



## Dr. Eugene Joseph Mario Aragona

September 4, 1945 - January 26, 2022

Godfrey

Dr. Eugene Joseph Mario Aragona, ABEM, age 76, went home to be with his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ at 12:01 a.m. on Wednesday, January 26, 2022 at OSF St. Anthony's Health Center. He was born on September 4, 1945 in San Sosti, Italy the son of the late Dr. Nicola Alessandro and Erminia Ida (Cataldi) Aragona. Along with his father and mother and sister he came to America in 1955 on the ship Andrea Doria. Gene became a naturalized US citizen in 1967. He loved America and was extremely patriotic, often seen wearing red, white and blue. He attended Routt High School and graduated from Jacksonville High School in 1963, Illinois College in 1967 where he played football and Loyola Medical School in Chicago in 1971. Gene served in the US Navy as a flight surgeon from 1972-1976 where he had been stationed at Camp Pendleton, California, Pensacola, FL, and did a tour of the Mediterranean on the aircraft carrier USS Forrestal, he was also a Navy boxer. After his military service, he worked as an ER doctor at multiple locations and became certified by The American Board of Emergency Medicine from 1991 until present. He currently owned Alton Med Center since 1985.

Gene loved to study the Bible and was passionate about end times prophecy, would often remind people that Christ is returning soon. He had a strong faith and love for Jesus, witnessing to people about Christ and was especially devoted to missionaries in the nation of Israel. He was a private pilot, an avid

scuba diver, and had worked for underwater search and rescue teams over the years. Gene was a multiple gold medal winner in the senior Olympics, specifically in weightlifting and track and field. He loved fitness and enjoyed working out every day. Gene spoke three languages fluently and even tried bronco riding.

He was a hard worker, devoted to his family and always willing to help others. He will be remembered for his passion and vocal cheering for his kids sporting events.

On September 24, 1988, at the First Christian Church in Jacksonville, he married the former Anita J. (Buckley) and she survives. Also surviving are three children, Krista Michelle (husband Nathan Bortolon) of Thunder Bay Canada, Amanda Elizabeth Gabriella of Godfrey, Christian John Michael of St. Louis. One sister, Rose M. Angelo of Springfield, IL and a beloved nephew, Christopher M. Angelo of Springfield, IL.

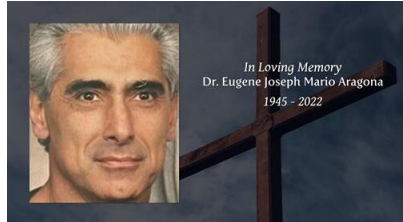
Per his wishes, no services are scheduled. Memorials may be made to Calvary Baptist Church in Alton where he attended.

Additional information, video memorial and online guest book may be found at [www.gentfuneralhome.com](http://www.gentfuneralhome.com)

# Tribute Wall



“ *Gent Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Dr. Eugene Joseph Mario Aragona*



**Gent Funeral Home** - January 28, 2022 at 10:37 PM

RG

*Inspirational! What a life and legacy!*

**Rance Gregg** - January 29, 2022 at 12:37 AM

TB

*Dr. Gene was the best Doctor I've ever known and was a great friend. He was very supportive of Al Gross and myself when were "Mornings with Tim and Al" on KJSL in St Louis during the 90's. He was a Doctor who always TOLD THE TRUTH! Our prayers for Anita, Amanda and Christian. What wonderful memories they must have!*

**Tim Berends** - January 29, 2022 at 11:28 AM

DE

*Dr. Aragona was a bold, caring, and unique individual. He helped many people. I appreciated his advice about pursuing medicine, when I was in high school, and later in life. I pray that you are comforted by the memories. Please accept my condolence.*

**Dr. Angela Elliott** - January 29, 2022 at 05:02 PM

EF

*What a wonderful collection of photographs of his life and family.....*

**Ed and Pat Frost** - January 29, 2022 at 10:12 PM

ME

*Dr. Aragona was a good doctor that diagnosed your ailment and gave you godly wisdom.*

