



Sam Spagnuolo

September 4, 1929 - April 26, 2015

Sam Paul Spagnuolo, 85, of Charlotte, MI, died peacefully on Sunday, April 26, 2015. Sam was born September 4, 1929, in Charlotte, the son of Bruno and Teresa (Vetere) Spagnuolo. He grew up above the Main Street Sweet Shop, owned and operated by his parents. Sam graduated from Charlotte High School in 1949, where he was Capital Circuit undefeated football team of 1948. He attended Barber Hall Military Academy before earning a degree from Ferris State Institute. Sam devoted the majority of his time to the community of Charlotte. He was the local business owner of Bruno's Party Store in downtown for 32 years, following in his parent's footsteps. Sam was a member of the American Legion, National Guard, St. Vincent DePaul and was a founding member of Helping Hands. He was very active in city government, serving as a City Councilman and on the Zoning Board of Appeals. After retirement in 1997, Sam loved flying a J3 Piper Cub out of Charlotte, and taking weekend trips with family to South Haven. He was a regular at weekly prayer breakfasts at the Big Boy restaurant, and adored his loyal loving little Tonkinese cat, Annie. Above all, Sam loved his family.

He is survived by his wife; Patricia (Priesman) Spagnuolo; children, Theresa O'Dell, James Spagnuolo, Mary Stout and Christopher Spagnuolo; grandchildren, Travis (Jessica) Malcuit, Lucas Malcuit, Elizabeth Stout, Mellissa Stout, Emily Spagnuolo, and Genevieve Spagnuolo; great-granddaughter, Lydia Malcuit; sisters, Rosemary Spagnuolo and Mary

Dionise; and many nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by two sisters, Janet Celentino and Virginia Spagnuolo and sons-in-law, Monte O'Dell and Lee Stout.

Funeral services will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 30, 2015 at Pray Funeral Home with Rev. Duane Royston officiating. Visitation will be from 1:00-3:00 and 6:00-8:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 29, 2015 at the funeral home. Interment will take place in Maple Hill Cemetery, Charlotte. The family suggests memorials to Eaton Community Palliative Care or Helping Hands. The family is in the care of Pray Funeral Home, Charlotte. Family and friends are encouraged to share remembrances and condolences online in Sam's Book of Memories at <http://www.prayfuneral.com>.

Cemetery Details

Maple Hill Cemetery

801 Tully Brown Rd.
Charlotte, MI 48813

Tribute Wall



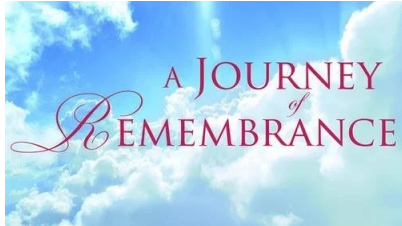
“ Pray Funeral Home, Inc created a Webcast in memory of Sam Spagnuolo



Pray Funeral Home, Inc. - April 30, 2015 at 12:50 PM



“ Pray Funeral Home, Inc created a Tribute Video in memory of Sam Spagnuolo



Pray Funeral Home, Inc. - April 28, 2015 at 01:33 PM

RL

*Uncle Sam was so wonderful when we were fortunate to visit. He had a great sense of humor. I know he will be missed. Much love to the family. Wish we were closer.
Your Arizona cousins.
Don and Ruthe Lindsey*

Ruth Lindsey - April 29, 2015 at 12:34 PM

SS

“ Theresa

I never had the pleasure of meeting your father, but I heard many times over the years, from many people, what a great guy he was. I know he will be missed by many people in the Charlotte community. Please know my thoughts are with you and your family.

