



Samuel John Gazzarato

July 6, 1947 - December 13, 2013

Samuel John Gazzarato passed away on December 13, 2013, at the age of 66, at St. John Hospital in Detroit. Loving husband of Kathy of 42 years. Proud and doting father of his son and heart Samuel (Sherri) Gazzarato. New papa of Ethan, Dylan, and Bryan. Son of the late Betty and Pat Gazzarato and son in law of the late Lynn and Reg MacDonald. Brother of Pat (Elizabeth) Gazzarato and Anna (Jiri) Kollar. Brother in spirit and best friend of Joe Serra. Retired from the City of Detroit, serving 30 years as a paramedic, assistant chief of EMS and ultimately General Manager of Detroit Fire Department. He also taught at Detroit General Hospital and Baker College. Sam fought a valiant 5 year battle against A.L.L. Thanks to Dr. Shurafa, the R.N.s and staff at St. John Hospital and the V.E.C.C. who so personally took care of our determined "Big Bear of a man"

Memorial donations may be made to:

Children's Leukemia Foundation

5455 Corporate Drive Suite 306

Troy, Michigan 48098

Cemetery Details

Cremation

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 15. 1:00 PM - 9:00 PM (ET)

Wasik Funeral Home, Shelby Township
49150 Schoenherr Rd.
Shelby Township, MI 48315
(586) 532-8600
shelby@wasikfuneralhome.com

Instate at Church

DEC 16. 9:00 AM - 9:30 AM (ET)

St. Paul of Tarsus
41300 Romeo Plank Rd
Clinton Twp, Mi

Funeral Mass

DEC 16. 9:30 AM (ET)

St. Paul of Tarsus
41300 Romeo Plank Rd
Clinton Twp, Mi

Tribute Wall

RS

“ Kathy

Please accept my heartfelt sympathy for your loss. I was sorry to hear about Sam's death. As Fire Commissioner, I had the honor of working with Sam, and I found Sam to be a caring public servant, a man of integrity, a mentor to others, and a leader who also had a great sense of humor. I know Sam loved the DFD and wanted our EMS to be the best. I wish you and your family strength and peace during this difficult time. My prayers are with you

Richard Stein-

Richard Stein - December 20, 2013 at 11:15 PM



“ Kathy & Sam

God places people in our lives for a purpose and a season. Sam was a mentor; he opened doors for me that would have never been available had he not been there. We shared a bond that even death can't break. I would like to share the words of a song my church choir sang on Sunday: it's titled "Healing" by Richard Smallwood:

*Don't be discouraged
Joy comes in the morning
Know that God is nigh
Stand still and look up
God is going to show up
He is standing by.*

*There's healing for your sorrow
Healing for your pain
Healing for your spirit
There's shelter from the pain
Lord send the healing
For this we know
There is a balm in Gilead
For there's a balm in Gilead
To heal the soul*

Healing for the soul.

*Those of us who have had to become caregivers know the passionate moments as well as the grueling ones. We do what needs to be done and pray that God answers our prayers. Sam was a very private person but he always shared his love of his family - he loved you both so much. He would want you to HEAL. The legacy he left will live on in you, his family and others his friends. Thank you for sharing him with us. God bless you.
Cheryl A. Campbell*

Cheryl A. Campbell - December 19, 2013 at 01:42 PM

MM

“ I got an email Sunday to tell me about my cousin Sammy. I am so sorry. I remember him fondly when I was growing up in Amsterdam, Ohio. My sincere condolences to the family.
Marci Manson McClenny

marci mcclenny - December 17, 2013 at 03:33 PM

GH

“ *Kathy:*
Received a phone call Monday afternoon about Sam passing. I cannot imagine what you are going thru after so many years together. It has been years since our last meeting, I believe it was at one of the Austin reunions. I remember sitting in class with Sam and enjoying his prankish personality. Also remember many softball diamonds where you and I pretended to watched our dads play softball. I hope you will always remember the good times as I will. God Bless and take care.

