



James Anthony Rizzo

May 10, 1944 - November 1, 2025

James A. Rizzo passed away peacefully on Saturday morning, November 1, 2025, at the age of 81, in the comfort of his home and surrounded by the love and devotion of his family.

Born to the late Nelson and Mary (Gross) Rizzo, James was a proud graduate of Watertown High School and a dedicated member of the Army Reserves. On July 3, 1966, he married the love of his life, Susan, at St. Patrick's Church in Colton, New York. Together they shared nearly 49 years of marriage until Susan's passing in 2015—a bond marked by unwavering love and partnership.

James built a distinguished career with Niagara Mohawk, where he served as Supervisor of Hydro Operations until his retirement in 1994. Retirement, however, was just the beginning of another chapter. He became a real estate agent, but more than that, he became a trusted friend to many. Known for his hands-on approach, James could fix anything a house needed—plumbing, electrical, carpentry—and often did so without accepting a commission. His true reward was the connection he made with people and the joy of improving their lives.

A man of many passions, James found joy in coaching youth hockey, proudly calling himself a “hockey dad” to every player he mentored. He also loved hunting, fishing, and spending cherished time with his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

James is survived by his sons and daughters-in-law, Nelson (Jim) and Karen Rizzo of Verona, NY, and Kenneth and Jennifer Rizzo of Matthews, NC; his grandchildren, Nathan (Leah) Rizzo, Natalie (Ryan) Marshall, Nicholas (Brittany) Rizzo, McKenna Rizzo, and Beckett Rizzo; and seven great-grandchildren, Vincent, Harper, Adalynn, Caitlin, Jackson, Maeve, and Weston. He also leaves behind his sisters,

Rosemary (Rick) Franke and Jane (Tony) Perritano, along with several nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by his beloved wife Susan, his siblings, and his great-granddaughter Maggie Rizzo.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Monday, November 10, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. at St. Helena's Church, 204 Primo Ave., Sherrill, New York. Burial will take place in the spring at Verona Cemetery, Verona, New York.

James will be remembered for his generosity, his craftsmanship, and the quiet strength with which he loved his family and community. His legacy lives on in the lives he touched and the memories he helped build.

In honor of his love for children and in honor of the love and care shown to him in his final earthly time, donations would be appreciated to either St Jude's https://www.stjude.org/donate/donate-to-st-jude.html?sc_icid=wtg-mm-btn-donate-now or Novant Hospice <https://supportnovanthealth.org/regional-foundations/presbyterian/how-to-give/>

Previous Events

Mass of Christian Burial

NOV **10**. 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Helena's Church
204 Primo Avenue
Sherrill, NY 13461

Tribute Wall



“ *Days of Sunshine Bouquet was purchased for the family of James Anthony Rizzo.*



November 06, 2025 at 10:23 PM



“ *would like to share my deepest sympathy to Jimmy and Kenny and the rest of the Rizzo family. Jim was a good man and a credit to his community. He cared deeply for the young men he coached. A good role model for them. Rest in peace Jim.*

Michael McNamara - November 03, 2025 at 07:20 PM