



Stephen L. Messina

October 5, 1934 - November 30, 2014

Messina, Stephen L. Age 80, resident of Shelby Township, Michigan. Founder and Owner of Messina Trucking. He passed away on Sunday, November 30, 2014, at Beaumont Hospital, Troy, Michigan. He was born October 5, 1934 in Detroit, Michigan. Beloved husband for over 50 years of Florence. Loving father of Carolyn, Antonio "Nino", Anna Niedzwiecki, and Stephen. Proud grandfather of Kassaundra, Stephen, Alecia, Dominic, Anthony, Gino, and Alexa. Dear brother of Louis, Rose, and Salvatore "Sam" Messina. Family will receive friends at the Wm. Sullivan & Son Funeral Home, 8459 Hall Road 3 blks. E. of Van Dyke Utica, Thursday 5:00- 9:00 p.m. & Friday 1:00- 9:00 p.m. with Rosary Friday at 7:00 p.m. In state Saturday at 9:00 a.m. at St. Lawrence Catholic Church, 44633 Utica Rd., Utica South of M-59 until time of Mass at 10:00 a.m. Interment St. Lawrence Cemetery, Utica, Michigan. Memorials appreciated to Leader Dogs for the Blind, and the Lions Club - Bear Camp. Please share a memory at www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com. Messina Trucking, Inc., traces its beginnings to the mid-1950's when the company's founder, Steve Messina, Sr. acquired a tandem international truck and drove on a contract basis for other trucking companies in the metropolitan Detroit area. With a brief respite when he was drafted in the wake of the Korean War after serving in the U.S. Army. He returned to dedicate himself to trucking. Soon, he had developed a solid reputation and the contracts kept coming. The amount of work dramatically expanded and he was no longer able to carry all of the loads himself. As a result, in 1965 Messina Trucking, Inc. was born.

Steve was a loyal and dedicated to his local community as a business leader. He was engaged and participated as a member and trustee for the following Shelby Township Lions Club. He was an active member former president and received the Melvin Jones Award. Utica Community Schools Foundation for Educational Excellence Board member and past president. He was a member of the Sterling Heights Chamber of Commerce and also received the Lil Adams Award as well as the Citizen of the Year Award. He was a member of the Italian American Chamber, Italian Member Delegates, and board member for the Leader Dogs for the Blind. He was also involved in the Aggregate Carriers, President of Scalaways Golf Club, active supporter of Austin High School and Academy, DeLaSalle High School, volunteer for the Lions Club ~ Bear Camp. He was a very active and dedicated person for all. Written by his granddaughter, Alecia Niedzwiecki

In my life I have many special people that I look up to and many people that have made a significant impact on my life. But the one person that has made the most impact on my life and that is special to me is my grandpa, Steve Messina. I look up to him in multiple different things. My grandpa is one of the strongest people I know and he always has an answer to anything and has gone through everything, good and bad throughout his life. Starting at a young age my grandpa worked hard. Although he did not attend college he worked hard enough and saved his money up in order to start his own business, Messina Trucking. At first he worked for himself until he made enough money to hire employees. On top of his own business he manages a golf course. He is also on the Utica Community School board, a member of the Leader Dogs for the Blind and The Lions Club. By him doing all of this but yet still managing to find time to spend with his family shows me how strong of a man and what a hard worker he really is. This impacted my life by him telling me to be a team player and to never give up and work till you reach your goals but to never forget the important things, like family. My grandpa is extremely dedicated. In most cases, a man his age would be retired and expecting people to be taking care of him but for him it is the total opposite. He is

dedicated to his work and helping out the community in any way possible. he refuses to give up and quit. He is also one of the strongest men I know. Nothing ever gets in the way of anything he does. Even when he had heart surgery he came out stronger than ever and still went on with his life like usual. Two summers ago my grandfather took my aunt, my cousin, and I to Italy to visit our relatives. He left his business at home with his three kids trusting them to handle everything for the time he was gone with us. On this trip, it showed me how much family really meant to him. He still manages to keep in touch with his relatives in Italy even with his crazy life at home. It showed me how important his values in life are and his dedication he has for life itself. He also showed me a different way of life while we were down there and taught me how lucky I am and how I should appreciate the things I have in life. I am a stronger, more independent and appreciative person because of the things he has shown and taught me. I have learned from him that in order to reach your goals you need to work hard and never give up. He taught me that not everyone is as fortunate as we are and that you should help the people in need as much as you can. No matter where life takes you, you should always stick with your family and support each other in everything.

