

Charles F. LaMorta, 84, died Friday, November 20, 2009 after a brief illness. Born in Bethlehem, N.Y. he lived his entire life in Rensselaer. He retired in 1983 as head mechanic for Dorn's Transportation. He later worked for Sterling Winthrop in maintenance and enjoyed bartending. He owned and operated Charlies Place with his wife Peachie and was tending bar for Irish's when he became ill, influencing many lives along the way. Navy veteran of World War II, serving on the USS Essex, he was a member of Gerald O'Neil post of Rensselaer, VFW 729 club in Watervliet, Rensselaer K of C and American Legion post 1683. Charlie always found the good side of people, and was a person loved by all. He made many friends and touched the lives of everyone he met. Charlie never had a bad word to say about anybody, he was a counselor and friend, and always listened to everyone's issues. He loved walking at the Corning Preserve and sitting in his car doing scratch off lottery tickets, and shopping at the dollar store. Predeceased by his first wife of 25 years, Margery (Surprise) LaMorta and his second wife of 23 years, Edith "Peachie" (Ganance) LaMorta; his brothers, Anthony, Salvatore, Dominic, Joseph; sisters, Catherine Gregoli, and Frances Campione. Survivors include Sister Antoinette Scott; daughters, Ann (Seth) Hendrick and Tina (Chuck) Cleary; stepchildren, Paul (Candy) Vona, Leonard (Pat) Vona, Arthur (Karen) Vona, Patty (Ritchie) Markes, Cindi (Allyn) Jones; grandchildren, Seth Robert, Samantha, Crystal, and Kassie; eight step-grandchildren; his little buddy and great-grandson, Austin French; several nieces and nephews; and his dear friend Irish. The family wishes to thank the Rensselaer Fire Dept, Empire Ambulance, St. Peters home care nurses Shannon, Kerri, and Beth, and the fourth floor staff at Memorial Hospital for their care and attention during his illness. Relatives and friends are invited to attend his funeral 11:00 a.m. Tuesday from the Rockefeller Funeral Home, 165 Columbia Tpk., Rensselaer. Interment will be in Calvary Cemetery, Glenmont. Friends may call Monday from 4-8 p.m. in the funeral home. The family has asked in lieu of flowers contributions be made to Community Hospice of Rensselaer Co. 295 Valleyview Blvd Rensselaer, NY 12144.