

**A Memorial Service for
Vincent (Jimmy) Mitterando**

Born: July 28, 1930

Died: November 29, 2019

*Lord God Almighty,
You have commanded us in love
To honor our father and our mother.
We now honor our father in our hearts,
And commend him to You.
In Your Divine Mercy be good to him.
Look Kindly on him, Lord.
Forgive him his faults,
Remember not his failings.
Make him worthy to receive
The Crown of Life.
Let his good deeds live on after him
And let us rejoice to see him again
In the joy of your Everlasting glory.
Through Christ our Lord,
AMEN*

December 14, 2019

A tribute to our Dad:

When we were young, going off to school, dad would say "You are so pretty, I'm going to have to get my gun out". Although we did not feel pretty, we would go off to school feeling a little bit better about ourselves. He loved to give hugs and we always looked forward to giving him hugs when we left the house and when we returned home. Theresa, being the indecisive one, trusted whatever dad decided implicitly. Antonette, on the other hand, was ruled a little bit more tightly and Jeanne was constantly being shuttled to the doctors at all hours.

He bought each of us our first cars and if we ever had car troubles, he always made himself available to rescue us. This was a perk of him owning his own companies. Dad always said family was important and you needed to love them even if you did not want to. You forgave, because they were your family for life. With a heavy heart I write our dad's story.

Vincent (Jimmy) Mitterando

July 28, 1930 – November 29, 2019

Vincent's parents, Ralph and Antonette Mitterando, emigrated from Italy in 1911 and 1919 respectively. He was one of 6 children and was born and raised in Newark, NJ. He was known affectionately as Jimmy to his family and friends. He started working at a young age helping his Dad deliver ice. He remembers his father going up and down the stairs hauling blocks of ice to those who had refrigerator freezers at the time. This earned Jimmy a donut and a drink.

At 11 months old, he barely survived an operation due to having twisted intestines. At 24 months old, while in his crib, he reached for a hairbrush on the dresser and held it over a burning candle igniting it instantly. He suffered third degree burns on his right hand, arm and face, and was hospitalized. His eyes were bandaged for 34 days, and thankfully he did not lose his eyesight. After 6 months in the hospital, he was able to return home. He had many more visits to the hospital, as they monitored his progress due to all the scarring that would crack and bleed as he grew. At 7 years old, he had his pinky finger removed, as it was always bothering him. This adversity set the path for his life. Whenever people said "You can't do that", he would prove he could. He was teased mercilessly in school and his Dad and uncles helped teach him to defend himself. His father told him, "Don't you ever start a fight; but if attacked, you finish the fight-you mark him in some way that they will not bother you again". In high school, he was known as "Daredevil", as others would challenge him due to his disability. He would have to prove them wrong every time.

Jimmy always wanted to be in the military. He tried to join each of the branches of service, but was turned down due to his missing finger. Finally, through a friend, he was hired by

Standard Oil as a Merchant Marine. He worked there from the age of 18 to 25. He loved this job above any other he would ever have, he loved the sea and he loved the ships. He often said this was where he truly believed in God as he would look out over the vast ocean and see nothing but the stars shining. At the age of 19, while out at sea, his appendix burst and they had a coffin ready for him, but God had other plans! The captain was able to get him to Mexico where he spent eight months in a hospital recuperating. He merited those nurses as having saved his life. He returned home weighing 90 lbs. He regained his strength and back to the sea he went. He was able to sail around the world at least seven times, visiting almost every city that had a port. He would come to share many fond memories and stories from all his travels with his family.

At the age of 22, while home on leave, he met Regina "Jean" Stummer. Three years later, wanting to start a family, he realized he would need to leave the Merchant Marines. Just shy of 25 years old, he married Jean on June, 2 1956. She would become the next love of his life. His first daughter, Antonette, was born December 20, 1957 followed by his second daughter, Theresa, born on December 28, 1958. He loved his family and worked hard to provide for them. In the early 1960's he was able to purchase a piece of property in Bedminster, NJ where he began to build his own home. With the help of family and friends, his 5200 square foot house began to become a reality, with 22,000 bricks and technology far beyond the times. He started his own insurance agency, Mitterando Agency, Inc. A few years later, he started Universal Maintenance, which consisted of lawn care, landscaping, paving at one point, and snow plowing. He then started Universal Construction, which dealt with home renovations. When he hired his workers, he would always give anyone a chance to work with one condition; they did not lie to, steal from, or cheat him. At Thanksgiving, he gave all his workers a turkey, as many could barely provide for their families. He worked day and night, always making time for his family.

