



*History of the  
Tiano and Ferrara Families*

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The Sal and Kim Tiano  
Family

# Dedication

*My purpose in researching our ancestors and creating this book is to allow my own children and the generations still to come to learn about the hardships and great sacrifices our ancestors made to give all of us a brighter future. You will notice a common theme from our ancestors. They were all hard workers. They were all generous. They didn't make excuses. They loved food. And most of all, they prioritized the bonds of family. Their goal in coming to America was to create a better life for their children and future generations. I hope you never lose sight of the fact that those who came before us deserve our continuing gratitude. I hope you will learn to appreciate the family's traditions and continue them in the future. We owe it to our ancestors to maintain a strong drive and work ethic, to be generous, to stay humble, and to remain dedicated to cherishing and nurturing close family bonds.*

*As the Bible says in Luke 12:48: "To whom much is given, much will be required."*

*I would like to thank my wife, Kim, for being such an inspiration. You met me when I had very little means, but saw I had a strong family foundation and big dreams. Thanks for believing in me and being a great wife and mother.*

*To my children—Tory, Brenna, Will, Nick, and Alexa: I am so very proud of you and can't wait to see what the future holds for you.*

*I would like to thank my big brothers, Joe and John, for their guidance and love. I have looked up to you both my entire life and truly appreciate the bond we have, which will never be broken.*

*Finally, special thanks goes to my parents, Joe and Roberta (Ferrara) Tiano, who have been the clearest and most steadfast example of family love and sacrifice in my own life. Your legacy will live on.*

— Sal Tiano

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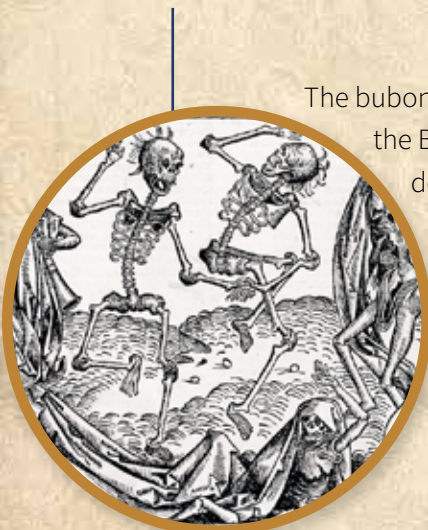


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# Timeline of World Events



The bubonic plague, called the Black Death, devastates Italy, killing nearly one-third of the population.



Michelangelo begins painting the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel.



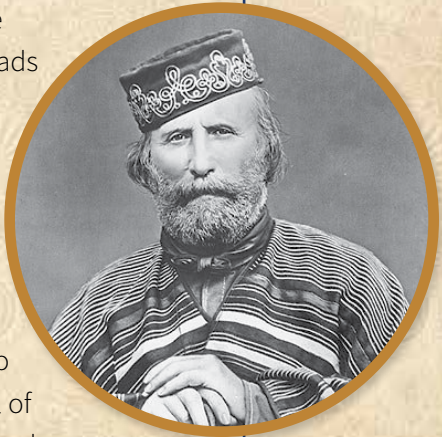
Galileo Galilei is condemned for heresy by the Catholic Church for believing that the earth revolves around the sun; the Church would not admit the truth of Galileo's belief or clear his name for more than 300 years.



Antonio Vivaldi publishes "The Four Seasons," part of a 12-set concerti called "Il cimento dell'armonia e dell'invenzione."



Napoleon is defeated and Italy becomes a patchwork of independent states, duchies, and kingdoms.



Giuseppe Garibaldi leads a force of volunteers called the "Red Shirts" in a campaign to take control of Sicily and Naples; he is crowned King of Italy in March 1861.

