



Samuel "Sam" Rizzo

September 10, 1922 - October 24, 2015

Samuel "Sam" Rizzo, 93, of Benton Harbor died Saturday, October 24, 2015 with his family around him at the Caretel Inns in Royalton Township.

Services celebrating his life will be held at 11 AM on Thursday, Oct 29, at the Fairplain Chapel of Florin

Funeral Service in Benton Harbor. Burial will follow in North Shore Memory Gardens. The visitation will be from 5 PM to 8 PM on Wednesday at the Fairplain Chapel. Memorials may be made to the Alzheimer's Association or Hospice at Home. Please share messages, memories, or photos at www.florin.net.

Sam was born Sept 10, 1922 in Benton Harbor to John and Rosalie Rizzo. He was a veteran of the US Army during WW II and served under General Patton. He married his wife, Mary Ellen, on April 28, 1946 and together they have celebrated 69 years of marriage. Sam owned the "Sam Rizzo Sales" for 42 years before retiring in 1995. After retirement he worked at Ridge & Kramer Auto Parts until 2007. Sam was also involved in Rizzo Discount Grocery in his early years. He was a charter member of the Pilgrim Congregational Church in St. Joseph. Sam enjoyed sports which was shown by his coaching of church basketball and his coaching of Little League Baseball. He was also a fan of MSU sports and Benton Harbor High School Sports. He also enjoyed Big Band music and traveling. Sam was a kind and

likeable individual who never met a stranger. He loved his wife, his beautiful children and grandchildren and the many beautiful people he met in life.

He is survived by his wife, Mary Ellen; his children, Pamela (Steve) Silcox of St. Joseph, Gregg Rizzo of St. Joseph, Diane (Troy) Mott of Stevensville, and Deborah (David) Camp of Benton Harbor; his 5 grandchildren and his 4 great grandchildren.

Cemetery Details

North Shore Memory Gardens

5027 M 63 N
Coloma, MI 49038

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT **28**. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Fairplain Chapel of Florin Funeral Service
1053 East Napier Avenue
Benton Harbor, MI 49022
(269) 926-7222
staff@florin.net

Service Celebrating His Life

OCT **29**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Fairplain Chapel of Florin Funeral Service
1053 East Napier Avenue
Benton Harbor, MI 49022
(269) 926-7222
staff@florin.net

Burial

OCT **29**. 12:30 PM (ET)

North Shore Memory Gardens

5027 M 63 N

Coloma, MI 49038

Tribute Wall

LB

“*Sam Rizzo the man with the a smile that could melt snow on any mountain top, a heart big as the Alantic Ocean, a kindness man once you met him you knew he was leaving a footprint in your heart. I'm sure that I am a must better person because of knowing Sam, thank you, Mr. Rizzo.*”

To the Rizzo family I share in the loss of a very special man. I am sure the many fond memories that you are sharing will give you peace in the days and weeks ahead. Rest in heaven with a baseball and your favorite old truck...sonny

L. Sonny Bowens - November 09, 2015 at 10:47 AM

KD

“ Aunt Mary Ellen & Family,



My thoughts and prayers to each of you. I was very sad to here of Uncle Sam's passing and have fond memories of him. He always was a twin image of grandpa Joe & shared the same love for life and kind heart. I have always admired the love and devotion he had for Mary Ellen and his sense of humor as would tease her constantly in his adorable way.

We will be with you in prayer as you celebrate an incredible man and a life well lived. I will be making a donation in memory of Uncle Sam to the Thanksgiving appeal at our community food bank. I know he would have loved the idea of doing something for someone else.

Sincerely,

*Marilyn Kim Damion & Family
16260 W Ellsworth Ave
Golden, CO 80401*

(Sharon Heine (Rizzo) oldest daughter)

Kim Damion - November 06, 2015 at 09:05 AM

NH

“ Dear Deb and Diane and family, I was sorry to read about your father's passing. I remember him from his visits to my in-laws. They both enjoyed his visits. This poem could be written about your father.

THAT MAN IS A SUCCESS

*who has lived well, laughed often and loved much;
who has gained the respect of intelligent men and the love of children;
who has filled his niche and accomplished his task;
who leaves the world better than he found it, whether by an improved poppy,
a perfect poem or a rescued soul;
who never lacked appreciation of earth's beauty or failed to express it;
who looked for the best in others and gave the best he had.*

May the grieving wane, but the celebration of his life live on...

Nancy Hendrix - October 31, 2015 at 12:03 PM

TF

“ The Eguchi family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Samuel "Sam" Rizzo.



The Eguchi family - October 28, 2015 at 08:29 PM

JG

“ I am so sorry for your loss. I mostly remember "Mr. Rizzo" for his unselfish giving of his time to coach Little League (the Sox), his continuous smile and positive attitude to kids! (And he wasn't even my coach!) Personally, I remember him as well as the third base coach of the Sox that would always try to test me as a catcher (for the Tigers) trying to get kids to steal second base on me. 😊. But as I became an adult, he always remembered me by my first name, always smiled and was just so cordial, always interested in how I was doing. I wish so many more adults today were like him. I remember too, going to his house on Greenley just a couple of times, to check out Greg's baseball card collection.

As I look back on my childhood memories, Mr. Rizzo will always be one of the few men that I will immediately remember because of just the kind of man he was, his giving of himself to kids and his infectious personality!!

May God bless you and comfort your family

Jim Grannell - October 28, 2015 at 07:22 PM

LR

“ Mary Ellen and family, I am so sorry to hear of Sam's passing. I am traveling but will be in contact when I return next week. Sam was a wonderful man and will be missed greatly.
Love you all
Linda Rizzo



linda Rizzo - October 28, 2015 at 11:28 AM

CU

“ With deepest sympathy on the loss of your father Greg. Cherish the warm fuzzy family memories.

*From Cindy Frantz Unrath
Fellow Classmate BHHS*

Cindy Frantz Unrath - October 27, 2015 at 01:56 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Samuel "Sam" Rizzo.*



October 27, 2015 at 11:26 AM



“ *Gracious Lavender Basket was purchased for the family of Samuel "Sam" Rizzo.*



October 26, 2015 at 02:45 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Samuel "Sam" Rizzo.*



October 26, 2015 at 12:20 PM



“ *Sweet Tenderness was purchased for the family of Samuel "Sam" Rizzo.*



October 26, 2015 at 08:34 AM