On October 24, 1969, his third daughter, Jeanne, was born. He was able to send all three of his daughters to college imparting the words "Knowledge is never a waste of money" and "As your father, it is my duty to make sure, if I die, you can provide for yourselves. I cannot sleep at night thinking you will not be prepared, because, even though college is just a credential, it will open doors giving you more opportunities. I need now, to give you as many possibilities as I can". During the summers, he had the added pleasure of having Antonette work on the job with him, amongst all the men, and Theresa helping in the office. This enabled both of his girls (one who majored in Engineering and the other in Accounting/Decision Sciences) to learn valuable lessons that would help carry them through college. Jeanne would go on to medical school becoming a Family Practitioner. He could never be more proud of all his girls.

Some of his life lessons: "You are only as good as your word." "All people are valuable and given the opportunity they can succeed, they just need instruction." "Everyone learns differently and a good teacher will figure out how to reach them." "Do not be afraid to fail; you learn more from your mistakes than from your successes." "It is just as important to know what you do NOT want, as it is to know what you DO want." "Never judge anyone until you have walked 10 miles in their shoes." "The biggest accomplishment you can achieve is to make an enemy your friend."

Jimmy was generous almost to a fault – he would give you the shirt off his back if he felt he could make a difference in your life. He always saw the good in people, giving them the benefit of a doubt, and he would often conduct business on a handshake. He helped his children to see it is the character of a man that mattered over the looks of a man. He was a voracious reader and loved sharing his knowledge with others. The joke was anytime someone was with him at a museum, they did not have to read the signs; Jimmy was a walking encyclopedia and soon others were hovering around to hear his stories and explanations. He loved guns, machines, boats, planes, cars etc. He could fix almost anything and was often helping family and friends to this end. He was also known for his crushing bear hugs. Everyone felt loved by his warm and welcoming embrace. He loved life and lived it to the fullest.

He survived many near-death accidents; cutting his arm with a chain saw while in a tree cutting a limb, flying through the air off a hydro seeder whose brakes failed; a major car accident at age 70 shattering his leg and facial bones; and at age 80 surviving a heart attack requiring a triple bypass. He was strong as an ox and if he set his mind on something, he always seemed to make it happen. Around the age of 80, he started coming to Tom and Theresa's home for Bible Study. This afforded him a time to be with others, learn and increase his knowledge about God, AND voice an opinion.

At age 88, he started failing physically. At the age of 89 he was relinquished to a nursing home, as his wife and family were not able to care for his many needs. We all visited often and mourned the day he would leave us. He was married for 63 years and just months prior to going into the nursing home he had desired to order a necklace for his wife. The inscription read "I loved you then, I love you still, I always have, I always will". He was loved and will be sorely missed.

This day, may you treasure the ones God has put in your life because one day He will call them home. We can only thank God for blessing us with such a loving dad and family. Each of you were special to dad and we thank you for honoring him this day with us. Dad is now busy building mansions in heaven for those who have gone before him and for those yet to come.

Dad's Life Lessons by Jeanne

1. Everything has a price only you determine if it is worth paying. Never quit because something is hard

When I was applying to medical school, I had concerns that I would not be able to be a doctor because of my health. Many family members and others would say I was too sick to physically handle medical school. Dad told me I can do anything I want but there is no doubt that there would be a price to pay. He told me that it may take me longer and I might have to work harder but that does not mean I can not do it. He said do not choose to NOT pursue your passion based on others. If you think the price is too high whether it be on your health, personal life or family, then you can walk away. It is your choice. You decide on the inherent worth of your goal vs the price of the sacrifice. Life is full of obstacles, you just have to figure a way around them. Most things worth having require a great deal of hard work. He instilled in me no excuses. You pursue something with 100% nothing less.

