

Dr. John Rapacz

ST. JOHNSVILLE — Dr. John Rapacz, 89, a recent resident of the St. Johnsville Nursing Home and a longtime resident of 15 Failing Ave., St. Johnsville, passed away September 6, 2003, in Little Falls Hospital.

He was born in St. Johnsville on August 16, 1914, a son of Michael and Julia (Yanko) Rapacz. He was a graduate of St. Johnsville High School, class of 1931; Colgate University, class of 1937 with a bachelor of arts degree in science; and University of Buffalo with a doctor's degree in dental surgery. While in college, he was president of his freshman and junior classes; was listed in Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities; and was a member of Lambda Chi Alpha National Social Fraternity and Xi Psi Phi National Dental Fraternity. He also attended Utica College from 1950 to 1952, taking courses in business administration.

On January 25, 1941, he married Gladys Morgan in Buffalo. She passed away on May 19, 2002.

Dr. Rapacz enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1942 and served overseas with the 160th General Hospital, attaining the rank of captain.

John worked in the family grocery business during his high school and college years. From 1940 to 1942 he practiced dentistry in St. Johnsville, but was unable to continue his practice after leaving the service because of a wartime disability. He then rejoined the family business prior to starting his own insurance and real estate agency in 1955, a business that also included the sale of mutual funds. The business was sold in 1968.

His business and community activities included commander of VFW; president of St. Johnsville Rotary, Businessmen's Association, Holy Name Society and St. Johnsville Alumni Association; secretary of St. Johnsville Housing Authority; member of Morris J. Edwards American Legion Post; State Council member of Small Business Administration; member of Mutual Insurance Agents Association of New York State; director of Community Chest, Boy Scout Troop No. 71, Fort Plain Development Committee and St. Johnsville Development Committee; and member of Tri-Village Development Committee. His political activities included chairman of town of St. Johnsville Democratic Committee; member of Montgomery County Democratic Committee; candidate for County Treasurer, 1949; and candidate for New York State Assembly, 1950.

Survivors include his son, John Michael Charles, and his fiancée, Corey Gravelle, of Santa Barbara, Calif.; his daughter and son-in-law, Carole Ann and Greg Northway of Buffalo; his step-grandchildren, Gregory and Jill Northway, both of Buffalo; three brothers and sisters-in-law, Michael and Mary Rapacz of St. Johnsville, Raymond and Eleanor Rapacz of Ocala, Fla., and Richard and Mary Rapacz of Plymouth, Mass.; one sister and brother-in-law, Anna and Michael Politylo of Herkimer; and nieces, nephews,

cousins and many friends. Besides his wife, he was predeceased by a brother, Michael, and two sisters, Rose and Helen.

Calling hours will be held from 5-8 p.m. on Tuesday, September 9, at Smith-Woody and Enea Funeral Home, 9 Center St., St. Johnsville.

Funeral services will be held at Smith-Woody and Enea Funeral Home on Wednesday, September 10, at 9 a.m. and at 9:30 a.m. at St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church, Center Street, St. Johnsville, where a Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated. Interment will follow in St. Johnsville Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to SAVAC or the Little Falls Hospital Development Fund. Envelopes will be available at the funeral home for this purpose.