



Robert A. "Alex" Ercoline

April 15, 1936 - December 22, 2024

Robert A. Ercoline, (Alex), 88, of Bluefield, WV passed away on December 22, 2024. Alex was a beloved husband, father, and grandfather. He was born April 15, 1936 in Ashland, WV to Margaret and Louis Ercoline. He was preceded in death by his parents and three sisters.

Alex shared his life with his loving wife of 65 years, Joanne. He served two years in the U.S. Army and attended business school in Bluefield, WV. Alex was truly a self-made business man, owning two automobile dealerships and various other businesses. His first dealership, A & T Pontiac-Buick, opened with his friend, Tullio Ramella, was his love and legacy. Their business was affectionately known as "All Talys" due to their Italian heritage, and Alex will be forever remembered by many as "Mr. E".

Alex was active in the Sacred Heart Catholic Church, the WV Automobile Dealers Association, and the Bluefield Chamber of Commerce. He was an excellent tennis player, and along with others in the community, helped to found the Sedgewood Tennis Club. Alex loved a good party and was a wonderful dancer. His sparkling blue eyes and charming smile were contagious. Alex loved people and was kind and generous to everyone he knew.

Alex will be missed by many, including those left to treasure his memory, his

beautiful wife Joanne, his three children, Teresa Jarrell (Davis), Laura Belcher (Preston), and Robert Ercoline, Jr., his brother Louis, six grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

A service to celebrate Alex's life will be held at Mercer Funeral Home on Thursday, January 2, 2025 at 11:00am, with visitation at 10:30am.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly asks that memorial donations be made to the Sacred Heart Church Food Pantry.

Cemetery Details

Roselawn Memorial Gardens Cemetery

Princeton, WV

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 2. 10:30 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Mercer Funeral Home Chapel
1231 West Cumberland Road
Bluefield, WV 24701

Funeral Service

JAN 2. 11:00 AM (ET)

Mercer Funeral Home Chapel
1231 West Cumberland Road
Bluefield, WV 24701

Tribute Wall

CW

“ Dear Joanne & Family, I am so sorry to hear of Alex passing. My memories of both of you are of your wonderful love of each other and your friendliness. My late husband. Charlie, held Alex in high esteem. Sending prayers for God's comfort for you.
Charlotte Sacre Worsham

Charlotte Sacre Worsham - January 22, 2025 at 08:07 PM

PA

“ Joanne and family, I am so sorry to learn of your husbands passing.
Sending love and prayers ❤️



Patsy Arnold - January 15, 2025 at 06:41 PM

VC

“ I am so very sorry to hear about Alex passing. So many great memories with Lou, Alex and Joann. I went to their beautiful home once and thought I was at the Jewish Synagogue by mistake, it was just up the street. Hector, their dog, smiled a really big smile when you asked him too. Such an awesome family, full of love. Alex was loved by everyone. I just found out about his passing, I would have been there.....



Veronica Zamberlan Cummings - January 05, 2025 at 10:34 PM

“ When someone we love passes on, it feels like the world shifts beneath our feet. The emptiness they leave behind is overwhelming, a silence so loud it can consume us. We look for them in every shadow, every whisper of the wind, every familiar song. And yet, as much as we long for their presence, life continues, forcing us to learn a truth we never wanted to know: love doesn't end when life does.

The people we love don't truly leave us. They stay in the memories we carry, the lessons they taught us, the love they poured into us. Their laugh echoes in the back of our minds, their favorite phrases sneak into our conversations, and their essence lingers in the spaces they once filled.

Over time, the sharp ache of their absence softens into a bittersweet reminder of the love we shared. We begin to realize that they are not truly gone; they are woven into the fabric of who we are. Their love becomes a part of us, a quiet strength we carry through our days.

Grief doesn't go away—it changes. It becomes a companion, a reminder of the depth of our love. We learn to live with it, not by forgetting, but by honoring. By smiling at their memory, by continuing traditions they held dear, by speaking their name with warmth instead of tears.

And though we may not see them, they are with us in ways that words can't explain. In the quiet moments, when the world feels still, we sense them. In the milestones we wish they could witness, we feel their pride. In our hardest days, we feel the echo of their encouragement.

The love they gave us becomes our guide. It teaches us to cherish the present, to love deeply, and to never take a single moment for granted. Their absence reminds us to hold tightly to those who remain, to express our love without hesitation, and to live in a way

that honors the legacy they left behind.

When people we love leave this world, they don't leave us empty—they leave us full. Full of memories, full of lessons, full of love. And that love, even in their absence, has the power to sustain us, to heal us, and to remind us that they are never truly gone. They live on in us, in every step we take and every breath we draw.

They gave us their love, and that love remains. Always. ☐💜❤️

Bill Johnson - January 02, 2025 at 10:03 PM

LM

“*My condolences to Alex's family. I bought several Buicks over the years from him. Such a nice man. My prayers are with JoAnn during this sad time.*

Linda Mariotti - January 01, 2025 at 09:47 PM

BJ

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Bill Johnson - January 02, 2025 at 10:01 PM

JB

“ I am sorry to hear of Alex's passing. Debbie and myself send our condolences to the family.

Jim Ball - December 31, 2024 at 09:34 PM

JW

“ So sorry for your loss.
Jim and Jackie Wilkinson

Jackie Wilkinson - December 31, 2024 at 02:10 PM

FD

“ sorry to hear about Alex passing. I bought lot cars from him God Bless his family

freddie dotson - December 31, 2024 at 12:49 PM

JB

Sorry to hear of Alex's passing. Debbie and myself send our condolences to the family.

Jim Ball - December 31, 2024 at 09:30 PM

JB

“ On behalf of Sabrina and I, we want to express our profound sympathies to JoAnn and the kids. Alex was the kind of man who represented the best of the kind of people produced in southern West Virginia. He came a long way from Ashland.

John David Brant - December 31, 2024 at 12:10 PM

KD

“ Alex was a Great man.he was a giver not a taker. He will be missed

Kenny Donley - December 29, 2024 at 11:28 AM

GS

“ So sad to hear of Alex passing, but he lived a long and fulfilling life. Growing up in Bluefield, our family purchased several cars at A & T. I would go there with my dad or grandfather. Alex always had a smile on his face. Also, many fond memories with the Ercoline family at Sacred Heart. My thoughts and prayers go out to the family.

Greg Spry
Roanoke, VA

Greg Spry - December 29, 2024 at 10:44 AM

RM

“ I was very sad to read about the passing of Mr. Ercoline. He was always very nice to me.

Rick Murensky - December 29, 2024 at 09:25 AM



“ *May the love of God surround you and your family during this difficult time,
May you come to know that the love of God is with you always,*

May your memories of Robert A. Ercoline, give you peace, comfort and strength...

Rest now in the arms of our Lord your mission on earth is complete. I thank you for your service to our Country and my Freedom. You will not be forgotten.

*My thoughts
and prayers to the family of*

*US Army Veteran, Robert A. Ercoline, is “A True American Hero”
God Bless†*

† Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. John 15:13 †

Cheryl Skinner, Tri-state Military Museum - December 29, 2024 at 08:25 AM