Sharon Stewart

Sharon Stewart - May 02, 2015 at 11:16 AM

MM

“ Mary, Liz & Mo,

*So sorry to hear about your dad & grandpa. Love & hugs to y'all.
Mary Ann M.*

Mary Ann Moore - April 29, 2015 at 04:42 PM

SL

“ *Of all the folks who made downtown a friendly place to visit, Sam was, in my book, the most friendly and caring person on main street. Even after retirement I would meet him walking on the street or in some store and he would always have a cheerful greeting or question about how my family was doing. God Bless you Sam for making this world a little bit brighter.*

Steve Latchaw - April 29, 2015 at 09:21 AM

BT

“ *I moved to Charlotte in Nov. 1968. I went to work at O-I. I would stop in to see Sam every chance I got. What a wonderful man. Always cheerful and that smile on his face always brightened my day. Rest In Peace Sam.*

Barbara McCoy Thelen - April 29, 2015 at 12:51 AM

NB

“ I am saddened to hear of Sam's passing. Every time I saw him he always had a smile on his face and I will miss hearing the stories he would tell. He never had an unkind word to say about anybody; even when someone might stiff him at the store. My thoughts and prayers are with your family.

Neil Becker - April 28, 2015 at 09:22 PM

SW

“ I always enjoyed talking with and kidding with Sam. He was a wonderful person and would make a great greeter at the pearly gates. May God bless him and his family and help them through this sad time. Linda and my thoughts and prayers will be with you.

Sheriff Rick Wahl...Retired - April 28, 2015 at 02:13 PM

RS

“ *Ronald Rainey Sr. purchased the Blue Caribbean Bouquet for the family of Sam Spagnuolo.*



Ronald Rainey Sr. - April 28, 2015 at 02:08 PM



“ 25 files added to the album Life Tributes



Pray Funeral Home, Inc. - April 28, 2015 at 01:27 PM

KK

“ I remember fondly how Sammy would always ask if I was hungry and, "can I make you some eggs or spaghetti?" What a dear, dear man. A true delight. My deepest sympathy for your loss. I look forward now to our reunion in glory.

Kelli Morgan Kleinfelt - April 28, 2015 at 12:16 PM

SW

“ Loved the times I got to visit with him and aunt Patsy. Most of all I loved how He loved Jesus and wanted to talk about Him.

sandra wells - April 28, 2015 at 12:29 AM

TC

“ Sam and his family gave me my first job at Bruno's in 1979 where I worked throughout high school. I felt like I was not only an employee, but also part of the family. Thank you for everything, Sam!

Troy Cody - April 28, 2015 at 12:25 AM

MS

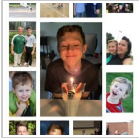
“ He was always so happy and whistled while he walked down to side walk to work. He was a nice man.. always had time to stop and talk.

Mary Jane Slade - April 27, 2015 at 08:38 PM

SM

“ Oh how I remember going in his store as a teenager. He was an awesome man. God speed Sam!!!

Stephanie McClure-Bsker - April 27, 2015 at 08:15 PM



“ For 44 years we owned the Jewelry Store next door(now our son is the jeweler) and Sam was a wonderful part of our lives every day. We were all in there several times a day and in 44 years never saw him without a smile. Not only did he smile at everyone and speak , he never had a bad word to say about anyone! When Bruno's closed it broke our hearts to lose Sams daily uplifting smile. But he continued to walk and visit with everyone, which was wonderful. We are sure that everyone in Charlotte knew Sam . Sam and The Main Street Sweet Shop, or later Bruno's, will be thought of and everyone will smile and be happy that they had known Sam! We know the DeLeeuw family had brighter days thanks to him.

Pat DeLeeuw - April 27, 2015 at 12:44 PM

DS

Oh I do so remember! He was a part of Charlotte.He was a friend to everyone who walked in his shops.....

Donna Schaner - April 27, 2015 at 08:00 PM

RR

Sam was a really great human being... always uplifting and kind to everyone... RIP my dear old friend, you will always be remembered as a blessing in my life!

