



Gabriel Matthew LaBruzza

March 26, 1934 - July 12, 2013

Gabriel Matthew LaBruzza, age 79, of Prescott and Chino Valley, Arizona, passed away Friday July 12, 2013 in Prescott. Gabe was born March 26, 1934 to Vincent and Maria (Scrudato) LaBruzza at the SoHo Hospital in Belleville, New Jersey.

Gabe was the owner of LaBruzza's Italian Ristorante on Iron Springs Road and was beloved by all his customers. He greeted everyone with a big "Hi , How You Doing? Thanks for coming in." .

Gabe attended Utah State University and graduated with a Bachelors Degree. He then served in the Air Force during the Korean War as an aircraft mechanic stationed in Japan. Gabe had two children, James Vincent and Mathew Gabriel with Sue Lacey Miller whom he divorced .

Gabe came to Prescott in 1988 with \$500.00 in his pocket and opened his first restaurant, LaBruzza Italian Ristorante on White Spar Road, which in later years relocated to his current location on Iron Springs Road. His loyal customers followed Gabe and enjoyed the finest Italian Cuisine in Northern Arizona.

In his spare time Gabe enjoyed gardening, baseball, sports especially boxing

and spending time with his family and friends who will all miss him dearly.

Gabe is survived by his sons James LaBruzza (Mariko) and Matt LaBruzza (Jen) and their children Nathan and Lucas; his brothers Vincent, US Army Korea (Raffaela), Sal, US Air Force WWII (Gloria); sister Nancy LaBruzza; nieces and nephews – Anthony, Robert, Billy, Jimmy, Paul, Joseph, Angela, Marie, Kathy, Joseph, Maryann, Vincent, Christine . Gabe was predeceased by his brothers Frank, US Army, Silver Star WWII and Joseph, US Army Silver Star WWII and two sisters Mary and Pam.

Funeral Services will be Friday, July 19 at 10am at Sacred Heart Catholic Church with interment at the Veterans Cemetery in Prescott. A reception at Sacred Heart will follow the interment ceremony at the VA Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers , please make a donation in Gabe's memory to our Prescott Fire Department Hotshot survivor Brendan McDonough Charity Fund at any Wells Fargo Branch, account #7361874469 or to The Wounded Warrior Project, P.O. Box 758517, Topeka, Kansas 66675.

The Hampton Funeral Home of Prescott, Arizona was entrusted with Gabe's arrangements.

Cemetery Details

Prescott National Cemetery

Tribute Wall

JL

“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



Joey LaBruzza - July 31, 2013 at 02:01 PM

JL

“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



Joseph LaBruzza - July 24, 2013 at 04:00 PM

JL

“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



Joseph LaBruzza - July 24, 2013 at 03:42 PM

BK

“ I can hardly believe that this wonderful, warm man has left us. I have been a customer for over 20 years. I have driven from Scottsdale just to have dinner at Gabe's. He always made everyone feel welcome. The food...oh so good but it was Gabe who lit up LaBruzza's. His family should be proud of this man and all he accomplished. Thank Yoy Gabe I will miss you my friend.

Betsy Kaufman, Scottsdale, AZ

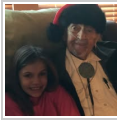
Betsy Kaufman - July 24, 2013 at 01:26 PM



“ Herman Federwisch lit a candle in memory of Gabriel Matthew LaBruzza



Herman Federwisch - July 21, 2013 at 10:58 PM



RIP. Federwisches & Steeds

Herman Federwisch - July 21, 2013 at 11:00 PM

JS

“ Jeannie Schmidt lit a candle in memory of Gabriel Matthew LaBruzza



Jeannie Schmidt - July 19, 2013 at 05:28 PM

JS

Gabe was a kind man who made everyone feel special when they entered his restaurant or met him around town. What a loss to us all, especially to his family, staff, and many friends. I have so many fond memories celebrating family birthdays or just enjoying a great meal in a warm inviting environment with my parents Bill and Stella Walters at LaBruzza's. Our community shares in Gabe's family and staff's loss of such a sweet man. You have my prayers.

Jeannie Schmidt - July 19, 2013 at 05:48 PM

AH

“*Our hearts go out to Gabe's family, friends, and staff. We have been enjoying meals at LaBruzza's since moving to Prescott in 2004. In fact, it is our favorite restaurant, and part of its charm was knowing that Gabe would be coming by to tell us "hi" and thank us for coming in. What a nice man. We will miss his warm smile and gracious hospitality.*

April & Dave Hackathorn

April & Dave Hackathorn - July 19, 2013 at 02:32 PM

ED

“ As regular patrons of LaBruzza's Italian Ristorante for some 15 years, we will deeply miss Gabe's smiling face, cherry greetings and hugs goodnight.

The "formula" he devised for his restaurant was inspired --- serving everyone the same salad and bread immediately while we decided on an entree and enjoyed the wine we were allowed to bring in. And the food was fabulous! My favorite was chicken marsala. No other restaurant in town could make it like his cooks.

