

## DiIulios and Shaffers Gathered for Aero Benefit Dance in Memory of Munda DiIulio; “Run for Munda” Still Accepting Donations

On November 6, a benefit dance was held in New Oxford, PA, in honor and memory of Armando “Munda” DiIulio. A former Johnsonburg resident, Munda passed away on September 25 after a long struggle with brain cancer. He was 52. Nearly 300 people attended the benefit dance, which was organized by Munda’s former employer, Aero Energy, Inc. Over \$6,000 was raised to help with the DiIulio family’s lingering medical expenses and needs.

Munda is survived by his wife Shauna (formerly Shaffer, also originally from Johnsonburg), daughter Rachael, sons Matt and Tony, and four grandchildren. Representing the family at the November 6 dance were Shauna, Rachael and her husband Steve, Matt and his wife B.J., and Tony and his girlfriend Amanda.

Munda was the son of Dolores DiIulio and the late John DiIulio, of Johnsonburg. He married the former Shauna Shaffer, daughter of the late Wally and Nellie Shaffer of Johnsonburg, and the couple settled in Littlestown, PA, about 12 miles southeast of Gettysburg.

Upon settling in Littlestown, Munda worked first for Agway/Hanover Home & Garden, and then for Aero Energy. At both places, he quickly gained a reputation for being an extremely loyal, dependable, and hard worker as well as a man of few words. At Aero, Munda rose through the ranks to become a service manager, but he was always ready to work on a furnace or some other service call right alongside those whom he supervised, at all hours of the night and day. And while he wasn’t much of a talker, Munda was a good listener; even if both of his phones were ringing, he took time to interact with the men on the service team as well as the women back in the office.

Although Munda and Shauna had left their families behind in Johnsonburg when they moved to Littlestown, the sense of family and community they brought with them made a deep impression on those around them, and out of strangers and co-workers became a new kind of family and community. Munda took their children on service calls. Shauna quickly came to recognize each of Munda’s co-workers by the sound of his or her voice on the phone. After Munda’s diagnosis with brain cancer, an even tighter bond developed among them.

Munda passed away on September 25 after a brave fight. For his September 29 funeral as well as the November 6 benefit dance, family from the Johnsonburg area drove down to take part. For some of them, it was the first time meeting many of the people with whom Munda had spent most of his adult life. But all quickly realized that the Munda they knew and loved in different capacities and at different times was the same man, whose loss left a void in their lives and drew them together.

Area relatives who attended the funeral, the dance, or both included Dolores DiIulio, John “Chum” DiIulio, Jr., Becky Kreckel (formerly DiIulio), Erin and Christopher Kreckel, Tom and Luck Scida (formerly Shaffer), Taylor and Travis Scida, Ken and Linda Shaffer, Dan & Kathy Shaffer, Katie and Carly Shaffer, Butch and Denise Casilio, Ginette Watts (formerly Casilio), and Richie and Alexia Lawson (formerly Shaffer). Former Johnsonburg residents Nancy DiIulio,

Kate DiIulio, George DiIulio, Krista Shaffer, Laura Smith (formerly Shaffer), Shannon Shaffer-Kartesz, and Adair McCabe also attended. Taylor Scida and Ginette Watts provided special music for the funeral service, and Ken Shaffer spoke on behalf of the Shaffer family. Shauna's friend Ann Wilson read a poem.

The DiIulio and Shaffer families were deeply impressed by the outpouring of support from the people with whom Munda had worked. At the funeral, Joanne Benett spoke on behalf of Agway/Hanover Home & Garden. From Aero Energy, Keith Malonosky spoke on behalf of the service department, and Missy Ford spoke on behalf of the girls in the office and dispatch. Munda's family learned how, in the months before his death, Aero folks called regularly and helped the family cope. Both Aero and Hanover Home & Garden planned fundraisers. For Munda's funeral, virtually the Aero entire service department where Munda worked was granted leave – in the middle of a workweek. Aero CEO Tom Washburn attended. And in a moving tribute, Aero employees arrived at the funeral in their service trucks, and then formed a procession to accompany Munda to his final resting place at Mt. Carmel Cemetery.

The November 6 benefit dance, organized by Aero, once again brought together Munda's friends, family members, and dozens if not hundreds of Aero employees. Staff members Joyce Miller and Rhonda Thomas had spent months coordinating the event's many facets: a dance with a DJ, a raffle of over fifty gift baskets (many of which had been donated by Aero departments), plenty of donated food and drink, a 50-50 drawing, and donated door prizes. Aero's Michelle Fernandez crafted a memory board featuring photographs of Munda, supplied by Shauna. Clad in jeans, Aero CEO Tom Washburn came to the dance as well, bringing his wife Melanie.

Shauna's family couldn't help but observe that while the "corporate America" you hear about in the headlines makes you worry for your country, the commitment Aero has shown to Munda, Shauna, and their family makes you want to swell with pride, stand up, take your hat off, and applaud. Perhaps it was just Aero's way of saluting Munda, a worker of uncommon devotion. In the early planning stages, it had been hoped that Munda would be well enough to attend the dance. In his absence, his former company, friends, and family made it an amazing celebration of his life. America could use more companies like Aero, and men like Munda, who will be greatly missed.

NOTE: The last of the fundraisers planned for Munda, Shauna, and family - the "Run for Munda" - will end on November 21, the date of the JFK 50-Mile Race from Boonsboro, MD to Williamsport, MD. Two runners, Munda's niece Krista Shaffer of Annapolis (originally of Johnsonburg) and her friend Ray Rogers of Frederick, MD, are organizing the campaign, as you may have read in these pages a while back. They will participate in the JFK 50-Mile Race on Munda's behalf, and are "selling" miles to raise money for his expenses. For more information, visit their web site, <http://runformunda.blogspot.com>. Krista Shaffer thanks everyone "back home" who has already participated! All proceeds go directly to Munda's family.