1348

1508

1633

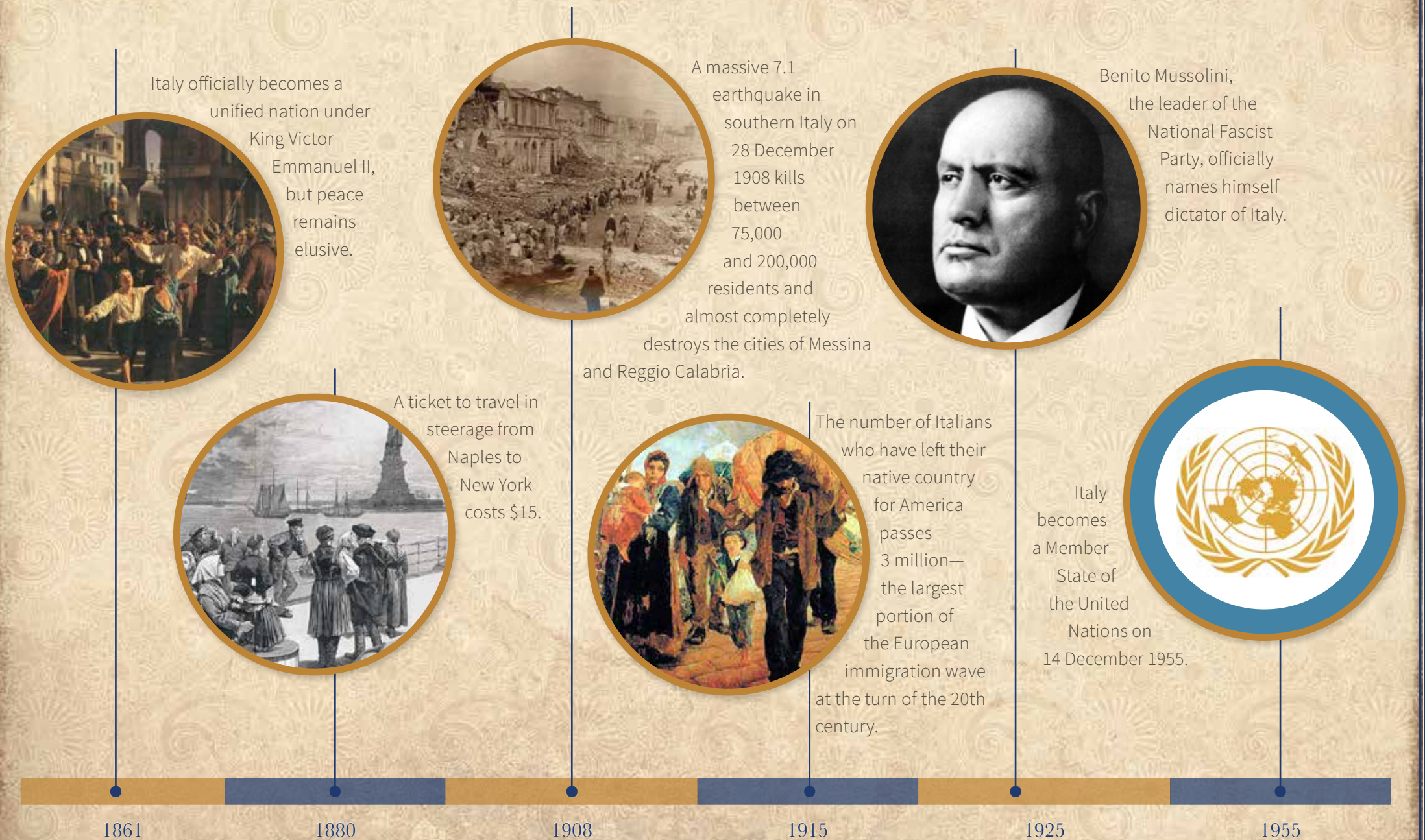
1725

1814

1860



# Timeline of World Events

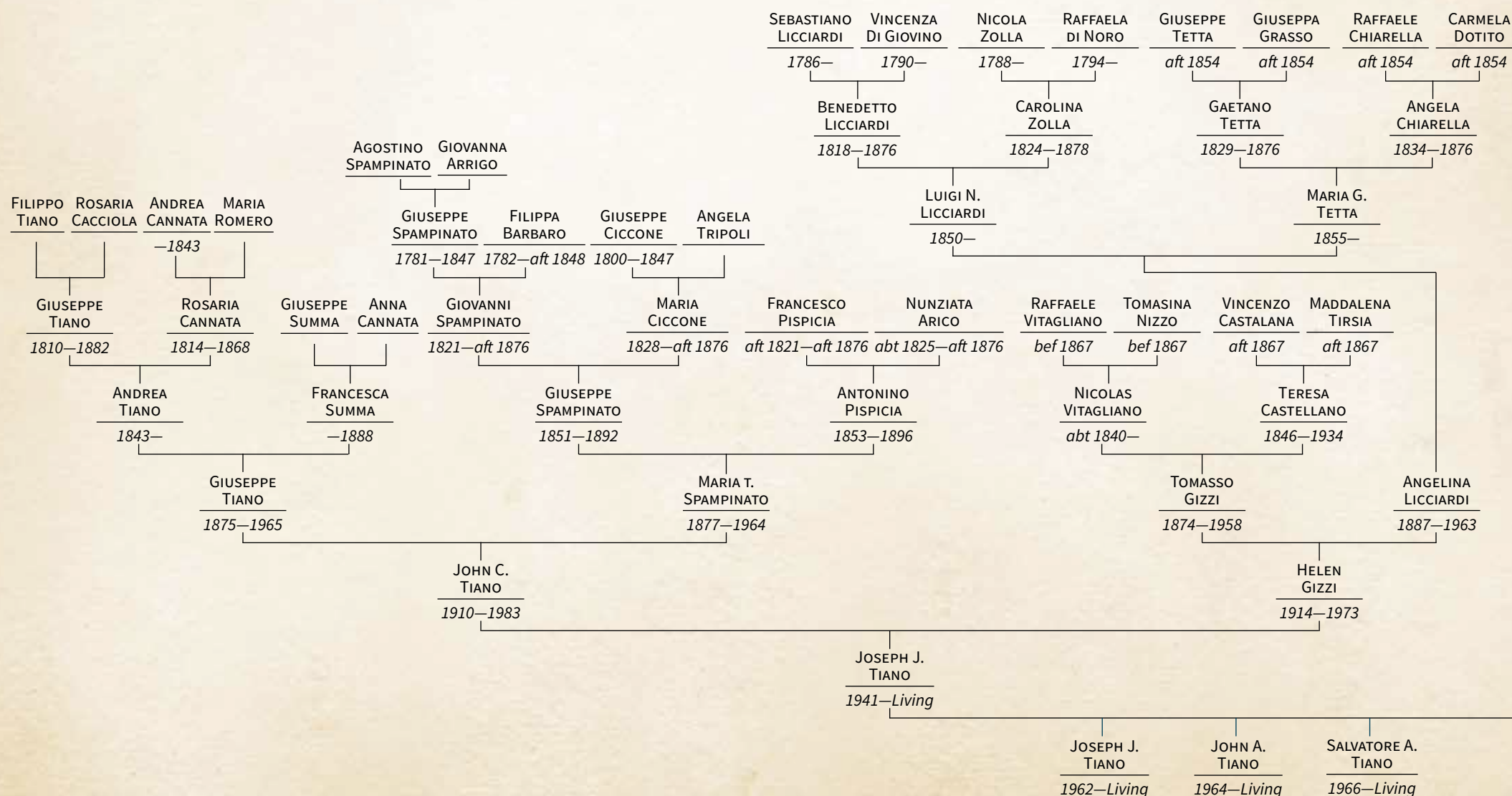






# Family Tree

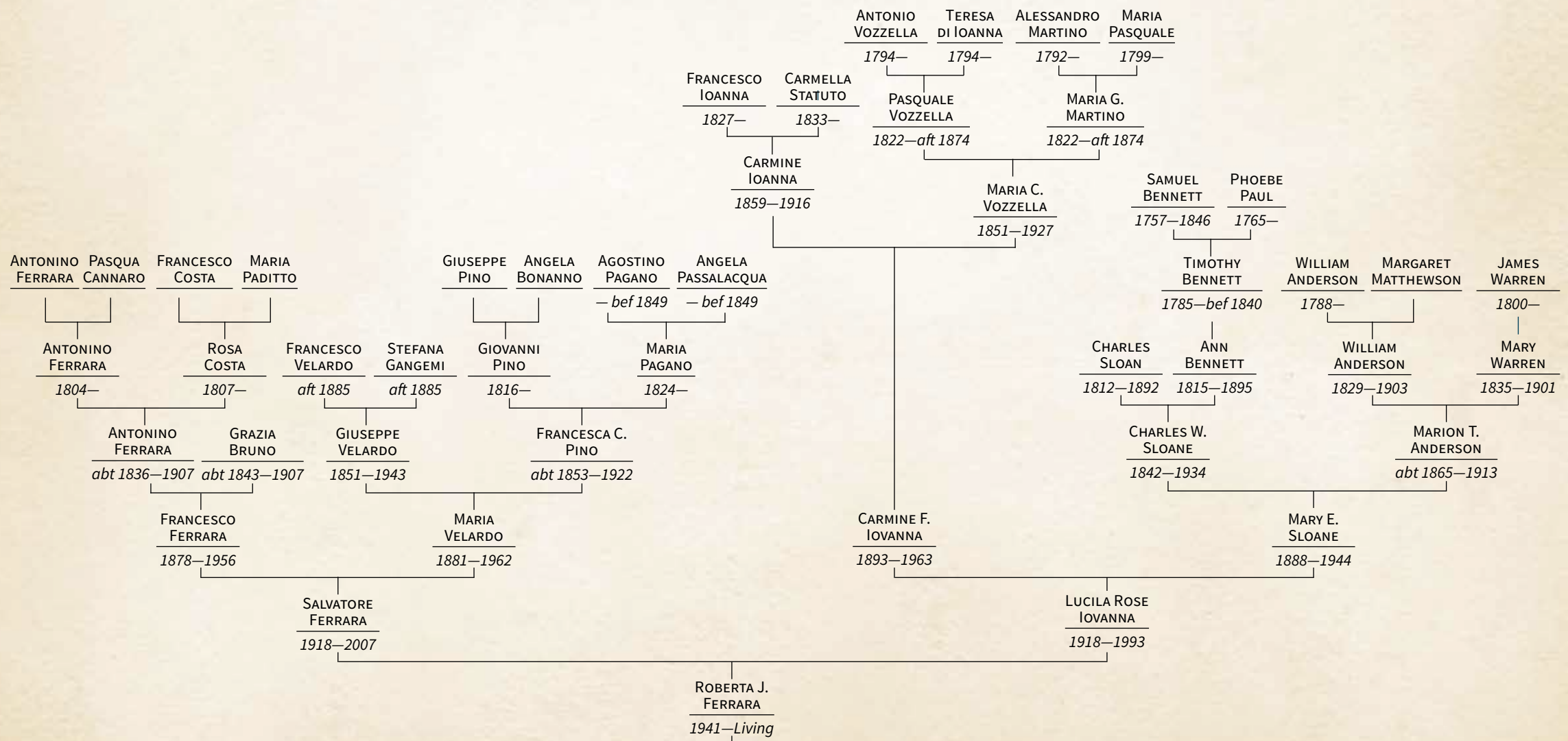
## THE TIANO PATERNAL ANCESTORS





# Family Tree

## THE TIANO MATERNAL ANCESTORS



*Note: The earlier generations of the Iovanna family spelled their surname without the "v" in the middle. The "v" was added later, in America, possibly to aid in pronunciation.*





Photochrom of an Italian home on the seaside, Messina, Italy



# Introduction

**T**he following story of the Tiano, Gizzi, Ferrara, and Iovanna families has been compiled through documentary and on-site research in Italy and the United States combined with the generous sharing of family stories and memories during the course of several interviews with living members of the family. These elements are sewn together in the chronological story contained in these pages, starting with the earliest known ancestor in the Tiano family line. Similarly, chapters 2, 3, and 4 relate the story of the Gizzi, Ferrara, and Iovanna families from the earliest known ancestors up to modern times.