Tribute Wall

AC

“ Steve will be forever missed, a true gentleman and friend and the best trucking contractor ... period. You will be forever in our thoughts. Alan B. Casmere

Alan Casmere - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JG

“ Steve was one of the fairest and most generous men I have ever had the priviledge of knowing. He treated people with respect and made them feel comfortable doing business with him. Simply put, he was a great guy.

Joe Gwisdalla - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DN

“ What a great man Steve was. Currently working for Steve for over 30 years he made me feel you worked with him, not for him. He wouldn't ask you to do nothing he wouldn't do or hasn't already done. I vividly remember him drivin the big rigs and loading us in the early morning hours. His charity was second to none. He was always there for me to help maintain the Knights of Columbus Park for the last 25 years, the use of his trucks, loaders, dozer, dust control and fuel for grass cutting ALL donated to his brother Knights. If the thousands of people Steve helped did the same, this world would be a much better place.

Dale Niedzwiecki - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

SP

“ To the Messina family, this is written with a heavy heart. We are so sorry to hear of Steve's passing. Tony had the honor of working at Scalawags as the Exec, Chef. It was always such a pleasure to see Steve at the club. He is remembered with fondness, generosity, and just a true gentleman. Whenever we see a Messina rig on the road, Steve will come to mind. Thanks for the memories my Paison, you will be missed.

Sandy & Tony Piccirilli - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

FM

“ Very sorry for the loss to the entire Messina family. Steve was a great and generous man. Mr. and Mrs. Frank Moscone

frank moscone - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

RF

“ I am an original member of Scalawags and Steve will always be remembered by me and all the members for what a fine generous, good man he was. My condolences to Steve's family.

Ray Champagne, Punta Gorda, FL - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

ES

“ One of the greatest men I have ever had the pleasure of knowing, I didn't have a long time to get to know him very well, but what an impression he made on me!! The absolute epitome of the perfect husband, father, & businessman, they say that nobody is perfect, but he was as close as a man can get!!

Eric Sayranian - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JP

“ *Mr. Messina will be forever missed. He was one the finest human beings I have ever known. It has been an honor working for him the past 10 years.*

Jerry Palazzolo - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

EJ

“ *Steve was a great man and I will surely miss him. I loved having the honor of playing golf with him and learning from his great knowledge. You will be missed. God Bless..*

Ed Wenz, Jr - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

FB

“ *Our deepest condolences to the Messina family. It has been a pleasure working with the Messina family for over 20 years. Making a phone call to place an order for materials will be just a memory of the kind voice of Steve taking the order for our company. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Messina family. The Barracco family, Del Vallo Construction Inc.*

Frank Barracco - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

FB

“ *Our deepest condolences to the Messina family. It has been a pleasure working with the Messina's for over 20 years. Making a phone call*

Frank Barracco - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

IP

“ *My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family Carolyn. Sending a BIG Hug! I am so sorry for your loss; I too lost my Dad My Tata years ago ; Hang in there my friend...Irene*

Irene Parsell - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JP

“ Dear Florence & Family, Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time. Steve was very special to so many and an asset to the community. Love, Judy & Norm Poli

Judy Poli - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

KM

“ We are so sorry for your loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with you! Mark, Karen Carroll, Ashley, Jason, Derek

Karen Moore-Carroll - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

MA

“ Our most heartfelt condolences for all of you. Margaret Ristagno & Ross Ristagno and family

Margaret - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DH

“ I had the pleasure of doing business with Steve for more than 30 years at the Macomb County Road Commission. He always had a smile and was a true gentleman. So sorry for your loss. Diane Herrick

Diane Herrick - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

PF

“ To the Messina Family - so sorry to hear of your loss. Messina Trucking always had a great reputation - a tribute to Steve as the guiding force. I just saw him last week, and as always, he was kind and a true gentleman, getting up to shake my hand and say hello. Best personal regards to the family, Peter Fredericks and Koenig Sand & Gravel

Peter Fredericks - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

SL

“ So sorry for your loss.

Sue Labiak - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

TF

“ Our deepest condolences. Our prayers are with you and your family members.