Ronald Rainey

Ronald Rainey - April 28, 2015 at 12:43 PM

RS

“*Wow I'm so sorry for your loss . I also remember him from MAIN STREET SHOP...He saved my life when I choked on a piece of hand made candy ... I couldn't wait to eat it ... He made me drink HOT WATER to wash it down . If I had left the store before I ate the candy and then choked I wouldn't be here today .. I live by his words of wisdom today .. He said any time you eat a piece of hard candy BITE ONCE then it won't go down whole if you accidentally swallow it ... I still use that rule with my grandchildren today ...Again I am so sorry for your loss he was a wonderful man ...*

Ruby Saunders - April 27, 2015 at 12:39 PM

PR

“*I will always remember him as the man at(The main sweet shop) when we stopped to get Candy before and after school. Mary I am so sorry for your Loss. I am Praying for Peace for you and your family.*

Penny Patrick Ryan - April 27, 2015 at 12:06 PM



“ *Uncle Sam was a wonderful family man.. Aunt Pat was his world, he was always dedicated to those he held close to his heart. I will always remember fishing on Lacey Lake with Uncle Sam, he always smoked a big black cigar, he didn't catch any keepers that day or on other fishing trips, (he always left that part to me) but we sure had a great time together fishing or just hanging out, he was always happy. His smile and laugh will be missed for those lucky enough to have been blessed by it. Gone but never forgotten. R.I.P. Uncle Sam*

Wm Priesman - April 27, 2015 at 09:01 AM

EB

He was a good man like u said always smiling rip

Ed burt - April 27, 2015 at 09:09 AM

LT

One of the nicest men I've ever known always sweet, kind and caring, you will be missed Sam! Condolences to the family, what a huge loss for you all.

Lorrie Bartley Tate

lorrie tate - April 27, 2015 at 09:58 AM

CL

Mr. Spagnuolo was always so nice! When I was a young new hairdresser , I worked at McDonalds Beauty Shop. We would walk down to the store to get pop & chips. He always would make you feel he was glad to see you. He would also ask about my Dad & Mom. Always new if I needed help he would be there! He always had a nice big smile for you & a big Hi! Carolyn Pease LaCross

Carol LaCross - April 27, 2015 at 10:31 AM

LG

He always greeted you with a smile and a hello when you walked into the store. Such a great man!

Lynn Garvie - April 27, 2015 at 10:35 AM

MB

Nicest man I ever known I loved going in his store for candy R I P

Marsha Burt - April 27, 2015 at 10:38 AM

JD

Uncle Sam had something about him you just can't describe... If he was in the room, it was a whole different thing. One in a million! I know that is an overused expression, but seriously... One in a million!

Jeff Dionise - April 27, 2015 at 10:39 AM

MB

Always so friendly and sharing a joke or two. He was a great city councilman and always asked if I was going to run again, because if not, then he would run again! So sorry for your lost!

Mary Jean Baker - April 27, 2015 at 10:40 AM

KK

When I was walking home from the old High School one day this creepy guy was following me. I went in to the store and told Sammy. He went out and told the guy to keep moving and had me stay there till he was gone. That has been to many years ago but I still remember how caring he was.

Karen Krumm - April 27, 2015 at 10:51 AM

KJ

My prayers and thoughts are with the family. I waited on Sam many times at the Big Boy.

Karla Johnson - April 27, 2015 at 11:12 AM

CM

Love and prayers to the family. Sam was an asset for our community. Such a very special man, who will surely be missed daily!

Cindy Holley - Miller - April 27, 2015 at 11:30 AM

JN

My thoughts go out to Spagnuolo family. Sam was a great part of Charlotte's history through his years. Thinking of you.