The story attempts to reveal the day-to-day realities of these ancestors, and the roots of many modern family traditions are seen even in the topmost branches of the tree. Family was everything, because relatives were the first and most loyal source of love and support. Both sides of the family had long-standing traditions of gathering for dinner after Mass on Sundays. After years of near poverty and the resulting poor nutrition in Italy, most members of the family—especially the hard-working matriarchs—equated food with love, and the care and attention they devoted to feeding their families and sharing their culinary talents shows their intense desire to keep their families strong and healthy.

Generosity is another running theme in this story. In many lines of the family and across many generations, ancestors have taken in foster children or community members in need and given them a family and foundation to get started in life. This tradition has continued to the living generation of Tiano brothers, who welcomed beloved family members through adoption.

At least five relatives in the family tree (four on the Tiano line and one on the Ferrara line) were likely victims of the horrific 1908 earthquake in Messina, since they died on the day of the tragedy—28 December 1908. Besides those exceptions, a certain amount of luck in timing was involved in the family's continuation and success. Of the immigrant couples on the four primary family lines—Tiano, Gizzi, Ferrara, and Iovanna—all but one direct ancestor had left Italy for America before the 1908 earthquake. (One, Francesco Ferrara's wife, Maria Velardo, left Sicily with her two young daughters just 20 months before the disaster.) The only immigrant ancestor who came to America after the quake was Angelina Licciardi, the wife of Tomasso Gizzi, and her family was from central Italy (Lucera) and not Messina. It is highly likely that the family's living descendants may never have existed if any of the immigrant ancestors had waited a few months or years longer to leave for America.

The individuals in this story are unique, each shaped by the time and circumstances into which they were born. Nevertheless, common themes surface again and again with each generation: resilience, extreme generosity and concern for those in need, a willingness to work hard, a love of humor and laughter, prioritization of togetherness, and adaptation to changing economic, physical, and political landscapes.

A desire to create a better life for their children is evident in each generation, and indeed, the family is thriving today. It is abundantly clear that the many sacrifices those immigrant ancestors made were worth it.



# THE TIANO FAMILY LINE





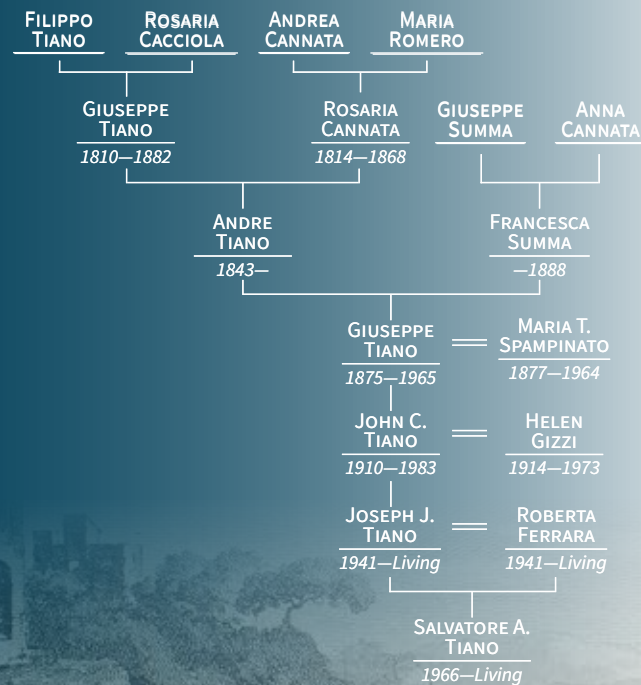
Map of Sicily, 1900





# Chapter One

## THE TIANO FAMILY

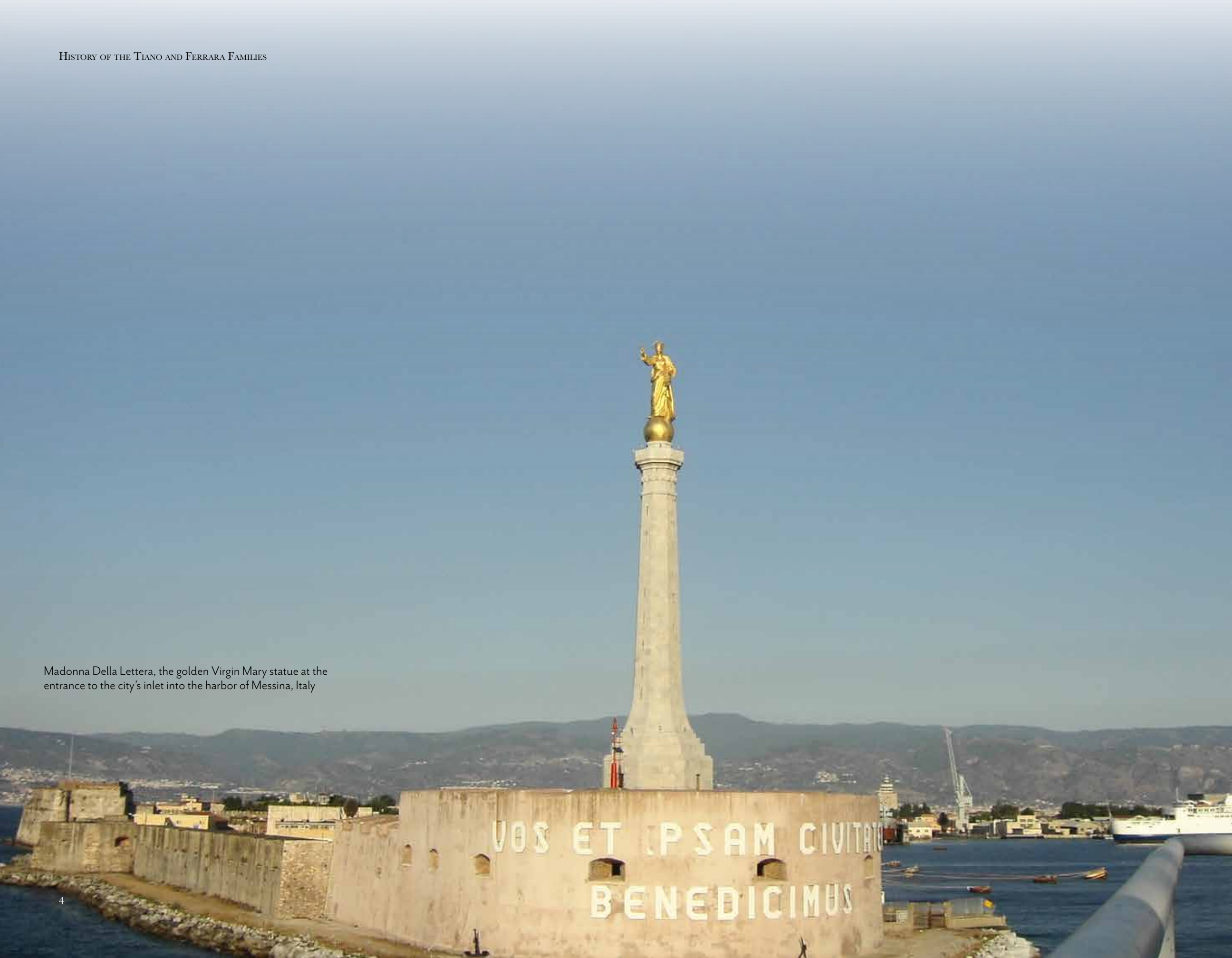


**T**he earliest known Tiano family members lived during a turbulent time in the 19th century in Messina, Italy—an area that has had a challenging history for many centuries. While most records that would have revealed how they earned a living have been lost or destroyed, it is possible that they made their living on the sea, as later descendants did. Messina’s location at the northeastern corner of the island of Sicily with easy access to the Tyrrhenian, Ionian, and Mediterranean seas, not to mention the Strait of Messina itself, made the sea a prominent character in the lives of Messina residents.

