2024 at 04:16 PM

DP

Dear Rita and family. So sorry to hear of George's passing. Don and I were shocked because George was the type of person we thought could live forever. You both were so close and loving your entire lives together. All your traveling experiences left you with fabulous memories to cherish forever. It's just so shocking and my heart goes out to you even though we've been out of touch for quite a while. George is in a good place celebrating, singing and leaving laughter to everyone he came in contact with. May you be blessed with love forever in your future sorrowful days. Love and forever hugs ...
Cousin Adele & Don 💔🙏🙏🙏💔💔

Don & Adele Parrino - January 04, 2024 at 07:26 PM

WP

“ Rita, my heart goes out to you, as we were very best friends growing up, and getting to know George was the love of your life. We know you loved to travel with George and now we will always remember Georges funny jokes. He is now in Heaven with GOD! And may peace be with you and your family forever! Love, Peggy and Jack

Wasmund Peggy - January 03, 2024 at 12:20 PM

CM

“ My heart hurt when I read of the passing of George. Over the years I spent time with George and Rita infrequently but the times together were always full of laughter. My deepest sympathy to Rita and family. May God give you the strength to get through this time of sorrow. With ❤️, Carol Myers

Carol Myers - January 03, 2024 at 11:06 AM

SM

“ Loved getting together in previous years with Rita’s Silver Creek High School friends. We always had such fun times reminiscing. Love and prayers to the family. Suzanne

Suzanne Mangano - January 03, 2024 at 07:45 AM

DS

“ Sorry to hear the news of George. As a neighbour in Florida for many years I enjoyed his many stories. I golfed with George with our weekly Regal Ridge group. He will be missed by many folks here in Florida. Josie and I send our sympathies to Rita and the family. Take care.

Your neighbours, Josie and David

David Skelly - January 03, 2024 at 07:38 AM

BM

“ We can certainly attest to George’s willingness to help people anytime. When Ed would try to “fix” something here in FL, I’d just say will you please stop and call George. Here they’d come, most times on their bikes. George would help Ed while Rita and I had a cup of coffee. He will be sorely missed, his laugh was contagious. We will always hold these memories in our hearts. Wish we could be with you to celebrate the life of this truly good, God loving and cheerful man. Ed/Brenda

Brenda McCloud - January 03, 2024 at 07:12 AM

JW

“ I was 5 years old when I first met what was to be my dear cousin George. He married my beautiful cousin Rita and he was so handsome! I think I had a crush at the age of 5. He was so good with us young cousins and I remember he always made me feel like I was his favorite. But then knowing the big heart he had, I am sure he made all of us feel like we were his favorite. My mom and Dad, his Aunt Lucy and Uncle Al adored George, he was one of their favorites and for good reason. George always knew how to make people feel special, feel loved and above all respected.

I adored you George! I loved listening to your stories - the silly and the serious ones. You were always so eager to teach me about anything and always did it in a mentoring way. Never spoke down to anyone, no matter their age. I can remember him lowering himself to my level as a child and speaking to me, not at me. My memories of you are that you were kind, patient, funny, empathetic, caring and nurturing. I know my sister adored you as she was so proud and honored to be part of your wedding. I am so glad that you, Rita and Tricia were able to attend my wedding. And I know that my Jim was honored to be part of your family. Although my Dad was not there, you stepped into that role to ensure that I felt the love of a Father on my special day.

Jim and I are so blessed we had the chance to see you not long ago. Living in another state does make staying in touch hard, but no matter how much time went by, you always made me feel as if it was only a day or two.

Dear George, you had a tough journey at the end, but endured it with faith and grace, with your beautiful bride and children by your side. You will be missed more than any words can even express. I loved you since I first met you at the age of 5 and I always will.

Jan Walch (Maulucci)

Jan Walch - January 02, 2024 at 09:08 PM

MS

I have been honored to know George Lagana for many years. His laugh and love he gave to all who knew him was immeasurable. He was a role model for everyone with the dignity and courage he had with his cancer journey. I am so honored that he was a friend and cherish all the laughter he brought to my life. Rest in peace, George. You are now playing your instrument with the Angels. Marilyn Sarkis

Marilyn Sarkis - January 02, 2024 at 09:27 PM

JW

“ *So many very fond memories of all the times, stories and songs shared with Georgie. The love you all shared from and with George is humbling. Much love to Rita and all my cousins and the extended Lagana family. Praise be to our Savior with whom George now abides and awaits our arrival. Jimmy*

James White - January 02, 2024 at 08:48 PM



“ *Enduring Grace was purchased for the family of George C. Lagana.*



January 02, 2024 at 07:43 PM