As many others have said, Gabe made every single one of his diners feel like a best friend. In 2010, when he learned that I had published a book, he immediately bought a copy! With deepest sympathy to the family and restaurant staff, please know that Gabe will live in our hearts forever.

*Ethan and Judy Davis
Prescott*



Ethan and Judy Davis - July 19, 2013 at 11:10 AM

GB

“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



Gloria La Bruzza - July 19, 2013 at 06:10 AM

GB

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Gloria La Bruzza - July 19, 2013 at 06:08 AM

JJ

“ Gabe we will greatly miss you and how you and your staff made Betty and I welcomed and at home for the past 21 years. God bless you and your family and staff and thank you for the wonderful times at your restaurant. Early in the 90' Gabe had a crew in to shoot a TV commercial and insisted Betty and I would be in it and this was I believe our first or second time in LaBruzza's. The warm "Hi how are you and come in". Yes Gabe you will be truly missed here in Prescott.

Jim - July 18, 2013 at 10:03 PM

JN

“ Jim & Betty Naumann lit a candle in memory of Gabriel Matthew LaBruzza



Jim & Betty Naumann - July 18, 2013 at 09:46 PM

JO

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



joe - July 18, 2013 at 09:24 PM

JO

“ 1 file added to the album God Bless Uncle Gabe , We Love You!



joe - July 18, 2013 at 09:20 PM

MA

“ To the LaBruzza Family:

*There are no words however heartfelt, that can ease your sorrow - but may it strengthen you to realize what a remarkable man your father was and how many people loved him and will miss him. May each special memory shine in your heart and bring you some peace. With our deepest sympathy
Steve & Marilyn Lazzarini*



Marilyn - July 18, 2013 at 08:28 PM

GB

“ 4 files added to the album *New Album Name*



Gloria La Bruzza - July 18, 2013 at 06:11 PM

AN

“ Where do I begin? So many wonderful memories of my wonderful Uncle Gabe. My father's baby brother. He was the most thoughtful, loving man. He regularly called my father and mother right up to the time they passed. My mother was always so excited when she got a call from him. He was very special to them. Very special to so many. Such a kind heart and a great love for all of his family, near and far. It certainly brought the saying "to know him is to love him" to life. He honored the LaBruzza family with his awesome Italian restaurant, keeping my grandmother's and my mother's memories alive by using their Sicilian recipes to give his restaurant family great Italian food. One of my trips to the restaurant even got my picture hung on the wall of fame. How happy that made me. What a great time my husband Gary and I had with Uncle Gabe when we visited the restaurant and his home. He treated us like royalty but that was him, kind heart, sweet, and funny. My heart is saddened at the loss of a wonderful Uncle who loved life and people so much. It is comforting to know he left a legacy of, "he did it his way, did it great and was loved by all who knew him." Nothing loved is ever forgotten and he was loved a lot.

I love you Uncle Gabe, you will be greatly missed.

*Your loving niece,
Angela*

angela - July 18, 2013 at 02:45 PM

RK

“ Robert And Ginny Kennedy lit a candle in memory of Gabriel Matthew LaBruzza



Robert and Ginny Kennedy - July 18, 2013 at 10:16 AM

DS

“ *Debby Slater lit a candle in memory of Gabriel Matthew LaBruzza*



Debby Slater - July 18, 2013 at 09:23 AM

SM

“ *1 file added to the album Friday Nights at Gabe's Quick Video*



Sue Marceau - July 18, 2013 at 05:12 AM

SH

“ *To Gab's family...
What a wonderful man! I am a resident of Prescott and found your fathers' restaurant when we 1st moved here 9 yrs ago. It was a wonderful place and your father always greeted everyone so warmly when they arrived. He always had a wonderful way about him and a great smile. Im so saddened to hear of his passing. May he rest in peace and your family find comfort in knowing others cared so much for him. He was a great guy and I will have fond memories of him and his wonderful ways! Gone but not forgotten.*




Shona - July 18, 2013 at 12:54 AM

MI

“ *What a wonderful friendly person Gabe was! I enjoyed going in to LaBruzza's. He made Prescott feel at home for me with his wonderful smile and genuine appreciation to his customers. Back about 10 years ago I was in town and wanted my favorite chicken parmesan dinner. He was sold out for the night but recommended I try the eggplant parmesan. He told me it would be so good, I would think they were the same. Boy was he right! That night I found a new favorite and have ordered that ever since! I posted on facebook at Christmas there is nothing better than a double date with your sister and her hubby to Labruzza's! He was such a great person to have Prescott welcome, he become an icon here for our family. Enjoy your rest Gabe!*

Michelle Call (Prescott native, California transplant...)