More Italians migrated to the United States between 1895 and 1915 than any other group of Europeans, and the Tianos were among them. Their story reveals the reasons they left and the payoff their decision brought for later generations.

Engraving of the Port of Messina, Sicily





Madonna Della Lettera, the golden Virgin Mary statue at the entrance to the city's inlet into the harbor of Messina, Italy

## Filippo Tiano and Rosaria Cacciola

Few details are known about Filippo Tiano and Rosaria Cacciola, the earliest known ancestors in the Tiano line, although surviving records show they had at least four children. They were likely both born in Messina, since their oldest son, Giuseppe, married there in 1840.

THE KNOWN CHILDREN OF FILIPPO TIANO AND ROSARIA CACCIOLA	GIUSEPPE ( <b>ANCESTOR</b> ) ( <i>about 1810–28 December 1882</i> )
	MARIA ( <i>died 1 November 1907</i> )
	GRAZIA ( <i>died 2 December 1908</i> )
	FLAVIA ( <i>died 29 January 1906</i> )

Messina has a special connection to its patron, the Virgin Mary. Not only does she welcome ships into port with her giant golden statue at the entrance of the city's naturally formed inlet, but she has many churches dedicated to her throughout the province, and her image is at the center of the city's immense religious celebrations. Perhaps the Tianos' first daughter was given this name in honor of the patron saint.

So far, there is no information on when Filippo and Rosaria died. Sadly, three of their daughters—Maria, Grazia, and Flavia—died in three consecutive years from 1906 to 1908. These sisters were likely at an advanced age when they died, since they were probably born around 1800 or 1820, judging by their brother Giuseppe's birth year.

### THE OTHER CHILDREN OF FILIPPO TIANO AND ROSARIA CACCIOLA IN LATER YEARS

**Maria** Tiano, the oldest known daughter of Filippo Tiano and Rosaria Cacciola, married Francesco Sciacchitello. Maria died on 1 November 1907,

but her age at the time of her death is not known because her birthdate is not yet known.

**Grazia** was not yet married when she died on 2 December 1908, just 26 days before the devastating earthquake in Messina. (See page 17 for more on the earthquake and its aftermath.)

**Flavia** married Angelo Briguglio. She died on 29 January 1906.

## Giuseppe Tiano and Rosaria Cannata

Giuseppe Tiano, the oldest known child of Filippo Tiano and Rosaria Cacciola, was born in about 1810, likely in Messina. He married Rosaria Cannata in Messina on 17 February 1840. Rosaria, born in about 1814, was the daughter of Andrea Cannata and Maria Romero. Giuseppe and Rosaria had at least six children together.

THE KNOWN CHILDREN OF GIUSEPPE TIANO AND ROSARIA CANNATA	ANDREA ( <b>ANCESTOR</b> ) ( <i>born 12 September 1843</i> )
	ROSARIA ( <i>born 29 December 1846</i> )
	ANTONINO ( <i>died 15 March 1888</i> )
	FILIPPO ( <i>died 9 September 1900</i> )
	MARIA ( <i>died 28 December 1908</i> )
	CONCETTA ( <i>died 28 December 1908</i> )

Giuseppe's occupation was described as "mariner" at the time of his marriage in 1840, and the birth record of his oldest known child, Andrea, shows he was still working as a seaman in 1843. Perhaps he was employed in the ports and dockyards, or maybe he worked on a ship that carried exports of the



nation's signature products, like olives and olive oil, wheat and other grains, or wine.

Rosaria died sometime after 1868, although the exact date of her death is not known. Giuseppe died on 28 December 1882.

## THE OTHER CHILDREN OF GIUSEPPE TIANO AND ROSARIA CANNATA IN LATER YEARS

**Antonino** was not married when he died on 15 March 1888 in Messina.

**Rosaria** was born in Messina on 29 December 1846, but little else is known about her later life.

**Filippo** married Venera La Rosa and they had two daughters named Rosaria who both died at a young age. The first died in Messina on 25 August 1876 and the second died there on 15 August 1881. Filippo died in Messina on 9 September 1900.

**Maria and Concetta**, both daughters of Giuseppe Tiano and Rosaria Cannata, died on 28 December 1908, likely victims of the earthquake that devastated Messina that day. Concetta's death record did not indicate that she had a husband, but Maria was married to Carmelo Parisi. Both women were likely in their 50s or 60s, judging by the known birthdates of their siblings.

An etching of the Port of Messina, Italy





# *A Glance Back*

## THE PARENTS OF ROSARIA CANNATA: ANDREA CANNATA AND MARIA ROMERO

### ANDREA CANNATA AND MARIA ROMERO

**R**osaria Cannata's father, Andrea Cannata, was likely born in Messina, although the date of his birth is not known. He and his wife, Maria Romero, had at least one child, a daughter named Rosaria; she was born in about 1814.

Andrea was the informant who registered the birth of his grandson Andrea Tiano in September 1843. The baby's birth record says the elder Andrea was a *casciaro*, or person who makes boxes. He lived on Strada Santa Caterina Valverde in Messina.

Andrea died sometime after 1843, but no details are known about when Maria died.



The old city in Messina, Sicily

# Andrea Tiano and Francesca Summa

Andrea Tiano, the oldest known child of Giuseppe Tiano and Rosaria Cannata, was born in Messina on 12 September 1843.

About two months before his 25th birthday, Andrea married Francesca Summa in Messina on 18 July 1868. Francesca was the daughter of Giuseppe Summa and Anna Cannata, and was likely also a native of Messina. Andrea and Francesca had at least three children together.

THE KNOWN CHILDREN OF ANDREA TIANO AND FRANCESCA SUMMA	ANNA (born 5 April 1873)
	GIUSEPPE (ANCESTOR) (12 February 1875–21 April 1965)
	ANTONIO/A (died 17 April 1888)

Andrea worked as a seaman, according to his son Giuseppe’s birth record from 1875, and the family lived at Via Monachella number 3 that year.

Francesca died on 7 June 1888 in Messina. While no documents have surfaced to prove the cause of her death, it is worth noting that several family members died in the first half of 1888. Francesca’s child Antonio (or possibly Antonia—the gender is unclear on written documents) had died just six weeks before her, on 17 April 1888. Perhaps the same deadly illness struck several members of the family. The date of Andrea’s death is not known.

## THE OTHER CHILDREN OF ANDREA TIANO AND FRANCESCA SUMMA IN LATER YEARS

Anna married Salvatore Samperi, a merchant, and they had at least four children. Their first two sons were both named Antonino. The first one, born on 8 January 1904, almost certainly died before the second one was born on 18 June 1905. A son named Andrea was born on 14 October 1907, and another son, Concetto, was born on 10 May 1910.

Antonio/a, whose gender is not clear on official records, died on 17 April 1888, likely before reaching adulthood.





# A Glance Back

## PARENTS OF FRANCESCA SUMMA: GIUSEPPE SUMMA AND ANNA CANNATA

Little is known about Francesca Summa's parents, Giuseppe Summa and Anna Cannata, although it appears they had at least three daughters together. Their daughter Francesca married Andrea Tiano, but died on 7 June 1888.

Another of their daughters, Gaetana, likely died in the Messina earthquake on 28 December 1908. (See page 17 for more on the Messina earthquake.) It is not clear when Giuseppe and Anna died.

