



Gaetano "Guy" Peter Castellano

April 1, 1934 - January 26, 2021

GUY'S OBITUARY

Gaetano Peter Castellano, or Guy as he was known to family and friends, passed away on Tuesday, January 26, 2021 in Medford, Oregon. He was born to Gaetano and Albertina (Longo) Castellano in the Bronx of New York City on April 1, 1934. He was the 5th born of 9 children and a first generation Italian American. His younger sister Lillian is the last surviving sibling.

Guy is also survived by his loving wife of 61 years, Gloria, and 5 of their 6 children- Tara, Darren, Vincent, Daniel and James. Guy himself would tell you that a piece of him passed away 40 years ago, when his precious daughter, Andrea Della preceded him in death on Feb. 4, 1981. He is also survived by 22 grandchildren and 20 great-grandchildren.

A celebration of Guy's life will be held at a later date when we're able to gather together.

GUY'S STORY

Guy was born smack dab in the middle of The Great Depression, and life was a struggle right out of the gate. His earliest childhood memories left a lasting impression on his heart, and became a driving force throughout his life, in terms of keeping his own family safe and fed. His formal education didn't last beyond the 4th grade, because he and his older brother, Diego, had to work odd jobs so their family could eat. As an adult, Guy became an avid reader and got lost in books. He told his children that reading was his saving grace

when it came to expanding his knowledge and mind for the lack of a formal education.

When Guy was 17, he joined the Marine Corps. After boot camp, he was shipped off to Korea where he experienced the extreme trauma of war. That war affected him throughout his adult life, even thru his last days on earth. They now have a diagnosis for that condition it's called Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome. In those days, there wasn't a name for the nightmares and anxiety that afflicted so many war veterans. He was awarded a Purple Heart for being wounded in battle, which he said was just a scratch and undeserved in his view. He stayed lifelong friends with the survivors of his platoon, and had several reunions with them.

When the war was over, he was a restless soul looking for a different life than he'd experienced up to that point. He eventually headed out west not knowing exactly what was in store for him, but he figured it couldn't be worse than he'd already gone through. That's when he ended up in San Francisco and met Charles O'Donnell, who convinced him to come with him to Yreka to get a job fighting fires with the forest service. One day Charles invited him to accompany him to a friend's house, who just happened to have a gorgeous daughter named Gloria Girdner. Charles had just introduced him to his future wife, and the rest is history, so they say.

There's so much more to Guy's story. All of you who knew him and are reading this are part of the story. He loved to laugh with all of his friends and family that he loved so dearly. Many of those friends he made while serving in the Yreka Fire Dept. One can only imagine the stories that are out there! The complete fabric of Guy's life was woven over 86 proud years. Let's just say that no one on the planet felt more proud and blessed than my father when it came to his family. We were his life he loved harder than anyone I've ever known, and let us all know that his love had no limits to its capacity. He loved us all unconditionally and completely, every single day of his life. He often said through the years that if his life were to end tomorrow, he was blessed to have loved us all, and would have absolutely no regrets. I know I

speaking for our entire family when I say that we were the ones who were blessed by his incredible love. We are all proud of the way he lived his life. We know his journey has just begun. We imagine him with his arms around his little girl, never having let go since the moment she greeted him at heaven's gate.

Tribute Wall

JC

“ *Life will never be the same without him.*

Jenny Beardsley Castellano - February 07, 2021 at 12:00 AM

DD

“ *My prayers and condolences to the Castellano family, especially my childhood friend, Tara.*

Debbie Driver - February 06, 2021 at 12:00 AM

DS

“ *Hi guy you will always be remembered with love, laughter and good thoughts. Most important family. Where a jacket what's what's mine is yours. If you needed it he gave it even if he also needed it as much as you. Your large ❤️ I know you will watch over all of us. You are missed*

Diane Travis smandra - February 06, 2021 at 12:00 AM

DS

“ *Guy was one of the most loving men I have ever known. My daughter Sierra married Jim and to our good fortune along with Jim can his mom and dad (Guy and Gloria) we become fast and ferocious good friends . I will say being Italian helped give use an in, cause being Italian was all that counted the rest just didn't count. He was a proud man and liked to make a buck, if he had that buck and you needed it even though he needed it as well he gave it to you. He will be missed.*

Diane Travis smandra - February 06, 2021 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ *Being a younger firemen with Yreka fire dept. I had the privilege to meet Guy at our annual Bar B Que. After some adult spirits it was fun to listen to stories with our older firemen. Was an honor to meet this man. His smile and laughter was contagious. Are gatherings aren't the same as our old timers leave us.*

Joe Suter - February 06, 2021 at 12:00 AM

ES

“ *Beautifully written*

Elaine Smith - February 06, 2021 at 12:00 AM

TC

“ *My deepest condolences to Gloria and the whole family.*

Tat Chase - February 06, 2021 at 12:00 AM

LH

“ *Guy was a calm spirit, kind, attentive and yet he lived with a passion. Each occasion we met, his warm greetings and interest were special to me. His tears will be healed and the difference he has made, recognized. I share condolences and prayers with you all, as well as my love. Liz Hockaday.*

Liz Struble Hockaday - February 05, 2021 at 12:00 AM

LH

“ *Blessings on your journey. 🙏*

Liz Hockaday - February 05, 2021 at 12:00 AM

DD

“ *My Papa Guy was the best. He will be missed every day.*

Davina Davis - February 05, 2021 at 12:00 AM

DD

“ *My Papa gave all of his love to his family. He also played a mean game of handball. Xxoo*

Davina Davis - February 05, 2021 at 12:00 AM

BS

“ *It was privilege to have known him.A proud member of the YFD*

Bob Schultz - February 05, 2021 at 12:00 AM

AV

“ *So sorry to hear this. Warmest wishes to the family* ❤️

Amy Zoe Vogel-Churchill - February 05, 2021 at 12:00 AM

MC

“ *Rest In Peace, Guy!*

Maureen Campbell - February 05, 2021 at 12:00 AM

CB

“ *Our sincere condolences to Gloria, Tara and the entire family.* 💕

Charlene Broce - February 05, 2021 at 12:00 AM

SK

“ *My thoughts are with family.*

Sandy K-g - February 05, 2021 at 12:00 AM