



Vito "Bill" Messina

January 16, 1939 - January 17, 2021

Vito (Bill) Messina, age 82 of Sterling Heights, passed peacefully in his sleep on Sunday, January 17, 2021. He was born January 16, 1939 in Detroit, son of the late Andrea and Maria Messina.

Beloved husband of Josie (nee Gerardi) and the late Josephine (nee Maiorana). Loving father of Andrew Messina and Marisa (John) Baginski. Dearest grandfather of Debbie (David) DeCoster and Alyssa Baginski, and great grandfather of Benjamin and Reagan. Brother of Tony (Joyce) Messina; preceded in death by his siblings, Jack (Lori) Messina. Brother-in-law of Marian Taylor and Daniela (Joe) Luna. Son-in-law of Pina (late Nino) Gerardi. Beloved uncle to many nieces, nephews, great nieces and great nephews. Vito graduated from Denby High School and in 1962, married the late Josephine Maiorana, and moved to Ft. Benning, Georgia to serve in the United States Army.

After serving in the Army, Vito returned to Michigan and started working for General Motors (GM) in 1965, where he worked as an engineer and enjoyed solving problems. He spent much of his free time working at home in his garage as a mechanic, fixing cars for many family members and friends.

In 1997, Josephine passed away from her battle with cancer. He found love again and married Josie Gerardi in 2000. In 2002, he retired from GM after 37 years of dedicated service.

He enjoyed cars, photography, ice cream, the Detroit Tigers, bowling, golfing, doing word searches, watching Jeopardy and Wheel of Fortune, and being outdoors. His eyes lit up at the sight of his great-grandchildren, and he adored their interest in the stories of his life. He also loved spending time at the cottage he built in Lake George, where he could be found grooming his property on his John Deere tractor or tinkering with his precious 1986 Monte Carlo SS.

The longevity of Vito's life is credited to his loving wife, Josie, who tirelessly cared for him

throughout their marriage and especially throughout his battle with kidney disease. Josie was his cheerleader and his constant caregiver, many times at the expense of her own health.

Private family visitation. Family and friends are invited to attend the funeral mass on Friday, January 22 at St. Anastasia Roman Catholic Church, 4571 John R., Troy, Michigan. He will lie in state at 9:30 a.m. until the time of the funeral mass at 10 a.m. Interment will follow at Mt. Olivet Cemetery in Detroit, Michigan.

Donations are preferred in lieu of flowers, and can be made to the American Diabetes Association, National Kidney Foundation of Michigan or the Old Newsboy Goodfellows Fund (Detroit). Share memories with the family at their "On-Line Guestbook" at WujekCalcaterra.com

Previous Events

Instate

JAN **22**. 9:30 AM - 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Anastasia
4571 John R.
Troy, MI 48089

Funeral Mass

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

St. Anastasia
4571 John R.
Troy, MI 48089

Tribute Wall

TF

“ Vito was a childhood friend that I had many good times and memories with. I stood up at his wedding which was a galla event. I have many memories of our youth

Tom Franzosi

Tom Franzosi - February 12, 2021 at 05:51 PM

BM

“ Dear Billy, I have just read of your passing in the most recent issue of the "Italian Tribune". How shocked I am. Cathy and I remember so dearly your standing up at our wedding on April 8th 1960. We as youngsters shared so many a precious memory of growing up in "our neighborhood" of 6 mile and Gunston on Detroit's East-side. The road trips you and I had taken as we learned to drive, to explore the lakes, the towns, the campgrounds so far, so distant from the backyards of our family's homes. I see and talk to Tommy Franszosi often and we will offer our prayer and memory to one of the honest, most gentle of human beings we have ever known.....to you, your family we send our forever grief in this notice of your passing.....! Bob & Cathy McCarthy, Washington, MI

Bob McCarthy - February 12, 2021 at 02:42 PM

DB

“ You have my Deepest Sympathy in the loss of your Husband, Josie. I know you will miss him sooo much but know that Our Father in Heaven loves you and so do I !! I will keep you and the Family in my Prayers. Your GM Co-worker and Friend, Diana



Diana L Bowman - January 22, 2021 at 10:12 AM

JO

Thank you Diana. 🙏📖💕😊

josie - January 22, 2021 at 06:28 PM

PG

“ We are truly sorry for your loss. We would like to offer you and your family our deepest and most sincere condolences. We know he had a great caretaker and may the soul of Vito rest in peace.

Phil Giacalone - January 22, 2021 at 09:31 AM

RS

“*Josie and Marisa I am so sorry to hear about Vito's passing. He always had a smile on his face and soft spoken. He will be missed just remember he is with God now, and free of pain. Love you guy's. Rita*



rita c selliman - January 21, 2021 at 07:43 PM

JO

Thank you Rita and thank you for attending the funeral today. God Bless! 🙏🏠🥰😊

josie - January 22, 2021 at 06:30 PM

JL

“*Early on in my GM career, I had the good fortune to meet and work with Vito on many projects. Way back in the 1980's! I was deeply saddened to learn of his passing. I learned many things from him, and I can tell you he really was a great man. I hope that his family can take comfort knowing how much he was respected while at G.M. May he forever rest in peace.*

Jonathan Lenaway - January 21, 2021 at 04:46 PM

YF

“*Your friends & coworkers at General Motors Finance purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Vito "Bill" Messina.*



Your friends & coworkers at General Motors Finance - January 21, 2021 at 04:30 PM