THE KNOWN CHILDREN OF  
GIUSEPPE SUMMA AND  
ANNA CANNATA

FRANCESCA (**ANCESTOR**)  
(died 7 June 1888)  
MARGHERITA  
(died 23 August 1903)  
GAETANA  
(died 28 December 1908)

### THE OTHER CHILDREN OF GIUSEPPE SUMMA AND ANNA CANNATA IN LATER YEARS

*Margherita* married Antonio Ando. She died on 23 August 1903.

Gaetana married Francesco Crispi, possibly a relative of the famous Francesco Crispi, who was an Italian statesman. She died on 28 December 1908, likely in the Messina earthquake.

Scene from the aftermath of the Messina earthquake, 1908





## Giuseppe Tiano and Maria T. Spampinato



Giuseppe Tiano  
1875–1965

**G**iuseppe Tiano, the son of Andrea Tiano and Francesca Summa, was born in Messina, Italy, on 12 February 1875. His father was a seaman, and the family lived at Via Monachella #3 at the time of Giuseppe's birth.

Giuseppe seems not to have pursued a life on the sea, as his father and other ancestors had done. Instead, he worked as a laborer at the time he married Maria T. Spampinato in Messina on 23 July 1898. Maria, the daughter of Giuseppe Spampinato and Antonina Pispicia,

was born in Messina on 7 January 1877. (See page 25 for more on Maria's ancestors.) Maria worked

as an embroiderer at the time of their marriage.

Just two months after they married, Giuseppe and Maria left Italy for America—a fortuitous decision considering the disastrous earthquake that would nearly obliterate Messina ten years later. The date of their departure put them on the early side of the massive wave of immigration from Sicily and other parts of Italy



Maria (Spampinato) Tiano and grandchild

to America. Many more Sicilians would sail to the United States after 1900, but Giuseppe could likely already see that little opportunity remained for a laborer in his hometown. At that time, the illiteracy rate in southern Italy was about 70 percent—10 times higher than the rate in Germany, England, or France.

They were also unique in that Giuseppe and Maria left Italy together. Often, young men would make the trip first to find work and earn a decent living before sending for their wives and any children who may have already been born. But the Tianos had likely decided to make the trip before they married, since their departure took place so soon after their wedding.

They boarded the SS *Alsatia* in Naples on 19 August 1898 and set out across the Atlantic. The Tianos were not sailing entirely into the unknown. The ship's manifest notes that they were on their way to the home of “aunt Concetta Revili” at 197 North Street in Boston, although it is not clear whether this was Giuseppe's or Maria's relative.



Giuseppe Tiano with his grandchildren

*“Back in the 1850s, Horace Greeley had popularized the phrase: ‘Go west, young man,’ as a spur to ambitious young Americans. Its Sicilian version was: go west, go north, go anywhere; here you have no chance.”*

— Sandra Benjamin, “Sicily: Three Thousand Years of Human History”

## *The Ellis Island Experience*

The voyage was no small undertaking. Besides spending three weeks at sea in very modest accommodations, they faced an intense inspection process at Ellis Island. Tyler Anbinder, author of “City of Dreams: The 400-Year Epic History of Immigrant New York,” has studied the conditions those immigrants faced after they sailed past the Statue of Liberty into New York Harbor.

“More often than not, the steamship passengers would not go to Ellis Island immediately upon entering the harbor but would have to remain overnight aboard their ship before the immigration station was ready to process them. This last night, spent so close to America and yet so far, given the uncertain reception that awaited, was incredibly stressful, creating a ship full of insomniacs. According to a journalist who traveled in steerage to report on the experience, ‘nobody had slept the night before’ their arrival at Ellis Island.

“Even before they could set foot on shore, the immigrants had to undergo a health inspection so that no one with a potentially lethal contagious disease could spread it at the immigration station. A physician from the Marine Hospital Service (later renamed the Public Health Service) would climb a ladder from a launch to board the immigrants’ ocean liner and search for any signs of cholera, typhus, or other deadly diseases. Sometimes these medical inspections took place in the middle of the night so that the passengers could land at Ellis Island first thing in the morning. Those found to have these illnesses were sent to the quarantine hospital on Staten Island. In such cases, the whole shipload of passengers would have to wait several days in the harbor so that those who might have been infected but were not yet exhibiting symptoms could be identified and quarantined. For many immigrants, this was their third medical inspection—the first having been administered by the railway



The SS *Alsatia*, the steamship that brought Giuseppe and Maria Tiano to America in 1898



that carried them across Europe, and the second by the steamship company at the port.

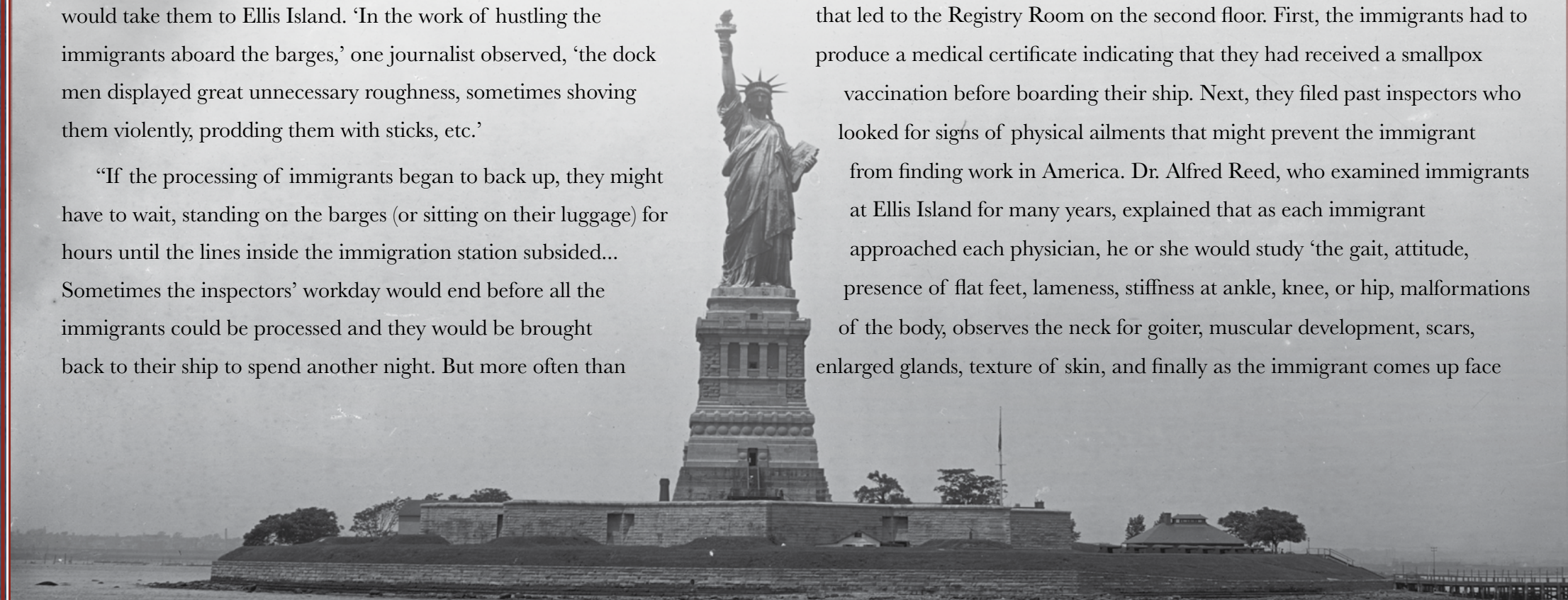
“Before the immigrants could leave the ship, the crew would gather them on deck, call out their names from the ship manifest, and, when each one stepped forward, pin a large piece of paper to the person’s clothing with a letter and a number on it. Tags with the same letters and numbers would be pasted onto every piece of luggage the immigrants carried. The letter on the tag allowed officials on Ellis Island to identify the ship on which the immigrants and their baggage had traveled, while the number corresponded to the passenger’s place on that ship’s manifest. Finally, dockworkers or sailors herded the arrivals, carrying all their worldly possessions, onto barges or ferries that would take them to Ellis Island. ‘In the work of hustling the immigrants aboard the barges,’ one journalist observed, ‘the dock men displayed great unnecessary roughness, sometimes shoving them violently, prodding them with sticks, etc.’