Michelle - July 18, 2013 at 12:10 AM

 Merry
Nebeker

“ *When Gabe came to Prescott, he enriched the lives of EVERY member of the Nebeker family. Gabe lived in the Don Juan Apts that were owned by Ted & Jeanne Neneker for almosr 20 years. In that time he becsme one of our family. We all ate dinner at LaBruzzas every Sat night for those 20 years. Ted Nebeker tsught Gabe to ride horseback & helped with his garden. We had almost every family celebration at LaBruzzas; birthdays, baptisms, wedding rehearsal dinners, prom dates, & anniversaries! We laughed, were sad, talked politics, & religion and always agreed. He was so welcoming to everyone and he was loved & will be greatly missed. No one will ever be able to replace Gabe, but we sure hope his family & loyal staff keep LaBruzzas open.*

Merry Nebeker - July 17, 2013 at 11:08 PM

Starla
Ryer

“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



Starla Ryer - July 17, 2013 at 07:08 PM

ST

“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



Starla - July 17, 2013 at 07:07 PM

SS

“ *My wife & I were so sad to hear about the loss of Gabe. He will truly be missed. Our thoughts go out to is family and friends during this difficult time.*

Sid & Sherry Stern

Sid Stern - July 17, 2013 at 06:40 PM

JP

“ *We'll miss Gabe's smile and the way he made us feel special each time we dine there. A caring man, loyal to his customers and their needs, especially that certain touch he put into each delicious dish, that made you keep on coming back. May his soul rest in peace and God's Blessings to his family....Jim & Deborah Portzer*

Jim & Deborah Portzer - July 17, 2013 at 04:21 PM

JR

“ I wish to send my condolences to the family of Gabe LaBruzza. We moved to the Prescott area in 1990 and met Gabe soon after when we happened upon his restaurant on Iron Springs Road. Since then, just about every family celebration we have had has been spent eating dinner at his restaurant. Our four children grew up celebrating birthdays and holidays eating his wonderful food. After the kids grew up and moved away, my husband and I would come to eat dinner on the weekends. Gabe was such a wonderful, loving person. He always recognized us when we came in and made a point of asking about the kids and what they were up to. He always made us feel so special, like we were family to him. We will miss his beautiful smile and how he treated his customers like royalty. When we heard the news of his passing, we were devastated and felt like we had lost a family member. I am so sorry for your family's loss and send our deepest sympathies. He and his wonderful food will be sorely missed.

Janie Randall - July 17, 2013 at 04:01 PM

LV

“ Gabe, we will miss your smiling face and great sense of humor. You were one of the first friends we made upon our move to Prescott in 1990 and have been a wonderful friend since. Who knew that when Mark saw you last, only a few days ago it seems, that you would be leaving us so soon. You were truly one of a kind. Much love, honor and respect. Laura and Mark Vucich

Laura and Mark Vucich - July 17, 2013 at 02:43 PM

PB

“ My father, Pat, was good friends with Gabe back in 1988, the year my husband and I moved to Prescott. Being Italian, we all immediately became good friends. Gabe was the nicest guy. We thought the world of him. We will truly miss him.

Peggy and Jack Butler - July 17, 2013 at 01:30 PM

LK

“ Gabe will truly be missed. He was always kind and smiling. We have been patrons of his restaurant for several years now, and looked forward each weekend to seeing his bright and cheery face, greeting us and saying "thanks for coming in".. we'll miss you Gabe. We used to laugh at his calling my 4 year old grandson "Chance", because he didn't remember his name was "Chase". Two days before Gabe passed away, we were in his restaurant and before leaving, Chase gave him a big hug and thanked him for his delicious ravioli. We used to see Gabe sometimes in the casino and would talk to him and share memories with him. My heartfelt condolences go out to his family at this sad time, and my family will miss him very very much.

Warmest Regards & fond memories,
Mike and Laura Kanthak
1855 N. Peaceful Mesa Drive, Prescott.

Laura Kanthak - July 17, 2013 at 12:13 PM

TN

“ Gabe was such a kind man. We are so sad that he has left us too soon. Thanks to him for making our life happier by having the privilege of knowing him. We will miss you forever.

Tommy and Melody Naus
He called Tommy, Kenny, because he thought Tom looked like Kenny Rogers. Just another part of Hus fun personality. Prescott won't be the same without you.

Tommy and Melody Naus - July 17, 2013 at 12:05 PM

CB

We returned from a trip to read this very sad news. How much of a 'family' we were...Gabe and his staff and his customers. A 'family' of customers who were greeted by Gabe and who gathered together to eat a home cooked meal. Gabe was an old world treasure and we will miss him terribly. His service to our country will be remembered and we extend our sympathies to his family and staff, particularly Cheryl, Jessica and Maria who we got to know. Al and Carolyn Bradshaw

Carolyn Bradshaw - July 21, 2013 at 09:08 AM

JL

Uncle Gabe, WOW... what man. I didn't visit as much as i wanted to, but each time we got together it was like i never left. I guess it could be said, that you've been called to cook for the "BIG MAN", We all know you will do us all proud, as always. I will miss our visits and our phone calls. You will be with me always.

your nephew and kitchen help Joseph

Joseph LaBruzza - July 24, 2013 at 03:57 PM