Sossoman
Funeral Home & Crematory Center
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Anthony "Tony" Raymond Filice

Aug. 5, 1937 - Dec. 12, 2022

Anthony "Tony" Raymond Filice, 85, of Morganton, passed away Monday, December 12, 2022.

Born in Pittsburgh, PA on August 5, 1937, he was the son of late Italian immigrants, James I. and Santa B. Filice. Tony was a member of St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church. A veteran of the US Army, he bragged about being the "best potato peeler around." Tony obtained his bachelor and master degrees from Western Carolina University while working at Drexel Heritage Furnishings. He held many positions including vice president of Management Information Services and later VP of Customer Service. His dedication to his career and knowledge/passion for fine furniture and quality craftsmanship carried to other aspects of his life as well. He was an avid dealer of automobiles and enjoyed bargaining, collecting, and restoring Volkswagen Beetles and other classic cars.

However, Tony considered his 46-year marriage to his loving and caring wife to be his greatest achievement. He never missed an opportunity to tell her how beautiful she was, how much he loved her, and was always giving the last goodnight kiss. Joy was always by his side with love and affection. If she wasn't, the ringing Tony's pet names for Joy, "Joy," "Bum," or "Mommy," would echo through the house. The two shared a love story unique and unmatched by most

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Up until his final breath, Tony remained a devoted husband, father, papaw, and great-papaw. He never missed an opportunity to crack a joke or brag about something his children or grandchildren were doing. He was a former member and president of the Morganton Rotary club and a Paul Harris Fellow. He left his mark on so many friends

and acquaintances during his life. Tony was a WWE Wrestling fan, enjoyed a senior coffee McDonalds break, and loved a slow drive around Riverside drive. His sense of humor, and the love and adoration he showed his family and friends, will surely be missed in the days to come.

Those left to cherish his memory include his wife, Joy Stroup Filice; children he raised as his own, Mark A. Tew, Marcia Tew Benson (Kirk), and Sheila Tew Keller (Kevin Jarrett); grandchildren, Destiney Conway (Jonathon), Jacob Benson (Daniela), Kyle Benson (Erin), Bradley Benson (Lauren), Olivia Benson, Hannah Keller Davis (Cody), Heidi Keller, Allison Sessions (John), and Andrew Tew; great-grandchildren, Loreali Benson, Lane Benson, Eden Benson, Logan Benson, Kate Benson, Paislee Sessions, Noelle Conway, and Karsyn Sessions; sisters, Marion Macri, Janice Sullivan, Joyce Rose, and Gracie Filice; and numerous nieces, nephews, and extended family.

In addition to his parents, Tony was preceded in death by two brothers-in-law, Jack Macri and Bill Rose.

Revelation 21:4 “He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will no longer be death. Neither will there be any mourning or crying or pain, for the old order has passed away.”

The family will receive friends from 6 to 8 p.m., Thursday, December 15, 2022 at Sossoman Funeral Home. Funeral Mass will be held at noon, Friday, December 16, 2022 at St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church with Father Ken Whittington and Deacon John Martino officiating. Burial will follow in Burke Memorial Park.

Memorial contributions may be made to Amorem Hospice, 902 Kirkwood Street, NW, Lenoir, NC 28645 or to St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church, 728 West Union Street, Morganton, NC 28655.

The family would like to express their appreciation to his caregivers, Kathy and Jennifer.

Sossoman Funeral Home and Crematory Center is assisting the family with the arrangements.

Tribute Wall

So sorry to hear of Tony's passing!! My mom (Thelma C. Epley) thought the world of both of you & your family!! Will keep each of you in Prayer during your difficult days ahead!!

—Lisa Epley Arrowood

Joy, Tony was one of the best, best friend, best boss and one of the finest and honorable men I knew. We had some good times at Drexel and I wouldn't change a day of it. He will be missed by so many. My love goes out to you. May all the many prayers sustain you through this trying time

—Margaret Foreman

So sorry for your loss. I knew Tony from Drexel Heritage customer service. Tony was a wonderful person with a great laugh. Joy you and you're family are in my thoughts and prayers. Debra

—Debra Branch



Dear Joy and Family, So sorry to hear about Tony. Your Friend and Neighbor here in Altamont since Childhood. With LOVE always, Carter

—Carter Wiseman

I will miss u uncle Tony u always made me smile and made Aunt Joy light up u loved her so

–Pamela clark

Was so blessed to have know Tony first thing he would ask me is what ya trading on PeeWee ! Im so sorry for your lost will be praying for you all as we all will see him some day im sure ! Love ya Tony "PeeWee"

–PEEWEE WHISENANT

Joy, So sorry to hear of this about Tony. He was an inspiration to me years ago as we worked together at Drexel Heritage Information Systems, and both of us loved cars. Prayers are with you and your family. Peace be with you Philip Morris

–Philip Morris

Joy and Family, You're in our prayers and thoughts in this sad time now and for days to come. We love you.

–Benny & Barbara Childers



Such a bright light has gone but his memory last forever. Till we meet again my friend. So glad our life paths crossed.

–Roger Austin Hart

Our only brother. Anthony you were always so kind to your sisters growing up. We were able to use your cars. You were very popular in high school. Extremely handsome. We will miss you and will love you forever..

–Jan Sullivan

So sorry to hear about the passing of Tony. I knew him from Drexel Heritage. He was such a nice person and always had something funny to say. We was all like family at Drexel. May the Grace of God give you peace and fond memories.

—Connie Lytle