Greg & Cindie Howell

Greg Howell - December 17, 2013 at 11:59 AM

NA

“ *My dear Teddy Bear my cousin Sam. Growing up I was blessed to spend some of my summers in Harper Woods. My teddy bear would have all of us laughing never a sad face around him. He would have a joke or a story to tell. Also I am blessed to have my children know Harper Woods and my family that came from there. To me that is the greatest gift of all. Now Sam is with all the Aunts and Uncles in heaven and my dear Aunt Betty and Uncle Pat also his two cousins that went before him. Who we all miss so very much.*

Memory Eternal

Love you forever my teddy bear,

Nadine

Nadine Albert-Zawahri - December 17, 2013 at 08:25 AM



“ *Kathy;*

We are so very sorry for your loss. Sam was a great guy and we are proud to have known him.

Our sincere regrets that we were not attend his service.

Again our deepest symphony to you and the entire family.

Rod and Robin Allen

I first meet Sam in the EMS academy in 72, one of my first memories of him was of the staff sending him home to get his hair cut on the second day despite being told along with all of us to get it cut on the first day.

Over the years I learned a lot from Sam on the correct way to treat people, how to be a good supervisor, how to work with the techs, how treat them fairly with respect and to be firm when the firmness was needed. I have always been thankful for his insights and wisdom. I enjoyed many a lunch with him at Cobo Joe's many of them included some great conversations some long some not but all were enjoyable. Thanks and God bless you Sam you were a great man to have known.

Rod Allen

Rodney Allen - December 16, 2013 at 08:11 PM

DR

“ *Cousins Alex and Doris send to you and your family our deepest sympathy and prayers. We are heartbroken to learn that Sam lost the battle. He was always a fighter. I miss the trips to Detroit to visit Aunt Betty, Uncle Pat, Pat , Sam and Anna. We had some fun times. If there is anything we can do for you, please let us know. Very sorry ,for your loss.*

Cousins Alex and Doris

Doris Rotar - December 16, 2013 at 02:48 PM

CK

“ 1 file added to the album Sam & Anna in Detroit...



Clara Kammann - December 16, 2013 at 12:41 PM

CK

I added this photo of Sams , Great Grand Parents, Anthony and Vita Gazzarato. My mother is Rosaria G (Sara), and Uncle Tony are 1st Cousins. Sorry to hear about your loss, and the families sadness.

Clara Kammann - December 16, 2013 at 12:45 PM

TS

“ *The Detroit Fire Department has lost one of its most influential members. Sam not only developed himself professionally but mentored countless individuals from the newest academy recruit to the Executive Fire Commissioner. His caring ways of guiding, training and leading those responsible for every level of service in one of the busiest fire departments in North America will be greatly missed.*

The members of the DFD Advisory Commission sends their prayers and condolences to the Gazzarato family during this difficult time. Please know that the entire Department and City of Detroit community is extremely appreciative for his many years of courageous leadership and faithful service.

We pray that you will find memories that provide peace and comfort in the days ahead.

Bernard Schrott, Tyrone Scott, Curtis Hertel and Leven Weiss

Tyrone Scott - December 16, 2013 at 09:25 AM

DD

“ I was sorry to hear about Sam. I was on the rappel team with Sam. He was a great instructor, friend, coach and most of all a great father. Sam was always calm even in the most stressful situations. He could talk about any subject and was willing to share his knowledge with many. He helped us out when we started the SRT in Detroit. He will be missed by so many.

My deepest sympathy to his family. I thought about Sam last night and reflected on just how many life's he touched. He has left a positive impression on them both on and off the job.

Don Drake

Don Drake - December 16, 2013 at 06:04 AM

JW

“ Sam and I started on EMS around the same time back in 72. Right from the start I knew that Sam would be a Supervisor before to long mostly because of his willingness to help others with their skills and his calm confident manner. He made a great supervisor because he would never ask you to do something that he wouldn't do. He was truly a friend and a great coworker....someone who made an impact on everyone he met. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Kathy and the family. Sam was a great medic, supervisor, instructor, family man and friend. I will always remember Sam and count him as a friend.