2. Discipline and Focus

Dad taught me to pursue what I want in life with discipline and focus. When he shattered his ankle and jaw, I can still remember him laying on the ground using hand weights and doing his exercises daily. Even when life handed him an obstacle, he found solutions. "My leg is immobilized, and my jaw is wired shut but I have two good arms and a good leg that I do not want to get weak." He worked every day on what he could do and not on what he could not. Mental discipline, physical strength and emotional control. He willed himself to grow bone in his ankle at 70. The surgeon could not believe it. It would be a great lesson for me. Years later, I would be hospitalized and come home barely able to walk. I got up at 6 am and did 30 minutes of exercise before I went to work. I worked hard for one year to gain back all my original strength.....I remembered my father.

3. Be decisive

Good or bad, make a decision. If it's the wrong decision that's ok. He would often say you learn more from your failures than your successes. Indecision is not an option. You take responsibility for your choices and your actions.

4. Value Family

You do not have to like your family, but you have to love them. You may not agree with them or approve of what they do but you always must love them. Family comes first, you take care on your own. There are few people who are with you from birth until death. He said to me in the nursing home, "I am a rich man, I have a good family. His other quote was "If you don't have family...You have nothing."

5. Do not brag

I came home one day when I was in 6th grade so proud that I got 100% on all my exams. I thought I was great. He looked at me and told me if I was THAT great I would never have to tell him. He said those who are truly great, Jeanne, never tell you. Their reputation will precede them. Humility was taught at an early age.

6. Moral character is the only thing that matters

He taught me to never judge a person by how they look, how much money they have, what they do, where they come from or the color of their skin. He said what makes a person is their moral character – that is what you judge nothing else.

7. Knowledge and your name/reputation are the only two things that can not be taken from you

You can lose money, house and any other material goods. These can all be taken from you. You can lose your spouse or your loved ones. What can not be taken is your reputation and your knowledge. If your husband leaves you – you have the knowledge to take care of yourself. If you lose your money – you can make more. If you lose your job but you have a good reputation you can get another one. Be careful how you conduct yourself so that your name is always in good standing. You are only as good as your work. If you say you are going to do something.... Make sure you do it!

8. Knowledge is never wasted and does not always come in a classroom or a degree

My father was one of the smartest man I ever met. He had a high school education. He self taught himself everything. He read and observed. He said money is never wasted on education. The more knowledge you have the more choices you have in this world. He also instilled in me that once of the best educations is to travel.

9. Never Smoke, do drugs, or drink alcohol

He told me in third grade if I did any of the above three he would break my legs. I believed him. He emphasized that the above are all a waste of money and have no benefit to your body. Back to lesson to number #2 - Discipline

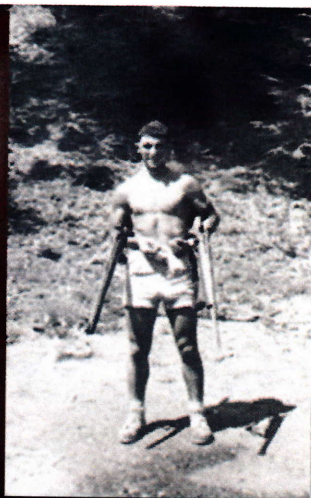
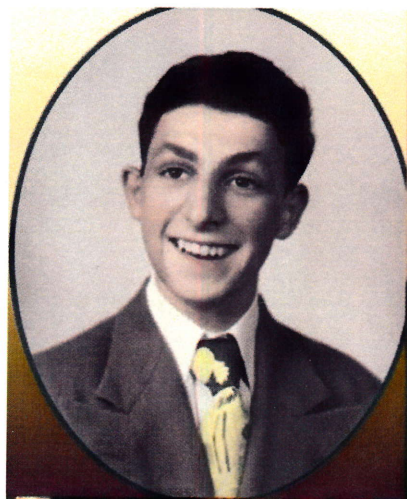
10. Buy in bulk...LOL

This may not be the most profound but I thought I would include it. He would buy a side of cow, a case of frozen vegetables and have a stockpile of soda and drinks. Dad always had food in supply for the just in case. We never went hungry. We always had food for everyone. It is no wonder all three of his girls belong to Costco.

Peace of Mind

My father always said he wanted each of his girls to be able to take care of themselves. He always told me he would take care of me until the day he dies but his only peace would come if he knew that upon his death, his girls could take care of themselves. He gifted us with knowledge, determination, self reliance and love. His legacy is his three children. His daughters have all become educated and successful. You can rest in peace Daddy. Rest in peace.

