Samuel J. Puccio

February 8, 1930 - February 1, 2025

Samuel J. Puccio, of Burlington, formerly of Edgewater Park, NJ, passed into the presence of the Lord, peacefully on February 1, 2025. One week shy of his 95th birthday.

Born to the late John and Antonia Puccio in Woodbridge, NJ he grew up in Perth Amboy, later moving to Newark and Edgewater Park.

Sam was the beloved husband of the late Sarah Cecere Puccio, his wife of 48 years.

After Sarah's passing in 2005, Sam rebuilt his life doing Christian service visiting and praying with the sick and infirmed at local hospitals, nursing homes, and other lay ministries. This led him to volunteer with Reverend Ron Anastase, Chaplin at the Masonic Home of Burlington County, for 14 years giving more than 1000 hours of service where he has been a resident for 13 years.

Sam served his country during the Korean War in Panama as a trumpeter in the 71st Army Band from 1951-1953.

Trumpet playing was his life long passion since taking lessons at the age of 17. He enjoyed honoring those not as fortunate as himself by playing Taps on Memorial Days, Veterans Days, 911 services and funerals, even demonstrating his talent and love of music to the hospice workers visiting him in his last month of life.

Sam was predeceased by siblings, Antoinette, Rocco (Rose) and Frank Puccio. Survived by Regina Puccio (Frank).

He was the cherished Uncle of Kenneth Puccio, John Puccio, Mary Ann Puccio, Mary Tucka (William), Annette Allen (Robert) Joseph Puccio (Claudia), Celeste Troisfontaines and Nadine Puccio. As well as the late Joseph Cecere, Marie (William) Meise, the late George (Diane) Cecere as well as many other nieces and nephews. He was proud to be the great uncle of William Meise, Gretchen Meise, Timmy Meise, Michael Cecere, Jeremy

Cecere and Andrew Cecere. Sam is also survived by many extended family members and friends who will miss him greatly!

The family wishes to thank the Masonic Home of NJ for their excellent care of Sam during his years there and a special thanks to the Vitas Hospice team.

Relatives and friends are invited to gather on Monday, February 10th, at The Masonic Home of Burlington, 902 Jacksonville Road, from 10 am to 11 am. A service will begin at 11 am, followed by interment in Brigadier William C. Doyle Veteran Memorial Cemetery, 350 Provinceline Road, Wrightstown, NJ.

Previous Events

Gathering of Family and Friends

FEB **10**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Masonic Home of Burlington
902 Jacksonville Road
Burlington, NJ 08016

Funeral Service

FEB **10**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Masonic Home of Burlington
902 Jacksonville Road
Burlington, NJ 08016

Burial

FEB **10**. 1:30 PM (ET)

Brigadier William C. Doyle Veteran Cemetery
350 Province Line Rd
Wrightstown, NJ 08562

Tribute Wall

DC

My uncle Sam has around 40 nieces, nephews and great nieces and nephews. I'm sure many of us have great memories and amusing stories of his life.

He reported that over his lifetime. He held 29 different jobs, including; lighting the pilot light for a Jewish woman on Friday night Shabbat. Working at his father's shoemaker shop shining shoes, setting up pins at a bowling alley, making zippers at a wire factory, watching the yarn machine at a sweater factory, pumping gas, worked in a lumberyard. He owned a deli for a while but didn't like it, worked in a terra-cotta pot factory, worked for Dupont blending ceramic colors. Collected money door-to-door for an insurance company, until he got robbed at gun point, laying roof shingles and working in a cigar factory.

After the army, he went to hairdresser school on the G.I. bill to meet girls! Shortly after that he met his love Sarah at a dance and she put an end to that education!

His longest and last paying job was for General motors, during which time he met a man that started teaching him the Bible and led him to know the Lord Jesus Christ, which changed his life. Last year, he realized he started that job 31 years ago worked there 31 years and was retired for 31 years! Afterwards he took up full time work in the army of the LORD's service. Volunteering his time at nursing homes, hospitals , and Alzheimer's unit and ministering to people wherever he went telling them how to know his Lord and Savior.
He served over 1000 volunteer hours with Reverend Ron Anastase, chaplain at the Masonic village.

Another thing he said often was "one of the smartest things I ever did was take up the trumpet" He credits his inspiration to Harry James. He worked all summer in a bakery to earn money to buy his first trumpet, which served him well through the years. He started a band, served in the US Army Band, and honored veterans by playing taps for many occasions the remainder of his life.

He surely loved his wife Sarah, he used to say "for 48 years of marriage I waited for her, (teasing about her love of shopping) and now she's waiting for me." Thankfully, they are happily together again!

Diane Cecere - February 06, 2025 at 02:43 PM

DC

1 file added to the tribute wall

Diane Cecere - February 06, 2025 at 09:04 AM