“If the processing of immigrants began to back up, they might have to wait, standing on the barges (or sitting on their luggage) for hours until the lines inside the immigration station subsided... Sometimes the inspectors’ workday would end before all the immigrants could be processed and they would be brought back to their ship to spend another night. But more often than

not, the inspectors would work overtime until everyone transported to Ellis Island that day had been processed.

**“On a typical day it could take anywhere from two to five hours from the time the immigrants left their ship to the completion of their processing, but given the anxiety and the interminable waiting, it seemed much longer.”**

“Once landed on Ellis Island, the immigrants left their luggage outside the main building and headed inside for inspection, which began with the medical examination. The exam was performed not by one doctor but in assembly-line fashion by more than a dozen officials stationed at various points along the line that led to the Registry Room on the second floor. First, the immigrants had to produce a medical certificate indicating that they had received a smallpox vaccination before boarding their ship. Next, they filed past inspectors who looked for signs of physical ailments that might prevent the immigrant from finding work in America. Dr. Alfred Reed, who examined immigrants at Ellis Island for many years, explained that as each immigrant approached each physician, he or she would study ‘the gait, attitude, presence of flat feet, lameness, stiffness at ankle, knee, or hip, malformations of the body, observes the neck for goiter, muscular development, scars, enlarged glands, texture of skin, and finally as the immigrant comes up face



The Statue of Liberty in New York Harbor, about 1900



to face, the examiner notes abnormalities of the features, eruptions, scars, paralysis, expression, etc.’ Poor posture might indicate a bad back. A limp could be a sign of a permanent deformity of the lower extremities. Holding one’s head at an odd angle might be evidence of a neck ailment.

“Unlike the inspectors in the Registry Room, who were hired for their facility with languages, the doctors were rarely fluent in the immigrants’ native

tongues, and would instead memorize the questions they typically asked in the most common immigrant languages. Often they could not understand the answers, but this fact did not concern them. Rather, they used the speed and tone of the answer, as well as the facial expression of the immigrant, as the main criteria by which to discern a potential mental defect.”

— Tyler Anbinder, “City of Dreams:  
The 400-Year Epic History of Immigrant New York”



Italian immigrants waiting in line at Ellis Island, 1900



Chalk Markings	
X	Suspected mental defect
⊗	Definite signs of mental disease observed
B	Back
C	Conjunctivitis
CT	Trachoma
E	Eyes
F	Face
Ft	Feet
G	Golter
H	Heart
K	Hernia
L	Lameness
N	Neck
P	Physical and Lungs
Pj	Pregnancy
Sc	Scalp (Favus)
S	Senility

The chalk symbols marked on an immigrant's back

The doctors conducting these inspections had to keep the line moving as quickly as possible, so instead of pulling people with ailments aside, they marked the immigrants' clothing with chalk or a note pinned to the fabric so they could be examined more carefully later. They often scrawled a letter—"B" for a suspected back problem, "S" for senility, etc.—on the clothing to denote the questionable symptom.

After the physical examinations, those immigrants who passed went upstairs to the registry room. Early on—likely at the time the Tianos arrived—they waited in gated pens that could hold 30 people, the same number that could be listed on a page of a ship's manifest, according to Anbinder:

"When the newcomers' names were finally called, they stepped forward—palms sweaty, mouths dry—for what they knew might be the most important interrogation of their lives.

"The immigration inspectors in the Registry Room who guarded what H.G. Wells aptly called 'the gate of America' had enormous control over the fate of each

immigrant. Decades later, newcomers recalled with gratitude the officer who had waved them past even though they had only \$22 (instead of the required \$25), or who did not ask to see their money at all, or who had suggested that an immigrant rethink his answer when, out of nervousness or ignorance, he gave a reply that might get him turned away."

— Tyler Anbinder, "City of Dreams: The 400-Year Epic History of Immigrant New York"

## FINDING THEIR WAY IN NEW YORK

About 20 percent of immigrants arriving at Ellis Island faced some delay in their processing, but ultimately, only about 2 percent were turned away because of physical maladies, mental illness, or suspicions of criminal background, anarchy, or inability to support themselves.

Giuseppe had reported before they left Italy that he had never been in an almshouse or prison or relied on charity, and the passenger manifest recorded that he worked as a barber at the time. This may be incorrect, though, because his descendants have no memory of him ever working as a barber.

"I've never heard anything about that. Sometimes they label them as barbers when they come on the ship and they say, 'Go cut somebody's hair.'"

— Joe Tiano Sr.

Italians did later dominate the barber's trade in New York. By 1920, the city had about 10,000 Italian barbers, accounting for two-thirds of all the barbers in the metropolitan area.

When Giuseppe and Maria arrived in New York on 10 September 1898, they reported their intentions to eventually continue to Boston. However, they first had to navigate the streets of Manhattan, where they would stay for some time before earning enough money to move on. Now, several generations later, it is intriguing to guess what must have passed through the minds of those Messina natives—and all of the immigrant family members who arrived in later years—as they glimpsed the Big Apple for the first time. Anbinder reports that many were completely taken by surprise at the enormity and bustle of the big city:

(see next page)

It was recorded on the manifest that Giuseppe Tiano worked as a barber, although that may be an error.





“When the immigrants headed for New York City landed in lower Manhattan, their senses were bombarded with strange new sights, sounds, and smells. ‘I could hardly believe my eyes, it was so wonderful at first,’ recounted an Italian immigrant of his initial impression of New York. ‘I was bewildered,’ Russian immigrant Morris Shapiro told an interviewer of his arrival in 1923, ‘at the sight of trains running overhead, under my very feet, trolleys clanging, thousands upon thousands of taxis tearing around corners, and millions of people rushing and pushing through the screaming noise day in and day out. To me this city appeared as a tremendous overstuffed roar, where people just burst with a desire to live.’ The city blazed with light even at night, an amazing phenomenon to immigrants from the countryside. The noise was deafening. People moved so fast. The air smelled bad. Where was the sky? Where were the stars? As a German immigrant who arrived in 1910 recalled, ‘It was just overwhelming.’”

“But eventually, after a few hours or a few days, the enormity of what they had just been through would sink in, and the immigrants would realize that after years of planning, saving, convincing, organizing, and arranging, and after weeks or months of travel by foot, cart, train, and ship, their long-held dream had finally become a reality: ‘I was in America!’”

— Tyler Anbinder, “City of Dreams:  
The 400-Year Epic History of Immigrant New York”



The iconic “Little Italy” on Mulberry Street in New York City

When the 1900 census was taken about a year and a half after their arrival in the U.S., Giuseppe and Maria lived in Manhattan. Their first child, Andrew, was born shortly after that census was taken, on 13 August 1900, after the Tianos moved to Connecticut. But on 8 June 1900, when that year’s census was taken, they lived at 48/50 Mulberry Street in Manhattan, and Giuseppe was employed as a contractor, although the nature of his work was not recorded. The census of that year has some errors, perhaps an indication that the language barrier may have prevented the recording of accurate information, even though Giuseppe said he could read, write, and speak English. For instance, the census taker recorded that Giuseppe and Maria had been married for three years, when they had actually only been married for two. Giuseppe’s immigration year was recorded as 1890 and Maria’s as 1896, even though they came together from Italy in late 1898. Both of their dates of birth were recorded incorrectly on this census, too.

Mulberry Street was part of the neighborhood called “Little Italy.” In an effort to preserve their culture, Italian Americans formed entire such neighborhoods in various American cities. The support from friends and a common native language was important as the newly arrived immigrants adjusted to American life and ways.