JULY 28, 1930 – NOVEMBER 29, 2019



James-Hard to put the right words together but we lost the toughest man I've ever known. From moving cinder blocks for work before school at 7:00 a.m., going 50-0 in boxing in high school, to his time in the Merchant Marines, to building his own house, and of course raising/pushing for the best of 3 wonderful daughters. I could listen to your stories all day! I always respected and admired your genuine resolve and generosity. I'm a more complete man because of you and will do my best to replicate the lessons I've learned from you with my daughters.

Kalyn-Eight years of knowing you went by so fast. Bear hugs, captivating stories, wisdom, and love flood all of my memories with you. Thank you for loving me as one of your own. Eight years of having you as my Grandpa wasn't enough.....but an eternity of loving you is!

Christina-I love you so much Grandpa. You are sorely missed. You loved to talk and I loved to listen. I awed at how much knowledge you could retain and always learned something about ships, planes, history etc., in addition to your own crazy adventurous stories! I never needed to go to the chiropractor because you would crack my back every time we hugged! Boy, did I love snuggling in your big strong arms. You inspire me to always be trustworthy, work hard, persevere through trials, to cherish family, and to treasure the gift of time—because we can never get it back. So glad to have grown up with you living close by and for your genuine love.

Ryan-Ever since I've known Grandpa, I have always admired how much he loved his family. He would always express his love in the way he talked about others and that famous bear hug he gave. I will always cherish the joy he had for us on our wedding day. He was a fine example of how a man should carry himself and lead a family. He will be missed greatly.

Ian-Grandpa was truly one of a kind. The only thing more incredible than his stories was the man himself. He could walk into a room and exude love and joy. He lived his life by a code of honesty and integrity that he instilled and inspired into the people around him. He would always make a point to teach me patience and perseverance. Failure is just a chance to try again a little harder and become a lot wiser. He was a pillar of support I could lean on anytime. He would do anything for the people he loved and he loved a lot of people. He has inspired me to always do the right thing for the people around me regardless of how hard it might be; because for Grandpa it was never impossible, never a bad time and nothing that he couldn't put down for someone who needed him. In the end, that is simply the way he believed things should be and how he wanted it. I miss you so much Grandpa but I know I am so lucky to have had you in my life. Good bye Grandpa. Rest easy. I love you.

Ale-The patriarch of the Mitterando family. It was always such a joy to see him. He was always smiling and ready to talk about anything. Nothing made him light up more or smile as big as when talking about his loved ones. Family was truly his pride and joy. He had so many interesting and funny stories. He also had inspirational ones—ones where he believed in others and helped them achieve what they thought was unattainable. I have heard many where he's done that for Ian. He helped shape him into the stand-up person he is today. My family loved him. He was also our Grandpa Vince. Him and my father were kindred spirits. Those two were so entertaining to watch! So alike and had so much in common. He called me Ollie. I'll miss him dearly. I am forever grateful to have spent almost half my life knowing him. Love you Grandpa. Rest in peace.

Jason-Thank you for showing me the value in having a solid work ethic. I hated those days as a teenager working construction with you, haha. But now as a man with goals and dreams, I now have the drive and skills to go out and achieve them. I'll miss you Grandpa and I'll miss you and I fighting over chestnuts every Christmas. Your loving Grandson.

Zack-You taught me almost everything I know. The well-being and needs of others always comes first. That I alone am morally responsible for my actions. But mostly to always be learning something new. It'll take time to learn something from this. In the meantime, I dreamt of you again last night. I hugged you even harder this time.

Katie-You were the giant bear hug that warmly welcomed me into this family from day one, and you always made me feel at home. I wasn't lucky enough to grow up knowing my own grandfathers, but you always treated me like part of the family. I'm so thankful to have had the last five years with you in my life. I'll miss your smile, your endless stories, and watching you push past Zack to hug me first. I love you!

Andréa-You were the man who bear-hugged everyone, demanded strong character and honesty, and loved unconditionally. You would constantly joke that whoever I was with would not only have to meet my dad and brother, but had to pass your expectations as well (with rifle in hand of course!). You set the standard that girls could do anything boys could do, and taught me that the character and word of a person is what matters most. Family first, always! I love you so much Grandpa. Give MK a bear hug for us.