IM

“*Josie, my deepest sympathy goes out to you and your family for the loss of Vito, with all my heart I hope that God will give you the strength and consolation you need in these difficult times, and bless Vito in his paradise. I am sure that from where he is he will be taking care of you. I will keep you in my prayers, I send you a big hug with all my love, Ingrid*



Ingrid Martínez - January 21, 2021 at 01:35 PM

MM

Josie, I am truly sorry for your loss. You and your family have my deepest sympathy. You were an incredible caretaker, but now he is no longer suffering. You are in my prayers. God bless you and may his soul rest in peace. Love, Maria

Maria Militello - January 22, 2021 at 12:17 PM

JO

Thank you Maria! God Bless, Josie 🙏🏠🥰🥰

josie - January 22, 2021 at 06:38 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Vito "Bill" Messina.*



January 21, 2021 at 01:01 PM



“ *I'm deeply sorry for the loss of your dear husband. No one can ever replace the amazing person he was. He will be missed so greatly. Those we love don't go away, they walk beside us, unseen, unheard, but always near. still loved. Wishing you peace, comfort, courage and lots of love through this time of sorrow. May God give peace to the soul. You and your family are in my thoughts and prayers always. Love, Denia*

Denia Morfin - January 21, 2021 at 12:37 PM

JO

Denia, your post touched my heart. And thank you fir the flowers too. 🙏🏠🥰🥰

josie - January 22, 2021 at 06:41 PM



“ *i worked with Bill in the Chevy Lab in the early 80's. Bill was a kind and gentle person. He was a pleasure to be around. When he spoke in his soft spoken manner, people listened. May the memories we all have of him provide the healing needed now. May he rest in peace.*

Richard Michalski - January 21, 2021 at 10:39 AM

JO

Richard, truly appreciate your post as it put a smile on my face. Sincerely, Josie

josie - January 22, 2021 at 06:44 PM

RL

“ Josie - am so sorry for your loss. I know you did so much to support Vito and that is truly admirable. Please know that you and family are in my prayers. Faith, family and friends will get you through, lean on them.

Russ Lampinen - January 21, 2021 at 09:56 AM

JO

Russ, thank you so much for posting. Miss being in the cube behind you. God Bless!
Josie 🥰🥺🙏📖

josie - January 22, 2021 at 06:46 PM

KC

“ Josie, I'm at a loss for words. I know how much Vito meant to you. Please accept my sincerest condolences. I'm keeping your family in my prayers.

Kelley Craig - January 21, 2021 at 08:45 AM

JO

Kelley, thank you so much! My heart is broken. 🥰🥺🙏📖

josie - January 22, 2021 at 07:23 PM

SW

“ Josie, I can't begin to express how sorry I am for your loss. Your love for Vito shone so brightly every time you talked to me about him. Chris and I are praying that God's peace will be with you as you go through this very difficult time. Always remember there are people who love you and are cheering for you. Love, Steve

Steve Wilcox - January 21, 2021 at 07:55 AM

JO

Steve, thank you to both you and Chris for all the prayers throughout the years and for allowing me to take Vito to dialysis and all his doctor appointments. My heart is broken and the house is so empty without him. Love, Josie

josie - January 22, 2021 at 07:32 PM

CB

“ My deepest sympathy goes out to my dear friend Josie and family. Vito always had a smile on his face. RIP.



Celeste Brenz - January 20, 2021 at 04:40 PM

JO

Cel, thank you so much! 🙏📄😘😘

josie - January 22, 2021 at 07:33 PM

JS

“ Vito and I worked together on an engine lab assignment in Flint in the early 1980s. We car pooled tech center to Flint and got to know each other during the commute. My first impression was that he was technically astute, dependable and a real gentleman. Twenty years later when I retired, that impression never changed. Rest In Peace Vito, I know you will Heaven’s machinery humming along beautifully.

John Stier - January 20, 2021 at 04:20 PM

JO

John, thank you so much! Hearing from and seeing Vito’s coworkers at the funeral today made my heart happy! God Bless, Josie

josie - January 22, 2021 at 07:36 PM

CE

“ I remember Vito even before he and Josie were married. He was a great guy, and actually trusted me to drive his boat once (which I understand was rare) after I convinced him that I had boating experience from driving my dad’s boat. I will always remember him as a kind man with a quiet demeanor, who loved his family. Our loss is heaven’s gain!

Corinne Elwert

Corinne Elwert - January 20, 2021 at 12:41 PM

JO

Q, I remember that day! LOL! Thank you fir your kind words. Stay safe in TX as well as traveling back to MI. 😘😘

josie - January 22, 2021 at 07:39 PM

FH

“ I had the pleasure of working with Bill (who could never explain how he got that name from Vito!) for many years in the GM dynamometer laboratory at the Tech Center in Warren. He was a great engineer, able to solve difficult problems with his skills, and an even better person. I remember how we used to kid him about stopping for lunch at Halo Burger on his frequent trips to the Flint dyno test facility; we finally acquired a few dozen of the restaurant’s cow-logo napkins, and filled his office desk drawers with them! He will be missed, but his memory lives on.

Frank W. Harold - January 20, 2021 at 10:28 AM

JO

Frank, oh my goodness! Too funny! Thank you for sharing. God Bless, Josie

josie - January 22, 2021 at 07:41 PM

TM

“ 6 files added to the album Vito (Bill) Pictures



Tony Messina - January 19, 2021 at 04:50 PM

JO

Tony, thank you so much for sharing the pics! 🥰

josie - January 19, 2021 at 06:14 PM