



Angelo Fracassa

September 22, 1929 - March 30, 2022

Angelo Fracassa, a lifelong resident of Detroit, passed away peacefully in his sleep on March 30, 2022. He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Anne, their six children: Angela (Phillip), John (Patricia), Elena, Paul, Jim (Moira) and Matt (Kim), his five grandchildren: Danielle (Christopher), Nicholas, Theresa (Joseph), Laura and Marcus, as well as his six great-grandchildren: Alexander, Joseph, Giovanni, Finn, Philip and Josephine. He is also survived by his younger brother, Alberto (Phyllis) as well as nieces, nephews, cousins and second cousins too innumerable to count. He joins, now, his parents, Amelia and Felice, his late first wife Ruth (mother to Angela and John), and his brothers Romeo and Guido.

Throughout his 92 years, Angelo lived by a simple rule: When you have more than you need, build a longer table, not a higher fence. In every way that he lived, Angelo exemplified this ideal, and his effect will be felt and remembered for years to come not only within his family, but the greater Detroit community in which he lived. Angelo worked for 60 years with the Internal Revenue Service, and during his employment there he would regularly give his own vacation time to other coworkers in need. He took two buses daily to get to and from work, and when it came time for him to retire - at the spry young age of 86 - the IRS and SMART (Suburban Mobility Authority for Regional Transportation) honored him with one last ride, filled with regular riders who'd gotten to know him over decades, as well as a pair of seats pulled directly

from a bus as a memento. Angelo loved to joke that he'd outlived more than a few drivers on his regular route, and it's no doubt the truth.

Angelo loved kids. For years, he could be seen driving a bright orange delivery truck – the famous Pop Truck – around to baseball games in his neighborhood, selling candy and soda to the players and spectators. This was officially a way to help defray league costs, but anyone who knew Angelo would say he did it because he loved making kids happy. When his first great-grandchild was born, the absolute delight on his face couldn't be denied, and he was in love.

Angelo loved feeding people. His daughter, Elena, and her friends, until just a few years ago, would see him at their softball games, passing out apples and making everyone happy. If you've ever attended a Brother Rice football game, coached for 44 years by his younger brother Al, you've probably received a sandwich from him – a sandwich that no doubt lives in your memory to this day. For decades, Angelo and the family ran an Italian sausage stand at the St. Raymond Apple Harvest Festival, held every September alongside the Fracassa family's dear friends (and fierce sausage competitors) the Rosenburgs and longtime buddies. If you couldn't pay for a sausage sandwich, you got one anyway. Every year for Christmas, he gifted his oldest grandchild, Danielle, with a jar of her favorite chocolate covered raisins. When his daughter-in-law Moira mentioned once that she liked the mushrooms he'd made for a family dinner, he proceeded to make them every time the family ate together. These were things he did without thinking – it was more important to him that someone else was fed than it was to make a couple dollars, or make an extra side dish for dinner.

Angelo was stubborn. His grandchildren had never known him not to walk with a cane – sometimes two canes – because he was just too stubborn to get the hip replacement he needed, let alone take anything for the discomfort he felt

every day. It wasn't until the age of 80 that he finally agreed to have the hip replacement surgery he needed for decades. He still used a cane after the replacement, but the minor victory of getting Angelo to listen to a doctor's orders was worth it.

Angelo loved his family. In 2013, the Fracassa family traveled to Italy for two weeks, the first time Angelo had been there since he served in the Korean War, where he specialized in counterintelligence, and learned safe cracking and lock picking. The family visited Supino, the hometown of Angelo's parents, and had an audience with the mayor, as well as visiting with several cousins and navigating the winding mountain streets to find his parents' former home. He walked through ancient villages, and cooked huge meals for the family at night, and even enjoyed a couple glasses of wine (the rest of the family enjoyed several bottles at these meals). Throughout the trip, Angelo could be found sitting in front of the local convenience store, with other elderly Italian men, watching the townspeople go by and enjoying the day.

Has it been said that Angelo loved feeding people? During the family's yearly camping trips to Lake Superior, Angelo would, without complaint, organize and prepare huge meals for everyone in the campsite, all trucked up to Canada in a trailer painted like the Italian flag. On holidays, the family would gather to make pizza from scratch, or lasagna, or pasta, or giant sandwiches. Inevitably, at the end of these meals, Angelo could be seen eating any remaining dinner salad from a family-sized bowl. He loved to cook, and friends and family would request his skills for a day of making gnocchi or polenta.

