



Obituary for Philip Nicholas Losito, *The Auburn Citizen*

AUBURN - Philip Nicholas Losito, 85, died in his sleep on Sunday, Nov. 22, 2009, at University Hospital, Syracuse, with family members at his bedside. He was born in Auburn on Nov. 23, 1923 and moved to Elmira in 1925. Mr. Losito served in World War II as a machine gunner in the Third Army, 550th Anti-Aircraft Artillery, Battery B, and participated in all five major campaigns in Europe.

After the war, he took up golf as a hobby and eventually obtained a successful career as a professional with the Professional Golfers Association of America (PGA). As an amateur, he was a four-time club champion at the Mark Twain Golf Course and a three-time county champion of Chemung County. He was awarded 'Golfer of the Decade' by the Elmira Star Gazette in 1960, and was inducted into Elmira's Golf Hall of Fame in 1976. His nickname in Elmira was 'One Putt Losito.' In 1958, he received a 'professional touring player card' from the PGA and competed in several PGA events that year, including the Western Open, and had pairings with Lee Elder and Gene Littler in other tournaments.

In 1960, he moved to Auburn to accept the position of head golf professional at Highland Park Golf Club for eight years. In 1968 he became the first head golf professional at Dutch Hollow Country Club, a position he held for 14 years. He was the head golf pro at Green Lakes Golf Club in Syracuse from 1981 to 1983, and the head golf pro at Wayne Hills C.C., in Lyons, from 1984 until his retirement in 1997. He taught golf lessons for 18 winters for the Auburn Recreation Department and YMCA-WEIU. During retirement, he continued teaching golf at the Arnold Palmer Driving Range in Auburn, Burnett Park in Syracuse, the Silver Creek Golf Course in Waterloo, and the Big Oak Golf Course in Geneva. His last golf swing was taken on the 10th hole at Big Oak on Monday, Nov. 16, 2009.

Mr. Losito was a communicant of Holy Family Church in Auburn. He held memberships with the Knights of Columbus and the American Legion Post 1776 in Auburn. He was granted a lifetime membership with the PGA in 1998. He is survived by his loving wife of 51 years, Pollyann Losito, of Auburn; three children, a daughter, Felicia (Richard) Granato, of Auburn, and two sons, Dr. Martin (Suzanne) Losito, of Marcellus, and Michael (Erin) Losito, of Albany; a sister, Bertha Catelli, of Syracuse; a brother, Anthony Losito, of Orlando, Fla.; eight grandchildren, Michaela, Christina and Richard Jr. Granato, Alaina and Nicole Losito, Natalie, Lucas and Porter Losito; and several nieces, nephews and cousins. Phil was predeceased by his parents, Savario and Antoinette Losecco Losito; a sister, Mary Polvere; and three brothers, Martin, Joseph and Salvatore Losito. Friends and relatives are invited to join the family at 1 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 25 in Holy Family Church for Phil's Mass of Christian burial with the pastor Rev. Dennis Shaw as celebrant. Burial will be in St. Joseph's Cemetery. Calling hours are from 4 to 7 p.m. Tuesday at Pettigrass Funeral Home, 196 Genesee St., Auburn. Contributions may be made in Philip's memory to Matthew House, 43 Metcalf Drive, Auburn, NY 13021.