1886 at Mulberry Bend in the Five Points neighborhood looking north from just above Cross Street. The tenements on the left were razed to create Mulberry Bend Park (now Columbus Park). The two tenements visible on the right, 46 Mulberry Street in the foreground and 48-50 Mulberry Street on the Bend, are still there. The Tianos lived at 48-50 Mulberry Street for a while immediately after they arrived in America.

However, based on what historians have discovered about Mulberry Street, the Tianos were probably living in extremely dilapidated housing during their time in New York. The Five Points area of Manhattan, at the southern ends of Baxter and Mulberry Streets, had just been featured by journalist Jacob Riis in his books on the area; Riis called them “ramshackle structures...with every kind of abomination” and, at one point, even referred to Mulberry Bend as “a vast human pigsty.” In 1888, the *Leslie’s Weekly* newspaper called Mulberry Bend “a seat of iniquity, poverty, and dirt. It is one of the danger-spots of the town.” Diseases such as tuberculosis, measles, and diphtheria were prolific there, and especially deadly for children.

Either way, the Tianos only stayed on Mulberry Street long enough to get on their feet and find their way out. In 1899, Maria became pregnant with their

first child, Andrew, and this likely served as more impetus to find a new home. They were in New Haven, Connecticut, by 13 August 1900, when Andrew was born. By 1903, when their next son, Joseph, was born, the Tiano family lived in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and the three children who followed in later years, Frances, John, and Antonietta “Ann,” were also born there. When John was born in August 1910, the family lived at 4 Fruit Street in Cambridge.

However, as the Tianos were getting on their feet in America, a tragedy struck Messina that would change its citizens—not to mention its ancient buildings—forever. (See special section on next page.)



# The Messina EARTHQUAKE OF 1908

*At* 5:21 a.m. on 28 December 1908, Messina was obliterated by a massive earthquake, the most devastating in European history.

*For 30 terrifying seconds, a magnitude 7.1 tremor shook the city, burying about 80,000 people under the rubble of the city. Others who survived the shaking were swept away about 10 minutes later by three successive tsunami waves, the first estimated to be 20 to 40 feet high.*

These waves swept over the harbor, smashed boats docked at the pier, and broke parts of the sea wall. The water crashed down into the three city blocks closest to the harbor, sweeping away everything in its path, including many people. Bodies of tidal wave victims were later discovered as far away as the

Greek Islands and in the Persian Gulf in Asia.

A young doctor who escaped with his life later said that “the profound silence was broken by an extraordinary noise like the

Messina citizens digging in ruins after the earthquake



bursting of a thousand bombs, followed by a rushing and torrential rain.”

Then he heard a “sinister whistling sound” which he likened to “a thousand red hot irons hissing in the water.” A total of 293 aftershocks took place in the 10 weeks following the large quake.

The epicenter of the earthquake was under the Strait of Messina, which separates the island of Sicily from the province of Calabria, the “toe” of Italy’s geographical “boot.” Messina is on an earthquake-prone belt that has been active since ancient times.

More than 90 percent of the city’s buildings were destroyed, and the streets virtually disappeared as giant landslides slipped down the mountains on top of the city. Messina had gone from a busy metropolis with a population of 160,000 people to a completely ruined ghost town mourning the deaths of about 100,000 people. The death toll was so high because most people were asleep when the quake took place, and were either killed and buried in their beds or died as their houses collapsed on top of them.



The aftermath of the 1908 Messina earthquake



The aftermath is a sad tale of too many orphaned children; too little help arriving too late; the looting and thievery of ruined houses; and broken families, fortunes, and hopes. The civilian and military hospitals in Messina lay in ruins, with nearly all of the doctors and nurses dead. The injured had no medical support or treatment until outside help arrived to set up hospital tents. Emergency help was delayed because railroad lines were mangled and telegraph lines were severed. The Messina shoreline was forever altered as large sections of the coast sank into the sea. Thousands of buildings—houses, churches, monuments, palaces, military barracks, stores, and municipal structures—had completely collapsed or were severely damaged.

It must have been agonizing for Giuseppe and Maria to hear the news of the earthquake that leveled their hometown. It was probably weeks before they heard whether their family members had survived. While a number of their siblings had also come to America, they both had aunts, uncles, and cousins

still living there, and a few of them died on the day of the quake. The lives of their other family members were upended as the long rebuilding process started. Perhaps, like many other Italian families, Giuseppe and Maria sent some money home to the Italian Tianos and Spampinatos to sustain their families through the chaos.

One of the most devastating aftereffects of the earthquake and tsunami is that civic and church records were irretrievably scattered or lost entirely. Any documents that were not buried in the rubble were left vulnerable to the tsunami waves that poured into the civic buildings in the historic city center, which had been wiped out entirely. While the government later tried to recreate some of these records by gathering information from those who survived the quake, many details about earlier Messina residents' births, marriages, baptisms, and deaths were lost forever. To this day, some records remain scattered in piles in the basements of Messina's city buildings. The situation has

frustrated countless genealogists throughout the decades, not to mention families searching for their own histories. Most of them never find information about their ancestors who lived before 1908, and those who do often spend three times as many hours as they otherwise would have searching for clues amid the few surviving records.



Survivors of the earthquake in Messina, 1908



Despite being 43 years old at the time of the World War I draft and therefore older than most soldiers drafted into military service, Giuseppe dutifully filled out his draft card on 12 September 1918. He and his family lived in a rental home at 7 4th Street in Cambridge at that time. He reported that he was short and slender with brown eyes and hair. He worked at 210 Broadway in Cambridge as a laborer at what was recorded as “Doten and Duffon Company” on his draft card, but which must have referred to the well-known department store Houghton and Dutton Company. This store was well established by then as a business that sold every personal and home necessity—from furniture and clothing to food and medicine—at low prices. It had been started by Samuel S. Houghton, who originated the department store model and helped his brother-in-law, R. H. Macy, develop the famous Macy’s department store in New York. However, Houghton returned to Boston to open a store of his own with Benjamin P. Dutton, which became America’s second department store. Giuseppe described his work only as “labor” on his draft card, so his particular role with the company is not known.

The Tianos lived in that same home in Cambridge in 1920. The census listed no occupation for Giuseppe (or “Joe,” as he was called on the official document), but perhaps that was because he was already self-employed as a fruit peddler, which he did for most of his later adult life. Their five children—Andrew, Joseph, Frances, John, and Ann—all lived at home. The census only listed an occupation for 16-year-old Joseph, who was an office boy for a printing company.

THE KNOWN CHILDREN OF  
GIUSEPPE TIANO AND  
MARIA T. SPAMPINATO

ANDREW  
(born 13 August 1900)

JOSEPH  
(born 20 January 1903)

FRANCESCA “FRANCES”  
(born 11 May 1905)

JOHN C. (ANCESTOR)  
(27 August 1910–23 December 1983)

ANTONIETTA "ANN"  
(born 4 July 1913)



Advertisement  
from Houghton  
and Dutton  
Company, 1924

REGISTRATION CARD										ORDER NUMBER	
SERIAL NUMBER	2 432									2601	
1	Giuseppe				Trane				Last name		
2	PERMANENT HOME				Cambridge, Mass.						
3	Date of Birth				(Month or season)				(Season)		
4	Age in Years		Date of Birth		1915		(Year)				
RACE											
5	White		Negro		Oriental		Caucasian		Indian		
6	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		
U. S. CITIZEN											
Native Born					Naturalized			Alien			
10	11		12		13		14		15		
Cause in Father's Naturalization Before Registrant's Majority					Declarant			Non-declarant			
If not a citizen of the U. S., of what nation are you a citizen or subject? Italy											
PRESENT OCCUPATION					EMPLOYEE'S NAME						
16	Laborer				Robert E. Duffon						
17 PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS											
18	Boody				Cambridge, Mass.						
19 NEAREST RELATIVE											
20	John				Trane						
I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE FURNISHED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE											
P. M. G. O. Form No. 1 (Rev. 1915)											

Giuseppe Tiano's World War I draft card

20-5-5. C

REGISTRAR'S REPORT

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DESCRIPTION OF REGISTRANT

HEIGHT				BUILD				COLOR OF EYES	COLOR OF HAIR
Ta	Medium	Short		Slender	Medium	Stout			
22	22	23		24	25	26		27	28
		<i>X</i>		<i>X</i>				<i>Brown</i>	<i>Brown</i>

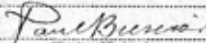
29 Has person lost arm, leg, hand, eye, or is he obviously physically disqualified (Specify):

.....