Strong roots make beautiful leaves!
-Annabelle and Stella

Antonette-Dad and I argued all the time, and Mark would tell me, "The acorn did not fall far from the tree, in fact it didn't even roll!" To this day, people can yell and disagree with me and I think nothing of it. They look a bit dazed to realize it didn't faze me, thank you Dad! When I refused to go to college, Dad gave up arguing and had a heart-to-heart saying he needed to die peacefully knowing I could take care of myself and my family. So off to college I went. I have thanked him often for that. When dad was 77 years old, he told me we needed to build my dream home and so we did. Thank you Dad. When I got the job offer at Penn State that required me to move to State College, PA, it was Dad who said, "I support you, sell the home, and let's move to PA". Thank you Dad. My father was such a huge part of my life, supporting every success, and influencing every aspect of who I am. He left an impact on everyone he met, especially his family and most of all, me!

Katie -As a young child my brother, Jim, was severely burned in a home accident which resulted in permanent scarring of his face and removal of a finger from his right hand. Naturally, as a consequence, he was indulged and spoiled. As a teenager, he was the target of much bullying and taunting due to his facial condition. All of this contributed to the development of his final character — he was tough, arrogant, confident, ambitious and driven to succeed. He had a personal moral code that would not be broken. He was honest, open, friendly and loyal. He was a tireless worker, had a big heart, was overly generous to friends and family, would never say "no" to a request for help or aid, sometimes to his detriment...He devoted his entire adult life to his wife, children and family. He was the best of brothers and I know he is in heaven with his older brother, Lou, and his beloved niece, my daughter, Mary Kay, watching over us. I pray for his family to enjoy the many wonderful memories of Jimmy. All my love.

Carm-There are many memories to be shared, but I will always remember and never forget one of the most recent I had during these last weeks I had with my "Brother Jimmy"....it was always the special bond for the two of us....I told him to remember that we were really twins; we shared the same birthday, July 28th. But, of course, he was 4 years older than me. Our "Mama" always baked a B-Day cake for us (like she was doing on the day I was born). Of course, Jimmy, being the older, got his choice of cake! Of course, it was a chocolate cake! Of course, Jimmy got the biggest piece! Being my 'Big Brother', he was always there to help me. He was a most giving and generous man; he always made sure I got the second piece of cake! It brought tears to his eyes and he was smiling and we laughed together! A wonderful memory for me to keep! My "Brother Jimmy" was always looking out for me for all of my 85 years, and was always there to give me his able support whenever it was needed! He shared his strengths with both family and friends always! I take comfort knowing he is out of pain, at peace, and in a better place. He will be missed by all who knew him, but especially by his family and his "Twin Sister"....

Tom: Early in life I learned that when you enter into a committed relationship with a woman, you are also embracing her family as well. When I married Theresa, it also meant that I was beginning a relationship with a man "who was larger than life". Vince raised the bar quite high for this CPA who was just a "checkbook handyman." Trying to compete with someone who built his own house was an impossible task for me. Theresa had to adapt very early on in our marriage that if something went wrong with the house that this CPA wouldn't be capable of fixing it like her dad easily could! Fast forward to the last 10 years of Vince's life and I discovered something that I could teach him. I love explaining the Bible to others; and when Vince hit 80 years old, he was finally able to slow down a little. Vince expressed that he always had an interest in understanding the Bible, but never had the time. Finally, the opportunity presented itself. He became an integral member of our Neighborhood Bible Study and was loved by all that attended. Vince, being himself, held some of his positions very vociferously, causing at times to have Theresa exit to the kitchen for relief. But we persevered, and debated through doctrinal differences as he hopefully came to the understanding of Ephesians 2:8 "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith-and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God-not by works, so that no one can boast." He is sorely missed, but his witness and influences live on.

