

Theodore T. Pappas Sr, 1920-2010

Born: April 16, 1920 Died: December 28, 2010 Funeral: January 3, 2011

Theodore T. Papas Sr., 90, of Niles passed away Tuesday December 29, 2010 while visiting his daughter in Texas.

He was born April 16, 1920 in Niles the son of Theodore and Nancy Cafarilla Papas.

Ted was employed as a craneman at LTV Republic Steel in Niles for 43 years before retiring in 1982, a member of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church in Niles where he attended daily mass and volunteered for the church festival. He was also a member of The Disabled Veterans of America, AARP, Local Steel Union 1375 in Warren, and The Niles Frontliners.

Ted enjoyed gardening, an avid sports fan, following The Niles Red Dragons, The Cleveland Browns and Cleveland Indians. He was a veteran of The United States Army where he received the Purple Heart during World War II

His wife Viola Guarnieri Papas whom he married September 22, 1941 died February 26, 1998.

Ted, who was known as a generous caregiver for his family, will be deeply missed by a son Ted Papas Jr. and his wife Fran of Niles, a daughter Sandra Bianco and her husband Dr. Joseph of Duncansville, Texas, five grandchildren, Ted and his wife Sonia, Michelle and her husband Mike, Melissa and her husband Robert, Alexis and her husband Justin, Jennifer and her husband John, and nine great-grandchildren, Ryan, Ashley, Eric, Anna, Matthew, Joey, Aidan, Colin, and Ethan.

Besides his wife, he is preceded in death by his mother Nancy Papas Marzano, step-father, Joseph Marzano, who helped raise him, four brothers, Anthony Papas, Pete Papas Sr., Louis Marzano, and Alex Marzano, and a sister Carmella Sidoti.

Friends may call from 4 to 6PM Sunday at The Joseph Rossi and Sons Funeral Home in Niles where the Mt. Carmel Bereavement Ministry will conduct prayers at 5:30PM.

Mass of Christian Burial will be held 9:30AM Monday at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, with Fr. Larry Frient officiating, preceded by a 9AM prayer service at the funeral home.

Burial will be in St. Stephen Cemetery.

Material Contributions can be made to Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church in Niles, 381 Robbins Ave, Niles, Ohio 44446.

Family and friends can view this obituary, sign the guestbook, and send e-mail condolences at www.josephrossifuneralhom

Gospel: John 15:9-13

We pray for everyone close to Ted. All of us know that he spent many, many hours here on church property during his more than ninety years of living. Ted lived nearby, growing up near the corner of Erie and Allison and then living for such a long time on Wood Street. Our parish was blessed by his presence and already we miss him.

Ted's time with us as a member of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church began when he was baptized as **Teodoro** by Father Santoro in the previous building that served as a temporary church way back on May 10, 1920.

It was here in this church that Ted shared in the Eucharist for the first time on May 8, 1934. Bishop McFadden visited this church a week later and celebrated the Sacrament of Confirmation with Ted and his classmates.

September 22, 1941 was a very happy day for Ted and the former Viola Guarnieri as they exchanged marriage vows here in the presence of Father Joseph Saraceno. They were so close right up until her death on February 26, 1998, and there is no doubt that he missed her dearly.

During happier and healthier times, Ted helped many times with our parish festivals, helped set up and take down Christmas decorations, and was present for daily Mass so very often.

Ted did not spend much time away from this neighborhood. When he was away, it was during World War II when he answered the call to serve in the United States Army. It was there that he earned a Purple Heart and sustained a terrible injury to his right hand. He amazed many people by how he was able to work so well despite this injury.

All of you who are close to him remember him as a man who took pride in his cooking, was true to his word, worked faithfully as a crane man for LTV Republic Steel for 43 years before retiring in 1982, enjoyed his garden, and constantly cheered for the Cleveland Browns, Cleveland Indians, and Niles Red Dragons.

Some of you have fond memories of how Ted took you shopping.

It was common for him to share pizza with his neighbors. He was always there for others.

He inspired many by how he took care of the ill so very devotedly. When his health deteriorated during recent times, Ted had a tough time letting others take care of him. That is often the way people of the Greatest generation live – they are constantly there for others and do not want much attention directed toward themselves.

You remember his love for animals. He constantly enjoyed having dogs, fed strays, cats, and birds to the point where they really depended on him, even took the dogs to Dairy Queen for a special treat.

Some of you have fond memories of vacations together and a multitude of stories about happier times.

We trust that as time moves forward, the words of Jesus in today's Gospel will resonate in so many ways with Ted's life.

Jesus told us to remain in his love, and I am sure Ted would want us to know that his love is always in our hearts.

Jesus told us that there is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends, and certainly Ted gave and gave and gave to others so generously and lovingly for so long.

Many of you will be the living legacy of the words of Jesus and of the life and goodness of Ted Papas. Two children, five grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren, great expectations for at least one addition to the family in the near future, so many in-laws so dear to Ted and a much-loved multitude of members of the extended family and friends will continue to be blessed by knowing that Ted Papas Senior was such a wonderful presence in the family, in our parish, and in our neighborhood for so long.

And God knows that everyone did the very best they could to reach out to this proud man who really wanted the attention diverted to anyone other than himself.

I believe it is only natural for us to search our hearts and ask what more we could do for Ted.

And I'm firmly convinced that as we commend Ted to the Lord so very prayerfully this morning, all he would want us to do is to live on in his love, to be nourished by the Lord in the Eucharist here after having pondered God's Word, to take the message out of here with us and perpetuate the love of the Lord.

May our hearts know that Ted fell asleep peacefully to be with Viola and so many others who were so very special in his life that completed this journey before Ted.

May we live on in the love of Christ and be nourished by this love all our days.