JoeAnn Nehmer - April 27, 2015 at 01:52 PM



Shelley
Hartfil

I worked at the Big boy in Charlotte for 13 years and Sam was a staple there.. I waited on the thur morning prayer group he belonged to every thur for years . He and Pat came in almost every week and He often brought in guests and family from out of town.He will be sorely missed by everyone who knew him. He helped me out when my husband had cancer and he was more than a guest or customer he was my friend. missing you Sam,Shelley

Shelley Hartfil Doty - April 27, 2015 at 02:06 PM



I was 12 years old when we move to Charlotte the first time i talk to sam i knew we ware going to be friends for a long time he was always happy smoking his cigar when i went to walmart or meijer we see Wallie Bruce and we just talk for a long time, my Condolences go out to the Familey I Will Miss you My Friend REST In Peace I will never forget you,,,

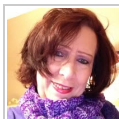
Matt Silvas - April 27, 2015 at 03:01 PM



WC

In Charlotte, there was always Sam. He will be missed. Pat and family, I'm so very sorry for your loss. He was a good and kind man.

Wilma Campbell - April 27, 2015 at 03:21 PM



Charlotte has lost a true gentleman! He was such a major part of Charlotte and he made it what it is today. The Griest family always loved this man....he was a giver. RIP sweet man.

Carolyn Griest-Makin - April 27, 2015 at 03:38 PM



Sandra
Richards

May his family be comforted in the knowledge that Sammy was such a positive influence in the Charlotte community. The Main Sweet Shop/Bruno's was a memory maker for many through the years.

Sandra Richards - April 27, 2015 at 03:49 PM



AS

Charlotte has lost another fabulous man! So many memories! Prayers to the family.

Amy Smith - April 27, 2015 at 04:06 PM

BH

Uncle Sam was the most hospitable person I've ever known. From the moment I walked through his door, he wanted to know if he could get me something to drink; water, soda or coffee. He knew I didn't care for beer. After inviting me to sit down at the table, he'd ask if I ate. If not, he wanted to prepare me something, but I'd tell him I wasn't hungry. The last time I saw and spoke to Uncle Sam; three days before his passing, he was gracious and complimentary. It was of my opinion that God was going to use him to welcome others to their heavenly home.

Niece Brenda

Brenda J. Priesman Hoeve - April 27, 2015 at 06:44 PM



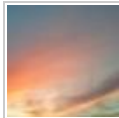
Its been a long time since I seen him, but we went there when we were in high school. The last time I seen him was at a party at Jerry Starrs when I was on the Sheriff Posse. Several years ago. But I remember he was always smiling and a very nice man.

Karen Mcglaughlin - April 27, 2015 at 06:46 PM

FF

Such a wonderful person. Lots of great memories growing up across the steet. Always a smile and kind word to brighten your day. My condolences to the family.

Fred Flower - April 27, 2015 at 10:12 PM



The Best Sweet Shop in Eaton County, and no better hospitality in all the land.

After living in Florida for 20 years I was a bit confused as to where to call my home. Charlotte or Orlando? After walking into "Bruno's" and being called by my first name I knew Charlotte would always be my home, no matter were I might reside.

You left with me a desire to be a truly caring person as you were and will always be Sam, TY.

Dort Fowler

(Pete) Dort Fowler - April 28, 2015 at 12:50 PM

DH

Sam was too much fun! That, and he never seemed to age at all . Sam always looked the same to me. From church, to a soda when I worked at MaryGene's. or the grocery store with Pat, it didn't matter Sam always had something nice to say, or a smile. Rest in peace friend. Condolences to all the family.

Diane Hudson - April 28, 2015 at 04:07 PM

ND

He was very special to me . I will see him in eterinty

Nick Dionise - April 28, 2015 at 07:08 PM

KH

What wonderful memories we all have of Sam, I also think he will be an awesome greeter at the Pearly Gates!

Kathy Hubbard - April 30, 2015 at 08:36 AM

JK

Theresa, I learned of your dad's passing after all the services. I remember him from our childhood: his cigar and that twinkle in his eye! He definitely lived to love and serve! You and all your family are in my prayers!

Julie Kane - May 04, 2015 at 09:08 PM