Mike and John Ratigan-Uncle Jimmy was an amazing person to John and I. He was like a second father in many ways. During our many trips to New Jersey, John and I would beg my parents to let us go to Uncle Jimmy's. We wanted to ride motorcycles, fly in planes, shoot guns, knock down trees with bulldozers, shoot more guns and just be with him. He was larger than life in so many ways. His stories about his service in the Merchant Marines, trips to Central America and childhood stories were fascinating. But what we most remember was his love and dedication to family - both his kids and wife as well as grandkids, nieces and nephews. During all our visits, he would always want to know how we were and what he could do to help us. He made us feel welcome and embraced us with his patented bear hugs!! He lived his life through strength of character, and instilled many of those same qualities in us. He may be gone from this Earth but his soul will live on within all of us.

Michael Salimbene -So much to say. I lost my cousin. I lost my friend. I lost my mentor. I will miss you. He was the best. I loved him like a brother. I remember you chasing the cows in the backyard with a 2x4 and the time my brother Jimmy dropped the bucket on my head from the rooftop. You raced me to the hospital and I made you promise that the doctor would not cut my hair because I had a hot date that night! You were always there for me. Love love love!

Roswitha and Werner-"Dear Jimmy, We often think of you and the many good talks we (and especially Werner) had with you. We wish we had gotten to know you earlier in our life! We are very happy to have you as a friend who we respect for his sincerity and honesty. You are a very special person, Jimmy, and we are very happy to know you! Give our special regards to Jean and your whole family!

Kathleen LoBiondo-I don't remember when or where it was I first met Mr. Mitterando, but what I will never forget was his big smile, his bright eyes and a bear hug like no other I have ever experienced, except from him! The first encounter caused me to tighten my muscles thinking if I didn't, I would have suffered broken ribs in addition to lack of oxygen! For all the future hugs, I was well prepared by taking a deep breath first! It was also in our first meeting I knew he valued me as a friend to Theresa. I was welcomed into a special family as an honorary guest. I always felt welcomed thereafter at any event. Always! I was fortunate enough to have Mr. Mitterando do some work in my home back around 1994. It was during these couple of weeks and in the midst of a summertime heatwave (temps in the upper 90's and low 100's with NO air conditioning in my home) that I learned about him and his extraordinary love for his daughters. They were his pride and joy – no mistaking that! If only I could have figured out a way to sneak myself into the family! (I suspect I am not the only one who felt that way either.) Needless to say, his workmanship was impeccable! I have my own daily reminders of him as I flip on my lights or plug into the electrical outlets. It's the simple things! At our annual Super Bowl Sunday parties Mr. M befriended my step-dad, Herb. They became fast friends, chatting away in the back of the room. Okay, maybe Mr. Mitterando did more of the chatting. It was endearing watching the two of them – another memory I will treasure. I am thankful to have had the pleasure of knowing a man of Mr. M's caliber. He was truly one in a million and will certainly be missed by all who were fortunate enough to have crossed paths with him. Count me as one! With love, affection and admiration.

Cousin Kevin-He was a favorite man for me and I loved to see his face light up when we met for our annual Father's Day picnic. He was a true man of men and a role model for all of us. He was a true survivor throughout the years growing up overcoming huge obstacles and never complained. I can only hope that I am one quarter of the man he was. God bless your soul in Heaven Jimmie. I love you and will always have a place in my heart for you. Love Always.

Laura Vingara- Prayers to all. We are feeling the loss in our home too. He was brilliant, strong, and LOVED his family! "If you don't have family... You don't have nothing!"-Vince (Jimmy) Mitterando.

Maria Garcia- Your Dad was a real gentleman, a kind soul, and loved by all who knew him. May he rest in Peace. My prayers are with your family at this sad time. Christina, your grandfather was more than a friend to me, he was family.

Cristhian (Schirin's Husband)- Christina, I was blessed to have met your Grandfather. He was such a passionate person that he drew you into his every word.

Beth Moir May- I can't count the number of times I was blessed to walk into the Mitterando home during my formative high school years and receive a huge bear hug from my best friend, Theresa's dad. My family wasn't big huggers, but I'm a big hugger today. I hope my family will pass on the acceptance and welcome that Theresa's dad always did! His hugs will be missed.

Thank you for the journey of a lifetime.
Thank you for the love and support of family.
Please dear Lord, bless them and his three
daughters. Take care of Jimmy on his new
journey, that he will be at peace and forever be
with the ones he truly loved.

Love, Jean

"Death leaves a heartache no one can heal.
Love leaves a memory no one can steal."