Has it been said that Angelo was stubborn? No one could forget his wallet: held gamely closed with rubber bands and stuffed with so many receipts and photos, it was a wonder he could even sit down. When asked by his grandchildren why he kept everything – literally, everything – his simple reply

was that maybe he'd need it one day.

All the stories, all the memories and anecdotes and little slivers of Angelo's personality – they don't even begin to add up to who he was. He was a presence both large and comforting, and he will be missed every day. He touched the lives of everyone he met, and his love of food, his love of family, his need to take care of everyone around him – these are his legacy. These are the important things, the ways he'll be remembered, not just by his family, but by anyone who ever had the pleasure of meeting him.

Memorial Visitation Thursday (April 21) 1-8 p.m. at the Wasik Funeral Home, Inc., 11470 Thirteen Mile Road (west of Hoover) Warren. Family and friends will gather Friday (April 22) at 10 a.m. until a 10:30 a.m. Memorial Mass at St. Raymond - Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church, 20103 Joann Ave., Detroit.

Contributions in Angelo Fracassa's name can be made to the St. Raymond - Our Lady of Good Counsel St. Vincent de Paul Council.

Previous Events

Memorial Visitation

APR **21**. 1:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Wasik Funeral Home - Warren
11470 Thirteen Mile Road
Warren, MI 48093
(586) 751-3131
warren@wasikfuneralhome.com

Memorial Mass

APR **22**. 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Raymond - Our Lady of Good Counsel
20103 Joann
Detroit, MI 48205
(313) 527-0525
<http://straymondolgc.org>

Gathering in Church

APR **22**. 10:00 AM - 10:30 AM (ET)

St. Raymond - Our Lady of Good Counsel
20103 Joann
Detroit, MI 48205
(313) 527-0525
<http://straymondolgc.org>

Tribute Wall

ML

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Marshall D Lloyd - November 26, 2025 at 10:32 PM

B1

“ Mr. Fracassa was a giant of a man. There will never be another like him. He certainly rests with our Risen Lord in heaven. I will never forget how he always greeted me with a wonderful smile, and usually an apple or a sandwich. God bless the entire Fracassa family. .

Bob Denyer - BRHS 1971 - April 22, 2022 at 06:09 PM

AL

“ 4 files added to the tribute wall



Amy Lebowsky - April 22, 2022 at 11:47 AM

AL

“ My brother and I had the pleasure of being part of the annual camping voyage to Agawa Bay for many many summers. We only came to know Angelo in his 70s and beyond and what a mountain of a man he was. You were welcome as part of the family instantly. His gentle, loving, hilarious, wise, leadership of his family and expanded circle was cherished impossible to escape. I will always remember him in the sun on that Agawa Bay shoreline, laughing and smiling at the ecosystem of love and joy and family he together with dear Anne had created. Bless you Angelo. I am honored to have been on the earth at the same time with you. —Amy Lebowsky

Amy Lebowsky - April 22, 2022 at 11:37 AM

JZ

“ Angelo was instrumental in getting myself a position with the CID division of the IRS in 1959. At the time the division was known as the Intelligence division. We played softball together and some handball. At the time Angelo was probably one of the best if not the best handball player in the city. I was on the job when Anne was hired and met Angelo. The last time I saw him was in the early 70's and he had not changed. He was a wonderful person. He always had a good word for anyone and never said a bad word about anyone. He was one of a kind and I wish I could have worked with him and shared more of his life. (I never could understand how a man that ran so slowly could be so good at handball. When I asked him that question his answer was simply "Practice" . I never forgot that answer. Great guy and I only wish I had spent more of my life around him. John " Ted "Zawadzki

John Ted Zawadzki - April 21, 2022 at 07:38 PM

J(

“ *Mr. Fracassa was such a wonderful and caring man. He had such an infectious smile that could light up the whole room and make a sad day turn bright. My family and I remember all the wonderful camping trips we would have every summer with the whole family. These trips were something we would look forward to every year. My family and I were also grateful for so many more memories with the Fracassa family. Anne and family, we are so sorry for your loss. We are sending you all strength and prayers.*



Love Karen (Wojcik/Hayes), Jessica and Jennifer

Jessica Schultz (Wojcik) - April 21, 2022 at 02:44 PM

Person icon

“ *Small Garden Dish was purchased for the family of Angelo Fracassa.*



April 21, 2022 at 11:39 AM

ST

“ *Ron and I loved his Italian Sausage at the festival. That's the first booth we went to. No one made it like he did. My prayers are with you and your family.*

My Ronnie passed away Aug 6 2019 of a heart attack within minutes he was gone. We were shy by 2month and 11 days of our 50th.

