



Mario John Sebastiani

February 25, 1928 - June 7, 2021

Mario John Sebastiani, 93 of Kankakee passed away June 7, 2021 in the house he loved. He was surrounded by those he lived for, his family.

He was born February 25, 1928, the son of Eugene and Carlotta (Lenci) Sebastiani. He married the former Betty Bright on June 26, 1954.

In his youth he was a paper boy for the Kankakee Republican (Precursor of the Daily Journal). At age 16 he officially began employment with the newspaper. It became his career for 65 years. His first responsibilities were the jobs in the pressroom no one else wanted to do like wiping down the presses. His older brother Louie was inducted into the navy during World War II. Mario took his place in circulation. When Louie came home, Mario returned to the pressroom and soon became a pressman. As improvements began to influence the printing of newspapers new offset presses were acquired. During this same period he became pressroom superintendant. The Daily Journal also became a print site for USA Today for the Chicago area. Under his supervision the Daily Journal won many prestigious awards for printing quality including several from USA Today. His final position with the paper was that of General Manager. He was instrumental in the day to day operation of the paper. His reputation and relationship with his peers was one of highest respect and admiration.

He served in the army during the Korean War. Because of his printing experience he was stationed in Tokyo, Japan. Each day he would receive aerial photographs of the battle front and print maps for the field command

that showed battle lines and troop placements. His military service ended in 1954.

His great pleasure was to see things grow; primarily his garden and fruit trees. Every summer there was an abundance of vegetables and fruit to be picked and delivered to friends, family, co-workers, and acquaintances. His two most favorite spots on earth were his own back yard and in recent years his living room chair. From that viewpoint he could watch his plantings grow with one eye and the stock market with the other.

He is survived by daughters Gina (Michael) Pullen and Linda (Jim) Scanlon; grandchildren, Mary (Mitch) Holmgren, Melissa (Peter) Chung, Brad Johnson, Stephanie (Mark) Alessi, Sarah (Kelly) Krippel; step grandchildren, Jenna Kostelicz, Jamie Panici and their families; great grandchildren: Brady and Ella Chung, Evan and Leah Alessi, Kyle Holmgren; sister in laws Dorothy and Elinor Bright; caregiver D'Angelo Hunter.

He is preceded in death by his wife of 67 years Betty (Bright) Sebastiani, parents Eugene and Carlotta Sebastiani, beloved brother Louie Sebastiani, brother-in-law Joseph Bright, sister-in-law Elsie Menard.

A time of remembrance will be held in his honor at Kankakee First Church of the Nazarene, 1000 North Entrance Avenue, Kankakee, IL Monday, June 14, 2021. There will be a short visitation from 10 to 10:30 AM followed by a service at 10:30 AM. Burial will be at Kankakee Memorial Gardens.

Mario was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, and great grandfather. We were blessed to have had his love and presence in our lives. He was a great man with a great heart.

In lieu of flowers memorials may be made to the family to carry out Mario's wishes.

Cemetery Details

Kankakee Memorial Gardens

15 S. 3000 E. Rd.
Kankakee, IL 60901

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 14. 10:00 AM - 10:30 AM (CT)

First Church of the Nazarene
1000 N. Entrance Ave.
Kankakee, IL 60901
(815) 933-1000
<http://www.k1.naz.org>

Funeral Service

JUN 14. 10:30 AM (CT)

First Church of the Nazarene
1000 N. Entrance Ave.
Kankakee, IL 60901
(815) 933-1000
<http://www.k1naz.org>

Tribute Wall

CD

“ so sorry to hear, love and prayers to your family

cindy danca - June 21, 2021 at 11:01 AM

MD

“ I read Mario had passed today. I was lucky enough to live near Mario his family and his parents growing up. I can remember them as a kind and wonderful family. Grandparents lived on Oak St. and Mario and Betty and the girls lived on Entrance. Just a memory of really nice people. How blessed is your family....wish they were all still here.

Mary (Hults) Devore - June 13, 2021 at 10:47 PM

JA

“ Deepest Condolences to Family. He will be missed.

Jerry Alessi - June 10, 2021 at 11:33 AM

RS

“ Rob Small purchased the Cheeseboard Complete for the family of Mario John Sebastiani.



Rob Small - June 09, 2021 at 05:49 PM

RH

“ I very well remember Mario, he was the person that counted out the papers in the basement for the carriers at the Republican on North Schuyler.

Please accept my condolences for your loss of a really great person, MARIO.