Jim Wettergren

Jim Wettergren - December 15, 2013 at 10:41 PM

JS

“ Kathy we spoke briefly tonight and I didn't/couldn't explain fully just how much Sam meant to me as a Rappel Master partner, training partner, friend, confidant, inspirational figure as a CYO Coach to kids in football at St. Raymond's and on and on. But most of all I will miss knowing that I could call on him at anytime for anything and he would be there for me, likewise me for him. After retirement we didn't spend a lot of time together, but like a friend once told me "It's not the amount of time you spend together but the quality of that time". My time spent with Sam was always QUALITY. Lastly I remember the words of the poet Gibran "When you are sorrowful look again in your heart, and you shall see that in truth you are weeping for that which has been your delight" Sam was a delight to all that knew him.

Joe Solomon - December 15, 2013 at 09:09 PM

PT

“ I am so sorry for your loss. Sam was a devoted husband and father and truly loved his life. I will keep you in my prayers.

Patti Towne

Patti Towne - December 15, 2013 at 07:59 PM

JS

“ I am saddened to hear of the loss of Sam. He was a fine gentleman and an inspiration for many Detroit Fire, EMS and Police personnel who served with him on the Detroit Police Aviation Repel Team. Additionally, he participated and contributed his expertise to the air assault/rappelling training for the Detroit Police Special Response Team (SRT). He was most highly regarded as a trainer; and, his strength of character imbued him with an aura and unassailable prestige.

I send my deepest sympathy to his family at this time, as my thoughts have been with them since I heard of his death. I admired him greatly.

Jerry Solai

Jerry Solai - December 15, 2013 at 02:26 PM

LM

“ I knew Sam on EMS back in the 70's. I had a great deal of respect for him professionally and as a person. I owe him a debt of gratitude for his kindness which had a big impact on my life at a point in my life when I needed help. God bless you Sam.

Len Muss

Len Muss - December 15, 2013 at 01:22 PM

MB

“ Such a loss to the EMS community. Sam was the Lead Instructor for the Basic EMT course I took at DRH (Mehales class #10) He was such a huge presence, great instructor and made such an impact on all of us. There were over 100 my class and I was fortune enough to later return the favor of his knowledge and got to teach him to ski. He will be missed by so many us who try to carry on his legacy!
margo m. Bloomberg EMT-P,EMSIC,R.N.

margo bloomberg - December 15, 2013 at 09:50 AM

AS

“ Scott and I would like to send our sympathies out to you and your family. We both remember his laugh and what a great and generous person he was. May you find peace during this difficult time.



Love and Prayers,
Scott and Alison

Alison Schaft - December 15, 2013 at 09:42 AM



“ Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Samuel John Gazarato.



December 15, 2013 at 08:52 AM

M(

“ I still remember the Day, in September, 1965 that Kathy and I and MaryAnne Lauwers (Speck) first met Sam and his neighbors, Cass LaRosa and Dave Growth in Sam's driveway in Harper Woods. He had his Austin Football Jacket on. LOL! Priceless! We were just kids! A million years ago--- that seems like yesterday! Sam and Kathy are so much a part of my youth and where I came from and who I am. Sam was a Great person, a Wonderful Husband and Father and Friend. He will be smiling down on Kathy and Sammy and Family and taking care of them from Heaven until we all meet again. God Bless you Guz! You will be so missed! Serra

MaryAnn LoDuca (Serra) - December 15, 2013 at 08:44 AM

M(

MaryAnn LoDuca (Serra)

MaryAnn LoDuca (Serra) - December 15, 2013 at 08:45 AM

Wendy
Leung

“ I had the honor as knowing him as "Mr G". I will forever remember his kindness and his immense love for his wife and family. And it's not just the love for his own family but his special way in inquiring about mine. Mr G always took the time to ask about my two boys and he wouldn't be satisfied until I shared a story or two about them. God bless him. The world may never meet a man with such a passionate heart for family and mankind. I will forever treasure these memories. My thoughts and prayers are with you Kathy and Sammie.

