



William "Big Willie" Halt

June 17, 1947 - January 3, 2025

January 3, 2025, unexpectedly, of Buffalo, NY.

Beloved husband of 53 years to Diane (nee Mendola) Halt; loving father of Jennifer (Matthew) Dutkiewicz and AnnMarie Halt; cherished grandfather of Emily (Austin Snow) Dutkiewicz; devoted brother of James (Linda) Halt and Maria (late John) LoPresto; also survived by many nieces and nephews. Willie was a proud US Army disabled Vietnam Veteran who was a recipient of the Purple Heart and awarded the Bronze Star with Valor. He also loved horse racing, poker slots and spending time with his family. The family will be present to receive relatives and friends on Thursday January 9th from 3-7PM at the DANIEL R. SMOLAREK FUNERAL HOME, 2510 Union Rd., Cheektowaga (2 blocks south of William St.). A Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Friday at 10AM in Our Lady of Hope Parish, 18 Greenwood Pl, Buffalo (corner of Lafayette Ave & Grant St). Please assemble at church. Interment in Mt Calvary Cemetery. Flowers gratefully declined. Donations may be made in Willie's name to the Disabled American Veterans. Please leave condolences online at www.SmolarekCares.com

Cemetery Details

Mt. Calvary Cemetery

800 Pine Ridge Heritage Blvd.
Cheektowaga, NY 14225

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 9. 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM (est)

Daniel R. Smolarek Funeral Home - Cheektowaga
2510 Union Road
Cheektowaga, NY 14227
(716) 668-3122
<https://smolarekfh.com/>

Mass of Christian Burial

JAN 10. 10:00 AM (ET)

Our Lady of Hope Parish
18 Greenwood Place
Lafayette Ave & Grant St
Buffalo, NY 14213

Please Assemble at Church

Military Honors

JAN 10 (ET)

Mt. Calvary Cemetery
800 Pine Ridge Heritage Blvd.
Cheektowaga, NY 14225

Tribute Wall



“ *Diane and AnnMarie, we are so sorry to hear about Willie. We always enjoyed talking to him when AnnMarie lived next to us on Nash Road. Our deepest condolences. God bless Georjean and Bob Peace*

Georjean Furry Peace - January 10, 2025 at 05:07 PM

VL

“ *Big Willie was a larger-than-life family man whose warmth, humor, and love for a good story left a mark on everyone he met. He was the center of attention, where his laughter and stories brought friends and family together. The city of Buffalo will forever feel a little emptier without him. Now the stories will all be about you Willie...Love Vinny & Gigi*

Vinny Long - January 09, 2025 at 01:33 PM

AT

The greatest moment in my life was when I met Willie Halt him and his family saved me from my own self now I'm doing very well thanks to Willie and his family. I will love you guys forever.

anthony territo - April 11 at 07:57 AM

AB

“ *I knew Willie for almost 35 years. He was an absolute gentleman, loving husband and father. He had the funniest stories and could make you laugh just by his voice and gestures. What a character! We will certainly miss you very much. My prayers and condolences to his family. Rest easy Big Willie*

Alex 'Duke' Benitez - January 06, 2025 at 09:32 PM

RM

“ *What a gentle giant of a man with a soft voice. So glad we could call Willie our friend. We are so very sorry for the loss of your love Diane. May God bless you and the family and prayers are with you. Patty and Rick Miner*

Rick and Patty Miner - January 06, 2025 at 04:29 PM

DF

“ *Diane, AnnMarie, Jennifer and family I am so very sorry for your loss, there are no words Willie was one of a kind he was a huge presence when you were around him he made you laugh kind and loving man he will be missed love Debbie and Don Fisher*

Debbie Fisher - January 05, 2025 at 09:20 PM

LM

“ *My sympathy Diane to you and your family. We have so many memories of our early years on Englewood and will always treasure them. ♥♥ Linda and Ed Mansell*

Linda Mansell - January 05, 2025 at 06:34 PM

MI

He was a big presence in the lives of us who knew him....and a bigger loss. Janice and Mickey

Michael - January 08, 2025 at 07:24 PM

SA

I have fond memories of Willie going way back to the Seventies . He was one of the best horse racing handicappers growing up. My sympathies to Brother Jim and family. Rest in Peace Big Guy. Sal Amatrano

sal amatrano - January 09, 2025 at 04:17 PM