Sincerely, Ronald Hartman

Ronald Hartman - June 09, 2021 at 05:04 PM

MT

“ My heart is sad due to losing this neighbor. He and I shared many conversations while I gardened. I will miss him. Prayers for God's peace and comfort at this sad time.
Mary n John Thomson



Mary Thomson - June 09, 2021 at 04:55 PM

TC

“ Mario hired me in 1975,i worked for him til 2005 when I retired. He was the best boss anyone could have,and a very great man also. He will be missed. Tom Crossett.

Thomas Crossett - June 09, 2021 at 03:05 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Lori Korstick Anderson - June 09, 2021 at 02:25 PM



“ *My heartfelt condolences to the family. Mario had been like a part of our family starting in the 40s and 50s with fishing trips with Dad (Armand Korstick), then their monthly card playing, other trips like to Disney in the 70's. Those were the days and i will remember Mario always. Let's get that poker game going in heaven now with Mario, Dad, Herb and Lee.*

Lori Korstick Anderson - June 09, 2021 at 02:19 PM

BW

“ *I had the honor of meeting Mario very early in my career, and worked with him for several years on various community projects, including a holiday food drive for the Salvation Army. He was always the kindest, sweetest man, a great mentor and a kind soul. My prayers are with his family.*

Becky Wilder - June 09, 2021 at 01:49 PM

RM

“ *Our deepest sympathy to the family for the loss of this fine gentleman. He will be missed by so many in our community. Always a smile and kind word when we saw him. Rest in peace sir.*

Rose & Gary Mitchell - June 09, 2021 at 11:53 AM

MS

“ *My condolences to all of you. I have clear memories as a child of Mario singing out in his garden. Loved it!! Good neighbor and good man. Thinking of you Gina and Linda*

Mary O'Gorman Schmidt - June 09, 2021 at 11:18 AM

BM

“ I was Mario’s secretary at *The Daily Journal* for many years and will always be grateful for his support after my father died by sitting next to me at my son’s baseball and basketball games. His love and kindness will always be remembered by my family. Brenda Montgomery

Brenda Montgomery - June 09, 2021 at 10:43 AM

CN

“ The Sebastiani family has meant so much to me in my lifetime. From going to Mass at St. Mary’s Church with Carlotta (she loved my thick long hair), to having Louie as my very first boss when I was a paper carrier, and then having Mario and Betty on my paper route. A wonderful family all around.

My deepest sympathies to the family - take comfort in knowing how very many lives were touched and how many people have such fond memories.

Claudia (Emling) Noe - June 09, 2021 at 10:33 AM

NA

We were friends in our “younger” days and always thought of Babe and Betty as friends. Our sympathy to Gina , Linda and families. Your Dad was a good man!! Sorry we cannot attend his service on Monday as we are visiting kids in Michigan.

Nick/Shirley Africano - June 12, 2021 at 11:14 AM

PZ

“ So sorry to learn of your Dad’s passing. You are so correct. He loved his wife, his children, his family along with his house and garden. As a former neighbor I witnessed this first hand while growing up. My sincere condolences to all of you on your loss.

Paul Ziemer - June 09, 2021 at 10:05 AM

VD

“ *Virginia R Dominick lit a candle in memory of Mario John Sebastiani*



Virginia R Dominick - June 09, 2021 at 09:36 AM

GM

“ *I have known Mario, and family, since I was a little guy. I was even his newspaper carrier for several years. Mario always had a smile on his face and I really enjoyed talking with him. My condolences to the entire family.*

Gary Mitchell - June 08, 2021 at 04:35 PM

CH

“ *I came to know Mario Sebastiani during the 29 years I worked at The Daily Journal as Executive Assistant to Len H. and Jean Alice Small and later as Human Resources Director. Mario was a most knowledgeable pressman and a master of the print industry. He was kind, cheerful and a loyal employee. My husband, Larry, joins me in expressing our sincerest sympathy to his family that he loved so dearly.*

Christine Huffman

Christine M Huffman - June 08, 2021 at 04:14 PM

JB

“ During my college years back in the 60's I worked in the Circulation Dept at the Daily Journal for 3 yrs and remember Mario as a very likeable guy with a dry sense of humor & of course being a real character personality wise, opening the press room door at Christmas time yelling 'Mario Christmas' to everyone. Rest is Peace Mario and say Hi to Louie for me.

Jerry the Mailman

jerry bjick - June 08, 2021 at 03:43 PM