Wendy Leung - December 15, 2013 at 08:06 AM

AN

“ 3 files added to the album Sam & Anna in Detroit...



Anna - December 15, 2013 at 07:47 AM



“ Sam always made me laugh

Michael Daleo - December 15, 2013 at 06:19 AM


KL

“ *Kathy,
you are so blessed to have had so many years with Sam. His heart
was as big as his smile. Forever the "protective" one. He wanted to
keep everyone safe and take care of others. He will be up in heaven
keeping you and Sammy safe and warm because that's what papa
bears do.*

*Don't ever stop talking to him because he'll always be listening.
R.I.P. Big Guy xoxo*

*Love
Kathy Liston*

Kathy Liston - December 14, 2013 at 09:26 PM

 Leah
Goudy

“ *1 file added to the album New Album Name*



Leah Goudy - December 14, 2013 at 08:00 PM

 Leah
Goudy

“ *There could never be a bigger loss. I will miss him everyday. On all of those occasions when the world seemed to be falling apart, he was always available and seemed to find a way to make it all better. My children could have never asked for a better Uncle, someone that loved them for who they are and always seemed to understand. Never missed anything, always took the time, even recently when he was struggling. He even came to Jimmy's football games this fall when he could barely get through a day. But here he came on a golf cart to the field to watch Jimmy play. He never stopped caring and lived every single day when most of us would have given up. I will miss our long talks and I will miss his advice and laughter. 'till we meet again, our memories I will treasure. Love you always-Leah*

Leah Goudy - December 14, 2013 at 07:39 PM

KF

“ *Kathy and Sam, Jr.*

So sorry to hear of Sam's passing. He had such a warm personality, so full of life with his big smile and was always ready to help if needed. He will be missed.

You are in our thoughts and prayers.

Peter and Karen Fragatos



karen fragatos - December 14, 2013 at 04:44 PM

JM

“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



John Morell - December 14, 2013 at 03:56 PM

JM

I met Sam when I was a 21 year old EMT student at DGH in 1974, from then on our careers and lives paralleled. Sam was always a mentor and hero to me and I am proud to have known him and worked with him on EMS and later on the Rappel Rescue Team. Sam I will miss you.

John Morell - December 14, 2013 at 04:03 PM

KM

“ *Sam always thought of other people. good boss. I remember when I was promoted to lieutenant. Sam knew that I was dating Sherri. Sam approached me and stated that if Sherri needed to be charged, to let him know and he would do the charges. He was not going to let job interfere with my private life. Many more stories. I will miss him*

Ken Meisel

Kenneth Meisel - December 14, 2013 at 03:08 PM

DB

“ Remember Sam when he was in grade school. He joined Detroit EMS as a trainee in about 1972 or 1973. He rose through the ranks to EMT, Advanced EMT, Lieutenant and Captain. The Detroit Fire Department recognized Sam's talent and he was promoted to a department executive position.

My personal street memory of Sam was in the early 70's when Detroit's Southeast neighborhood flooded in early spring. Water was chest deep. Sam and his partner waded into the frigid deep water to a home where a woman was giving birth. The baby was delivered and Sam and his partner carried the woman and her baby on a stretcher above their heads to their vehicle. Not a second of hesitation. I'll never forget seeing them in that deep water. Their first concern was the mother and baby. Sam was an excellent instructor because he lived the experiences he taught. God rest his Soul.

Dan Bojalad - December 14, 2013 at 01:52 PM

SH

Sam kept his faith in God, and so believed in the building blocks of grace. He added to his faith, virtue; and to virtue he added knowledge; and to knowledge, he added temperance; and to temperance, he added patience; and to patience, Godliness; and to Godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, he added charity. Sam was never barren or unfruitful because he led his life this way. (2nd Peter:Chapter 1) Sam will be missed, yet his spirit will live on within each life he touched.

Shalako Holiness and Family
PO Box 1758
Powder Springs, Ga 30127

Shalako Holiness - December 15, 2013 at 06:47 PM