**MELODY** - January 31, 2022 at 09:56 AM

AH

*The best doctor and one of the most amazing men I have ever met. Good honest people are hard to come by in this world and it was a pleasure having known him. I hope his family can find closure and heal from this terrible loss. His dedicated secretary and all of his loved ones are in my prayers.*

**Ashley Hanneken** - February 06, 2022 at 05:22 PM

RA

*Gene, I love you and what has transpired over the past couple of weeks has broken my heart...and everyone else's heart as well. None of us wanted to see you suffer nor to be less than the man you have always been, but none of us were ready nor willing to lose you either. Thank you for being the big brother that perhaps every girl out there wishes she had, and thank you for all the help you have ever given to me...in any form. I cannot imagine life without you around. I will miss our phone calls, your jokes, your medical advice, and your Biblical teachings, as well as your encouragement and your love. I would much prefer to have you back here with all of us, in our lives and part of our lives again, but I rejoice with you that you are now where you have always wanted to be...i.e., with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. When you see our parents, tell them for me that I love them and miss them too. I don't know when my time will come, or even IF it will come before His return, but either way, I will be looking for you whenever I happen to get there. You are leaving a void in our lives that is absolutely irreplaceable with anyone or anything else. To varying degrees, I will be mourning your incalculable loss for the rest of my life and the emptiness you leave behind for me to bear, but I know without any doubt that God will take care of me and all the loved ones you have left behind. I love you, Gene! I will never say nor have I said good-bye....only see you later. Pray for us that are left behind on this fallen earth, and kiss and worship our God for all of us. See you on the other side, my brother! I love you and appreciate you so much! Enjoy being in God's presence forevermore.*

**Rose Angelo** - February 06, 2022 at 09:21 PM



“ *Dr. Eugene Joseph Mario Aragona*

January 28, 2023 at 10:19 AM



“ *Dr. Eugene Joseph Mario Aragona*

January 28, 2023 at 08:19 AM



“ *What! I'm just finding out about his death! I just thought maybe his mom office was just closed to COVID. My heart is very saddened to hear that he passed away. He was a good doctor to me in spite of how he was. He was snapping when I first met him and I prayed " LORD GOD please don't let him snap on me like he was doing the other ones. He told me that he was just tired of giving people the advice and meds that they needed to help them but they would not take heed nor take the meds. I prayed with him. We was able to talk to one another. The last time I seen him I am asked him how was he doing? How was he really doing??? He mumbled that he was fine but I felt something was not right but he didn't want to talk that day then after that I could not get a hold of him for nothing not knowing he was no longer with us. He is missed 😞*

Gwendolyn Davis - May 27, 2022 at 01:36 PM

BL

“ Oh, Rose! I am going to St. Louis for a doctor appointment in a few days and wanted to look up Gene and surprise him... but was shocked to see his obituary. As a child I looked up to you and him, both of you were so good to me and my brothers. It breaks my heart that he has passed, I just waited too long. I will be in Springfield in a few weeks and I hope I can visit with you. I have amazing memories of our families getting together. I am so sorry for your loss, love  
Beth Longo

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**Beth Longo** - February 17, 2022 at 10:21 PM

RA

*Thank you, Beth. All of this came so suddenly and unexpectedly. We are all still reeling from the shock and greatly grieving from the enormous loss. Thank you so much for your kind words. I too have very fond memories of our families getting together when we were kids. We had so much fun together and I remember those times with great fondness. I would be very pleased and happy to see you again and visit with you when you are in town. It's been so long since we have seen each other; it's high time! God bless you and your family, and here's to seeing you soon!*

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**Rose Angelo** - February 21, 2022 at 02:26 AM

TO

“ My sincere condolences go out to the family of Dr. A. (as I knew him years ago) and to all those who loved him. I met him in the early 1980's when I was an EMT/firefighter in Maryville, while he headed Anderson ER. In 1983, things came together to begin a paramedic program and he was the project medical director. I had the honor of being in the first class that went through training. I will always remember him as someone who cared strongly about the people he treated, as well as making sure those of us he trained did the same. I still remember him saying, "First do now harm, then try to do some good."

I also remember him as a man of faith, as someone who was tough, but fair (especially since I was a woman in what was much more of a man's world at that time), and as someone who was unforgettable once you met him. I was hoping, after the pandemic, we could have had some kind of reunion, since it will be 40 years in 2023 since the first advanced EMT class began. I believe he should be recognized for the important role he played in starting a program that I am sure has saved countless lives. I know you must all be grieving, but I'm sure he has found light, love, joy, and is at peace...and, in time, I know you will find the same in the memories of him, until you see him once again.

Sincerely, Toni Wood

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Toni - February 07, 2022 at 03:49 PM

CA

“ Thank you to everyone for your thoughts and prayers at this time. Your kind words and love are much appreciated. My uncle was much more than an uncle to me, he was like a father, and I could have never asked God for a better one in my life. He approached everything he did in life with unshakeable courage, strength and unwavering faith. The only one he loved more than his family and people was Jesus and he demonstrated that love and that example for everyone everyday. He dedicated his life to bringing healing to others as a doctor and genuinely cared for and helped all those he came across. He was and is the greatest man I have ever known. In many ways he was a hero, a figure to me who was always larger than life and one who I always respected and looked up to. I suppose now I'll be looking up to him a little higher toward heaven. 1 Thessalonians 4:14 says, “For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.” I love this man with all my heart. We know that he is in heaven with Jesus now and that we will see him again.

Christopher Angelo - February 06, 2022 at 06:39 PM

MA

“ My heart and prayers go out to Dr. Aragona's family! Rose and Chris I am praying for you all!

Mandy Alavarez - February 05, 2022 at 10:55 PM



Thank you, Mandy. Much appreciated.

Rose Angelo - February 06, 2022 at 03:24 PM

CA

Thank you Mandy. We love you.

Christopher Angelo - February 06, 2022 at 07:28 PM

MB

“ Dear Rose,  
I am so very sorry to read about your brother. You and I once walked together with Jim and Betty Dalton in the mid 60's. My husband Mike and I knew Dr. Eugene from First Christian Church, when he would sometimes attend with your lovely mother, Ida. Thinking of you and Gene's family with prayers at this sad time.  
Marlys Bandy

Marlys Bandy - February 02, 2022 at 05:02 PM

RA

Thank you, Marlys. We are all grieving his loss and missing him so much in our lives. I don't know if you still go to First Christian Church or not, but if you do, would you please make Pastor Jay aware of his passing. Also, and this is clearly extraneous to the subject here..., but do you know anything as to the whereabouts of Jim and/or Betty Dalton? I would really like to reconnect with Betty, if possible. Thank you for your comments and your wonderful sentiments.

Rose M. Angelo - February 03, 2022 at 02:42 PM



“ "The Old Rugged Cross 30" Rose Gold Sonnet C hime was purchased for the family of Dr. Eugene Joseph Mario Aragona.



February 01, 2022 at 03:04 PM

JK

“ Gene and I were classmates at Routt. He had great patience and was a good friend. I will miss him.

John c Kane - February 01, 2022 at 12:10 PM

SP

“ *Heaven has a new Angel!*  
*I know his family is comforted in knowing Gene is bathed in the light of Jesus Christ right now and forever. We have know Gene for over 30 years. I first called on Dr Aragona as a Pfizer rep in 1991. He was so knowledgeable. He cared deeply for the patients who entrusted their health to him.*  
*I recall meeting He and Anita at a medical pharm meeting and thinking these two are the Barbie and Ken of Alton. Both beautiful inside and out!*  
*Hearts for Jesus and bold to tell everyone about his love for all. Our daughters attended Montessori school and enjoyed a long friendship. Our boys swam on swim teams together for several years and I got to witness his passion for inspiring youth!*  
*Gene would tell these kids to believe in themselves, to push themselves.... He was honest with them, and they knew he cared !!*  
*It was so wonderful to see a father so devoted to family. His loss will be felt by all in this Alton area, but he is home.*  
*He was bold and brave.*  
*To Anita and his children, Steve and I are sorry for your loss and are praying for you at this time.*

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**Steve and Kim Pope** - February 01, 2022 at 10:34 AM

GD

“ *Dr Aragona will be missed !*

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**Gina Driskell** - January 31, 2022 at 07:17 PM

JR

“ *A Great Man and Dr. And My Friend!*

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**John w Rhoades** - January 31, 2022 at 03:39 PM

DF

“ *My dear friend Anita and kids, so terribly sorry for you loss. Thinking of you all and keeping you in my prayers.*

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**Debbie Frakes** - January 31, 2022 at 12:41 PM

MI

“ *I was one of his assistants right out of school. He taught me several areas that most Drs wouldn't. His skills of phlebotomy taught me to be very good at what I do. Thank you, Dr Aragona. My heart goes out to Anita and their children.*

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**Maria Irvin** - January 31, 2022 at 11:58 AM

RB

“ *Dr. Aragona was a great person and Dr. We will miss him dearly. My condolences to his family*

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**Robin Brockmeyer** - January 30, 2022 at 03:29 PM

LM

“ *I am blessed to have known this man. What an honor to have worked beside him. You will be greatly missed Doc. I pray for comfort for your family and friends.*

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**Lisa Moore** - January 30, 2022 at 01:32 PM

ME

“ *He will be truly missed firm but wonderful Dr so very sorry for your loss R.I.P*

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**Misty edwards** - January 29, 2022 at 10:14 PM

NL

“ Dr. Aragona will be greatly missed. Prayers for those who knew and loved him. I'm thankful our paths crossed and enjoyed the wisdom he shared. He was truthful. He was honest. He was a Believer. Dr. Aragona, thank you.

Nichole Lewis - January 29, 2022 at 08:04 PM

ET

“ Elizabeth Townsend sent a virtual gift in memory of Dr. Eugene Joseph Mario Aragona



Elizabeth Townsend - January 29, 2022 at 06:23 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Dr. Eugene Joseph Mario Aragona.



January 29, 2022 at 12:33 PM

AR

“ This was beautiful ! Thank you for sharing.

Anita Reed - January 29, 2022 at 11:19 AM



“ *Comfort & Light 30" Sonnet was purchased for the family of Dr. Eugene Joseph Mario Aragona.*



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January 29, 2022 at 09:12 AM



“ *Dr Aragona was a good doctor! Straight and to the point! I have been a patient of his for several years and will greatly miss him! My condolences to all of his family!*

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**Elizabeth Townsend** - January 29, 2022 at 08:50 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Dr. Eugene Joseph Mario Aragona.*



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January 29, 2022 at 06:11 AM



“ *Very nice. So complete. A man that came a long way and went very far. Just beautiful.*

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**Julie Schranck** - January 28, 2022 at 11:46 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Dr. Eugene Joseph Mario Aragona.



January 28, 2022 at 10:15 PM



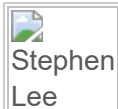
“ I remember Eugene from High School. I am not surprised by the amazing life he led. He was never arrogant but supremely confident. A trait he obviously carried through life. RIP. You helped make the world a better place.

Dan Tholen - January 28, 2022 at 08:34 PM

ME

I will miss you so much DOC to the moon and back u will be truly missed my friend till we meet again 🙏💔🙏 love Mabel Ellison ❤️

Mabel Ellison - January 28, 2022 at 11:29 PM



A very good passionate Dr..Our small town pharmacist used to say he was one of the best when it came to diagnosing. He was great to our family..

Stephen Lee - January 29, 2022 at 12:38 AM

KB

Dr. Aragona was a dedicated Christian and a very good Doctor and we know for sure he is with the Lord now. He will be missed by many.

Ted Burleson

Karen Burleson - January 29, 2022 at 07:30 PM

BB

Dr. Aragona was a very good person and Dr. Rest In Peace

Barbara Jo Burk - January 29, 2022 at 10:46 PM

DK

*Best Dr. ever and will be greatly missed by his patients. Rest in peace with the Lord and Savior Dr. Missing your medical wisdom already.*

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**David Kodelya** - February 01, 2022 at 04:11 PM