Stephanie Thomas - April 14, 2022 at 08:11 PM

EF

Thank you so much for your kind words, Stephanie. So sorry to hear of the loss of your Ron. Love and prayers to you.

Elena Fracassa - April 18, 2022 at 03:07 PM

EF

“ 7 files added to the album Memories Album



Elena Fracassa - April 13, 2022 at 11:09 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Angelo Fracassa.



April 09, 2022 at 08:49 AM

TH

“ Tillecha Harris lit a candle in memory of Angelo Fracassa



Tillecha Harris - April 09, 2022 at 08:43 AM

EF

Thank you, Tillecha.

Elena Fracassa - April 13, 2022 at 11:10 AM

FV

“ *My sincere condolences to the Fracassa family.*

I grew up around Mr. Fracassa. I was an altar server at his church St. Raymond for nearly 15 years from the early 90s when I was a little boy, until I was in college. Many Sundays after mass, my family would light a candle in the back of the church near the winding choir steps. We would see Mr. Fracassa slowly and steadily walking down the 2 flights of stairs. He would always wave and share the most warmest smile. His steady attendance of mass, his determination to make his way up and down those stairs amidst obvious physical strain, and his notable kindness offered an example of strength and kindness that deeply impacted me to this day. The stories of his legendary career and bus rides add to his mythical status.

Rest in Peace. An inspiration to many generations!

Francis Vallejo - April 08, 2022 at 05:16 PM

FR

The world is such a better wonderful place because of this remarkable man. God bless his family & friends who have to be so sad for their loss. They can feel so much peace knowing he's looking down at them after meeting his maker. RIP you sweet loving man 💕💕

former member of St Raymonds - April 09, 2022 at 08:39 AM

EF

Thank you so much, Francis and whoever posted the other comment about St. Ray's We appreciate your kind thoughts more than you know.

Elena Fracassa - April 13, 2022 at 11:12 AM

MM

Francis that is a beautiful memory. Still fulfilling his obligations in spite of the pain he suffered. Life is filled with suffering and he bore it well making an example for all of us to follow.

Maggie MacLachlan - April 16, 2022 at 01:13 PM

BS

“ *Bobbie Safford lit a candle in memory of Angelo Fracassa*



Bobbie Safford - April 08, 2022 at 11:11 AM

BS

“ *Brenda Stewart lit a candle in memory of Angelo Fracassa*



Brenda Stewart - April 07, 2022 at 06:50 PM

BM

“ *Bob Mouton lit a candle in memory of Angelo Fracassa*



Bob mouton - April 07, 2022 at 06:05 PM

EP

“ *Ella Porter lit a candle in memory of Angelo Fracassa*



Ella Porter - April 07, 2022 at 04:34 PM

EP

Angelo was like sunshine to all of his co-workers. He was more than just a co-worker/friend

Ella Porter - April 07, 2022 at 04:37 PM

EF

Thank you so much, Ella! xoxo

Elena Fracassa - April 13, 2022 at 11:13 AM

MS

“ *I have so many memories of Angelo! Laura and I were best friends growing up at our highschool graduation we found out that Angelo and my Grandpa served together in the army! They recognized each other instantly!!! When my grandpa passed, Angelo came to his funeral and played the harmonica at his casket, it was a beautiful tribute and one I will remember forever. His smile was contagious and he loved his family more then he could ever explain! What an amazing man he was!!!! His memory lives on in all who loved him!!*

Marisel Shaner - April 07, 2022 at 03:04 PM

EF

I forgot about this, Marisel! That was so special. Thank you so much for sharing. I have to believe they are meeting up again in heaven. ❤️

Elena Fracassa - April 07, 2022 at 03:42 PM

BL

Love and prayers during this most difficult times. The beautiful memories shared by many are a great tribute to him. Missed by many but never forgotten.

Bernie and Ilene Latasiewicz - April 07, 2022 at 04:16 PM

DI

We trust that this man of great faith and love will be welcomed into the Heavenly Kingdom of peace, love and joy. Our prayers are with you and his family ,Deacon Joe

Deacon Joe Iskra - April 08, 2022 at 10:49 AM