The Casoli Family - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

RS

“ Great memories for a great man. I played golf with Steve when he made his very first golf trip to Disney. I coached him and watched him shoot a "39" on the back nine at the Palms course. For many years thereafter, he would remind me of that eventful day. One of the fairest business individuals I have ever met.Regis Sauger Cape Coral, FL

regis sauger - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

GM

“ We would like you to know, Florence, how so very sorry we are and how deeply we synpathize with you and your family. Our thoughts and prayers are with you through this difficult time. May God grant you his peace, which surpasses all human understanding. Steve's many contributions to so many, will always be remembered.

Glen and Lois McAlpine - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JJ

“ God bless the entire Messina family. I have a ton of respect for Mr. Messina. My prayers are with you during this difficult time.

Jim Jewell - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ My deepest sympathy to Florence, Carolyn, Nino. Stephen, and Anna. Steve was a wonderful example of how a man should live. I send my condolences to all of you and Louie, Rose Margaret and Sam. Steve will be sorely missed and always loved.

Jackie Sferlazza - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

BR

“ Florence ,I'm sorry for your loss. Steve was a wonderful caring, gentleman he will be miss by many, especially the local school district and Leader Dog. My Blessings to you and your family.Bud Rose

Bud rose - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

KM

“ To the Messina family, Moe and I are so sorry to hear of Steves passing. We always enjoyed the times we spent with him, he was one of the nicest person to have known. Our thoughts and prayers are with all of you. Love Moe and Kris

Kris May - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DM

“ Dear Florence and Family, My thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time and great loss. I'm sorry to hear of Steve's passing, he was a wonderful man and will be missed many. Blessings to you and your family, Denise DaPrato McAtee, The Action Group, Inc.

Denise McAtee - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

MJ

“ My thoughts and prayers r with Florence and family my dad Jerome is welcoming Steve with open arms now they can be together like they were together for 40 years so sad to loose such a wonderful man may god give the family strength to get thru this loss

Maria lubinski janish - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

AH

“ To Stephen's family, I am so sorry for your loss. May you find comfort in the earthly resurrection, spoken of at Acts 24:15; "And I have hope toward God, which hope these men also look forward to, that there is going to be a resurrection". I hope this promise can bring you hope and comfort.

Ashley H. - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JG

“ Florence and family, So sorry for your loss. May you find peace and comfort knowing he is in great hands. He was such a good, kind, and giving man and will be missed, most by you, by everyone in this community. Condolences, Julie Smith Gentile, Emily and Melanie

Julie Gentile - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

ST

“ Steve was one of the nicest, generous person my family has ever known. He was a man of integrity, honesty and caring. May the entire Messina family be surrounded by GOD'S love. Our prayers and blessings surround you in peace Love, The Strizic Family

Strizic - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

SE

“ Florence and family, we are so sad to hear about Steve's passing. Our hearts ache for all of you. Steve was a GREAT man and loved by all. He will be missed by family and friends. I know that he is in heaven with my Dad having a glass or 2 or 3 of red wine and swapping stories. Love you all, Kurt & Sandy Engel

Sandy Engel - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JM

“ So sorry for your loss Florence. May God comfort you.....

Janet Olmstead Martin - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

PG

“ Nino - my thoughts and prayers are with you and your family at this difficult time.

Patty Gorney - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

BH

“ Steve was an extraordinary person. One of his great loves was the Shelby Twshp Lions Club. Steve was the embodiment of all the wonderful things Lions do, witnessed by his incredible generosity and personal charity to Leader Dogs for the Blind and the Lions Visually Impaired Youth Camp. We were fortunate to have known him for 26 years. To Florence and family, we offer our sincerest condolences, prayers and best wishes.

Bill and Carole Hansen - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

SZ

“ Florence and Family you are all in our thoughts and prayers to give you strength to get through the sad days ahead. Many good memories of the old days at Messina Trucking. Steve was always a good guy. I'm sure Dennis will be happy to see Steve again. Sue Ziehm and Dan Ziehm

Sue Ziehm - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

NB

“ Florence and Family, Our thoughts and prayers are with you, thru this tough times. But we all will remember Steve with all his hugs and kind words. Peace for all Skip & Dolores Duncan and Nan & Ken Butterfield and Eric Duncan

Nan Butterfield - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

SB

“ My memories of Steve are numerous. Always a hug and kind words. A dear family friend for so many years. My heart is breaking but my memories of him will heal that break. He is with my Dad again...let the good times begin again. Florence and family you are in our prayers. Love and peace to you. Sue and Don Brown

Sue and Don Brown - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM