



Dr. Samuel J. Cascio

August 27, 1924 - December 8, 2025

Dr. Samuel J. Cascio, DDS, born on August 27, 1924. Passed away peacefully on December 8, 2025, at 101 years of age, surrounded by his family. Beloved husband of Rosemarie, née Marino; loving father of Joseph Cascio, Geraldine “Geri” (Philip) Limonciello, Daniel (Joanne) Cascio, and Dr. Michael (Catherine) Cascio; cherished brother of the late Marie Krause, the late Rosa Saia, and the late Viola Stinson; devoted grandfather to Joseph Jr. (Addison) Cascio, Jennette (Javier Robles) Cascio, Ellie Cascio, Gabriela (Justin) Limonciello-Barrett, Samuel John (Angelica) Cascio, Nicolette Cascio, John Cascio, Olivia Cascio, Michael “Mick” Cascio, and Christopher Cascio; proud great-grandfather of Cash S. Cascio, Rocco Cascio, Nicolas Robles-Cascio, and Camilla Cascio. He is also survived by many loving nieces and nephews.

Dr. Cascio was the son of proud parents Joseph and Josephine Cascio. His mother was born in Cefalù, Sicily, and his father in Baltimore, Maryland, although of Italian legacy. They were married at Our Lady of Victory Church on the Northwest Side of Chicago. The family was of modest means, for dad was a barber who worked on the tenth floor at the 105 West Adams Building in downtown Chicago. In spite of the financial difficulty, he always believed in providing his children with a Catholic education.

Dr. Sam attended Our Lady of Victory grammar school and went on to St. Mel

High School (run by the LaSalle Christian Brothers) at a reduced tuition, thanks to Brother James. He went on to St. Mary's College (now a university) in Winona, Minnesota. After one year, he enlisted in the Navy rather than being drafted into the Army. He served three and a half years in the Pacific as a radioman aboard the LST 281 during World War II. After an honorable discharge, he completed his education at St. Mary's College under the GI Bill and received his Bachelor of Science degree in chemistry and biology. He went on to Loyola School of Dentistry, where he received his DDS degree in 1952.

Dr. Sam credits his quality education from the Christian Brothers as laying the foundation for his successful 56-year career as a dentist on the Northwest Side of Chicago.

Dr. Sam was chairman of many fund-raising events. He raised funds for St. Mel High School through their Cadillac giveaway dinners, subsequently being given the "Mel Man of the Year" Award in 1966. He was chairman for the St. Mary's College Chicagoland Area Capital Campaign with a \$1.5 million goal and served on the Board of Trustees for ten years. He was a charter member of the President's Council from 1974–1994 and established the "Cascio Family Court," honoring his commitment to the Brothers of the Christian Schools and their LaSallian Mission of Education at St. Mary's University of Minnesota. He was also co-chair for the \$100 million campaign for the Dental Alumni Division of Loyola University.

Dr. Cascio was a past president of the Illinois State Dental Society; a past president of the Chicago and Illinois Academy of General Dentistry; a past president of the Arcolian Dental Arts Society (an organization of Italian-American dentists in the Chicagoland area); and was presented the "Arcolian Man of the Year Award" in 1981. He was also a past president of the Loyola Dental Alumni Association, the Progressive Club of the Chicago Dental

Society, and the Northwest Side Branch of the Chicago Dental Society. He was a past president and lifetime member of the Columbian Club of Chicago and a past chairman of the Columbian Club Scholarship Committee for ten years.

At the University of Illinois Chicago, he served on the Eye Fund Board of Trustees for 26 years, including 18 years as its vice president; was awarded an honorary lifetime membership in the UIC Dental Alumni Association; was a President's Council Member and University of Illinois Foundation Member. He established the "Samuel J. Cascio, DDS" scholarship for Italian-American students at the UIC Dental School. He earned fellowship in both the American and International College of Dentists. He received the Distinguished Dentist Award from the Illinois State Dental Society; received the Loyola University Dental Alumni Founder's Day Award; and was the commencement speaker for Loyola School of Dentistry at his son's (Dr. Michael) graduation in 1987. Dr. Cascio was a 4th Degree member of the Knights of Columbus and also an American Legion member of Post 250.

Additionally, Dr. Cascio received the 2015 Marshall H. Smulson, DDS, Humanitarian Award at the 41st Annual Giants Dinner sponsored by the Ed Kelly Sports Hall of Fame. He was also the recipient of the Humanitarian Award from the Italian-American Executives of Transportation.

Family and friends will be received at Russo Hillside Chapel, 4500 Roosevelt Rd., Hillside, IL 60162, on Sunday, December 14, 2025, from 2:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Visitation will also take place at the funeral home on Monday, December 15, 2025, from 8:45 a.m. until the time of the funeral procession at 9:30 a.m., going to Visitation Catholic Church, 779 S. York Street, Elmhurst, IL 60126 for Mass of Christian Burial at 10:00 A.M. Entombment will follow at Queen of Heaven Cemetery Mausoleum.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to St. Mary's University of Minnesota, 700 Terrace Heights, Winona, MN 55987-1399.

Cemetery Details

Queen of Heaven Catholic Cemetery and Mausoleum in Hillside

1400 South Wolf Road
Wolf and Roosevelt Road
Hillside, IL 60162
(708) 449-8300
<http://www.catholiccemeterieschicago.org/locations.php?cem=14>

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 14. 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Russo's Hillside Chapels
4500 Roosevelt Road
Hillside, IL 60162

Final Viewing and Prayers

DEC 15. 8:45 AM - 9:30 AM (CT)

Russo's Hillside Chapels
4500 Roosevelt Road
Hillside, IL 60162

Mass of Christian Burial

DEC 15. 10:00 AM (CT)

Visitation Catholic Church in Elmhurst
851 S. York Street
Elmhurst, IL 60126
<https://visitationparish.org/>

Tribute Wall

SR

“ On behalf of the University of Illinois Chicago College of Dentistry community, please accept our deepest condolences on the loss of your dear father, Dr. Samuel J. Cascio. He lived a remarkable life defined by faith, service, and an enduring commitment to family, education, and community. His legacy as a devoted husband, loving father and grandfather, decorated veteran, and respected dentist and leader will continue to inspire all who were touched by his life. May the many memories you share bring comfort, and may you find peace in knowing how profoundly he was loved and admired. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family during this difficult time. Dean Susan Rowan

Susan Rowan - December 17, 2025 at 03:50 PM

BM

“ Dr Sam was the epitome of kindness and strength. His leadership inspired many. I was fortunate to meet him through our local dental organization and he mentored me in the process. There was no better human being. We have all been made better by knowing him. Much love and rest in peace. Barbara



Barbara Mousel - December 15, 2025 at 11:50 PM

PS

“ Patricia S. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dr. Samuel J. Cascio.

Patricia S. - December 15, 2025 at 06:14 PM

DR

“ Dear Family, Please accept my thoughts and prayers for you and for your beloved Dr. Sam. I share your grief and sense of loss for Sam, and the loss is real and deep. However as I think about your Dad and Grandfather I am in awe at all his experiences; and the lives he has touched. His whole life was spent in preparation for the moment he left us. His mission was to live, laugh (he did that a lot), and love. His mission is fulfilled now that he is with his Eternal Father, Son, Holy Spirit. Let us all rejoice at his accomplishment, the knowledge he loved us all. Me especially for he was a friend and mentor. I know our tears of loss will become tears of joy knowing he is still loving us from Heaven. God Bless you. Dr. Peter D. Roberson P.P. ISDS

Dr. Peter Roberson - December 15, 2025 at 10:55 AM

TE

“ One of the *GREATEST* men I ever met. Full of positive energy, humorous, religious, entertaining, intelligent, always a pleasure to be around. He will be missed but always remembered.

Tony Esposito - December 14, 2025 at 02:46 PM

TF

“ The Corona Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dr. Samuel J. Cascio.

The Corona Family - December 14, 2025 at 11:22 AM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Dr. Samuel J. Cascio.*



December 14, 2025 at 11:22 AM



“ *Robles Cascio Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dr. Samuel J. Cascio.*

Robles Cascio Family - December 13, 2025 at 06:17 PM



“ *Loving Lilies and Roses Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dr. Samuel J. Cascio.*



December 13, 2025 at 06:17 PM



“ *When I reflect on Sam's 101 years, I think of living life, love and laughter. Sam lived life to the fullest, gave of his time and talents in the service of others and brought much laughter to the world. Sam will be greatly missed but he will continue to live in our hearts and minds. The memories he created with everyone he met will be cherished and will inspire us to follow his many positive examples.*

Pat Wager - December 13, 2025 at 10:12 AM

KC

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



KK Cascio - December 13, 2025 at 09:23 AM

TC

“ The Progressive Club of the CDS purchased the Enduring Grace for the family of Dr. Samuel J. Cascio.



The Progressive Club of the CDS - December 12, 2025 at 05:20 PM

TC

“ The Progressive Club of the CDS planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dr. Samuel J. Cascio.

The Progressive Club of the CDS - December 12, 2025 at 05:20 PM



“ 204 files added to the album *LifeTributes*



Morizzo Funeral Home & Cremation Services - December 12, 2025 at 11:51 AM



“ *Lavender Reflections Spray* was purchased for the family of *Dr. Samuel J. Cascio*.



December 11, 2025 at 02:17 PM



“ *Love, The Performance Wealth Team* purchased the *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* for the family of *Dr. Samuel J. Cascio*.



Love, The Performance Wealth Team - December 11, 2025 at 12:40 PM



“ Love, The Performance Wealth Team planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dr. Samuel J. Cascio.

Love, The Performance Wealth Team - December 11, 2025 at 12:40 PM

“ I’ll never forget the first time I played golf with Sam at the Island Country Club. I’m out there slicing balls into the palm trees like I’m auditioning for a hurricane, and here comes this silver-haired legend, 90 years young, strolling up in his perfectly pressed slacks like he owns the fairway—which, let’s be honest, he basically did.

Every drive he hit was a laser. Straight down the middle, bouncing twice and stopping like it had manners. I finally said, “Sam, how in the world do you do that?” He looked at me, didn’t even break a smile, and said, “Son, at my age the ball knows if it doesn’t go straight, it’s walking home.”

From that day on, while golfing I only called him one thing: Straight Ball Sam. He’d tip his visor and say, “Good luck trying to keep up, kid,” then proceed to beat me by while telling me jokes so that I began to wonder if I should check to see if our cart had confessionals.

We played many times, and I never won a match. But man, did we laugh. The man had a comeback for everything. One day I complained, “Sam, I sure wish I could hit it as straight as you do.” He didn’t miss a beat: “Good luck, son. My ball’s been going straight since Truman was president. Yours is still trying to find itself.”

Then one afternoon our buddy Larry Osbourne shows me this magazine—Chicago Dental Review—with Sam on the cover, big headline: “Dr. Sam Cascio Turns 100: There’s Sam grinning with his World War II hat on, looking exactly the same as he did on the 12th tee.

I about dropped my phone. I contacted our COO at the Island Country Club and said, “We’ve got a living legend, and nobody knows he just hit triple digits!” Within two weeks our COO received permission due to copyright laws to post the article in our Club new letter.

Sam's gone now, no more one-liners echoing off the water hazards. No more watching that perfect little white dot split the fairway like it was born to behave.

But every time my ball actually flies straight—and believe me, that's rare-I look up at the sky, grin, and mutter, "Good luck, son."

Miss you, Straight Ball Sam. Thanks for the laughs, the lessons, and the most humiliatingly beautiful golf I've ever had the privilege to lose.

Rest easy, my friend. The fairways up there better be ready—they've never had anyone hit 'em this straight.



Brian Burcham - December 11, 2025 at 11:23 AM

LK

“ Love, Gail and Greg Kay purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Dr. Samuel J. Cascio.



Love, Gail and Greg Kay - December 11, 2025 at 09:58 AM

PM

“ Uncle Sam was so much to all of us. I can not imagine a world without him. We were so blessed that he was part of our lives.
Patricia McCalip

Patricia McCalip - December 11, 2025 at 06:18 AM

TF

“ The Costello Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dr. Samuel J. Cascio.

The Costello Family - December 10, 2025 at 11:23 PM

TF

“ The Costello Family purchased the Serene Reflections Bouquet for the family of Dr. Samuel J. Cascio.



The Costello Family - December 10, 2025 at 11:23 PM

SL

“ Skip and Laura purchased the Magnificent Life Spray for the family of Dr. Samuel J. Cascio.



Skip and Laura - December 10, 2025 at 07:37 PM

IS

“ IL State Dental Society Board & Staff planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dr. Samuel J. Cascio.

IL State Dental Society Board & Staff - December 10, 2025 at 04:21 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Dr. Samuel J. Cascio.*



December 10, 2025 at 04:21 PM



“ *Care and Compassion Spray was purchased for the family of Dr. Samuel J. Cascio.*



December 10, 2025 at 03:24 PM



“ *Rosemary and Pam purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Dr. Samuel J. Cascio.*



Rosemary and Pam - December 10, 2025 at 12:34 PM



“ *Sam was one of the first dentists I met after finishing my residency in oral surgery and going to work at the associates for oral surgery in 1970. He was so welcoming. We had lunch with a group of dentists from the northwest side. We became good friends and went on many vacations together. He and Rosemary, John Caringella and his wife Marilyn and my wife Bonnie and I. He was always smiling and had a great attitude. A friend for life. Bless you Sam. You're friend. Gerry Spinazze*

dr gerald spinazze - December 10, 2025 at 09:42 AM

EK

“ Well, I lost a wonderful caring buddy. I was fortunate to see him on his last morning and read to him the Irish blessing. I always enjoyed his stories and wisdom. I will never forget one of his first jobs being the head usher at the Portage Park theatre. Years later I became the projectionist at the same theatre. I am glad he is finally home so that there be perpetual light upon him and eternal rest.

Ed K - December 10, 2025 at 07:13 AM

RK

“ Robert K. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dr. Samuel J. Cascio.

Robert K. - December 10, 2025 at 02:48 AM

RK

“ Robert K. purchased the Lily and Rose Tribute Spray for the family of Dr. Samuel J. Cascio.



Robert K. - December 10, 2025 at 02:48 AM

RK

“ How can one even begin to describe the life of our hero; my dear Uncle Sam?

He was indeed the mainstay of so many of us, not to mention those in heaven who are greeting him at this very moment.

As most of you know, he has had a long history of helping others both in his personal as well as his professional life.

Not only was he an exceptional father to his loving family but he was a driving force providing guidance and leadership in the numerous associations he belonged to. And today, I am sure it would be impossible to gather all of the citations, plaques and awards he received over the years.

But on a somewhat personal and private perspective, let me tell you how he made his mark on my life and what he meant to me:

I'm Bob Krause; the youngest son of Sam's sister Marie. I was this little 4 year old nephew of his who had the time of his life going to the wedding of his Uncle Sam and his girlfriend Mary. Can you believe; that was 76 years ago.

He was my Uncle Sam who I idolized not only because of his humor and fun stories, but mainly because of that private room in the basement on Cullom street.

What used to be merely my Uncle Sams escape from the world where he studied while going to college, as a curious 6 year old it soon became my secret place to investigate each time we went to Gram and Grampa Cascio's house. In that room were things no one could have imagined. There were books and drawings and various items he obviously cherished. He had accumulated several preserved animals, insects and various bottled biological specimens of every sort. It was, as I learned later in life; his "Cabinet of Curiosities".

Without him realizing it, his influence back then, contributed to my direction in life;really kicking it off a few years later; that day when he stopped by on his way home from playing a round of golf. He couldn't resist picking up that large painted turtle crossing the fairway; a gift for his insect and turtle loving 9 year old nephew.

Throughout his entire life, my Uncle Sam was the finest example of a true gentleman, always looking smart, standing tall with a smile on his face and a gleam in his eye. He had a special wit and an extraordinary mind.

It's now like we're all going to sit at our future gatherings and wait for him to take his place at the podium to either guide us in prayer or to tell us an amusing short story. But it will only be a memory.

He meant the world to me

robert krause - December 10, 2025 at 02:36 AM

EB

So sad to hear of the passing of Sam Cascio. We were both active in the Illinois State Dental Society and we were Past Presidents. Sam was an outstanding person as well as a wonderful professional. He will be missed by all of us.

Erwin Barrington - December 11, 2025 at 09:32 AM