.....

30 I certify that my answers are true; that the person registered has read or has had read to him his own answers; that I have witnessed his signature, or mark, and that all of his answers of which I have knowledge are true, except as follows:

.....

  
 \_\_\_\_\_ of Registrar

Date of Registration: **SEP 12 1910**

**Local Board Division No. 1**  
**Cambridge, Mass.**  
**Residence Co. Court House**

(STAMP OF LOCAL BOARD)

(The stamp of the Local Board having jurisdiction of the area in which the registrant has his permanent home shall be placed in this box.)

FD-202 (OVER)



STATE Massachusetts  
COUNTY Middlesex  
TOWNSHIP OR OTHER DIVISION OF COUNTY \_\_\_\_\_  
NAME OF INSTITUTION \_\_\_\_\_

9-187  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE—BUREAU OF THE CENSUS  
FOURTEENTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES: 1920—POPULATION  
NAME OF INCORPORATED PLACE Cambridge City  
ENUMERATED BY ME ON THE 18th DAY OF April 1920.

26 (D1-576)  
SUPERVISOR'S DISTRICT No. 146  
ENUMERATION DISTRICT No. 24  
WARD OF CITY 1 (part of) Pr. 1 (part of)  
SHEET No. 25 A  
ENUMERATOR 4947

PLACE OF ABODE.	NAME of each person whose place of abode on January 1, 1920, was in this family. Enter surname first, then given name and middle initial, if any. Exclude every person living on January 1, 1920, from children born since January 1, 1920.	RELATION.	SEX.	MARITAL STATUS.	EDUCATION.	NATIVITY AND MOTHER TONGUE.						OCCUPATION.		
						Place of birth.	Mother tongue.	Place of birth.	Mother tongue.	Place of birth.	Mother tongue.			
230 508	Flanagan Joseph & Theresa	Head	M	48	78	Irish	English	Irish	English	Irish	English	Watchman	Building	W
238 408	Dionisio Carmilla	Head	F	39	78	Italy	Italian	Italy	Italian	Italy	Italian	None	Sub Work	W
	Mary	Wife	F	35	78	Italy	Italian	Italy	Italian	Italy	Italian	None		
	Lucy	Daughter	F	11	78	Massachusetts	Italian	Italy	Italian	Italy	Italian	None		
	James	Daughter	F	10	78	Massachusetts	Italian	Italy	Italian	Italy	Italian	None		
	Raffa	Son	M	9	78	Massachusetts	Italian	Italy	Italian	Italy	Italian	None		
	Margaret	Daughter	F	7	78	Massachusetts	Italian	Italy	Italian	Italy	Italian	None		
	Ellen	Daughter	F	3	78	Massachusetts	Italian	Italy	Italian	Italy	Italian	None		
	John	Daughter	F	1	78	Massachusetts	Italian	Italy	Italian	Italy	Italian	None		
246 244	Canj Timothy	Head	M	43	78	Irish	English	Irish	English	Irish	English	None		
	Johnnie	Wife	F	40	78	Irish	English	Irish	English	Irish	English	None		
	Johnnie	Daughter	F	11	78	Massachusetts	Irish	Irish	Irish	Irish	Irish	None		
	Mary	Daughter	F	8	78	Massachusetts	Irish	Irish	Irish	Irish	Irish	None		
248 244	Longman John	Head	M	34	78	Irish	English	Irish	English	Irish	English	None		
	Mary	Daughter	F	13	78	Massachusetts	Irish	Irish	Irish	Irish	Irish	None		
	Calvin	Daughter	F	10	78	Massachusetts	Irish	Irish	Irish	Irish	Irish	None		
	Edmond	Son	M	8	78	Massachusetts	Irish	Irish	Irish	Irish	Irish	None		
	William	Daughter	F	6	78	Massachusetts	Irish	Irish	Irish	Irish	Irish	None		
	O'Brien William	Son	M	2	78	Irish	English	Irish	English	Irish	English	None		
	Michael	Daughter	F	2	78	Irish	English	Irish	English	Irish	English	None		
250 244	Perry Mary	Head	F	40	78	Portugal	Portuguese	Portugal	Portuguese	Portugal	Portuguese	None		
7 248	Carla Samuel	Head	M	30	78	Italy	Italian	Italy	Italian	Italy	Italian	None		
	Theresa	Wife	F	30	78	Italy	Italian	Italy	Italian	Italy	Italian	None		
	Carmela	Daughter	F	5	78	Massachusetts	Italian	Italy	Italian	Italy	Italian	None		
	Ray	Daughter	F	3	78	Massachusetts	Italian	Italy	Italian	Italy	Italian	None		
	Ellen	Daughter	F	1	78	Massachusetts	Italian	Italy	Italian	Italy	Italian	None		
508	Tiano Joseph	Head	M	43	78	Italy	Italian	Italy	Italian	Italy	Italian	None		
	Mary	Wife	F	39	78	Italy	Italian	Italy	Italian	Italy	Italian	None		
	Andrew	Son	M	19	78	Massachusetts	Italian	Italy	Italian	Italy	Italian	None		
	Joseph	Son	M	16	78	Massachusetts	Italian	Italy	Italian	Italy	Italian	None		
	Francisca	Daughter	F	14	78	Massachusetts	Italian	Italy	Italian	Italy	Italian	None		
	John	Son	M	9	78	Massachusetts	Italian	Italy	Italian	Italy	Italian	None		
	Antonetta	Daughter	F	6	78	Massachusetts	Italian	Italy	Italian	Italy	Italian	None		
509	Sadow John	Head	M	29	78	Russia	Russian	Russia	Russian	Russia	Russian	None		
	Becky	Wife	F	23	78	Russia	Russian	Russia	Russian	Russia	Russian	None		
	Anna	Daughter	F	4	78	Massachusetts	Russian	Russian	Russian	Russian	Russian	None		
	Alexander	Son	M	3	78	Massachusetts	Russian	Russian	Russian	Russian	Russian	None		
	Wilson	Daughter	F	2	78	Massachusetts	Russian	Russian	Russian	Russian	Russian	None		
510	Sarkul Constantin	Head	M	36	78	Poland	Polish	Poland	Polish	Poland	Polish	None		
	Sophia	Wife	F	22	78	Poland	Polish	Poland	Polish	Poland	Polish	None		
	Josephine	Daughter	F	7	78	Massachusetts	Polish	Polish	Polish	Polish	Polish	None		
	Stephen	Daughter	F	5	78	Massachusetts	Polish	Polish	Polish	Polish	Polish	None		
	Fory	Son	M	2	78	Massachusetts	Polish	Polish	Polish	Polish	Polish	None		
6 244	Leach John	Head	M	32	78	Poland	Polish	Poland	Polish	Poland	Polish	None		
	Anna	Wife	F	33	78	Poland	Polish	Poland	Polish	Poland	Polish	None		
	Stella	Daughter	F	10	78	Massachusetts	Polish	Polish	Polish	Polish	Polish	None		
	Laura	Daughter	F	8	78	Massachusetts	Polish	Polish	Polish	Polish	Polish	None		
	Wilson	Daughter	F	2	78	Massachusetts	Polish	Polish	Polish	Polish	Polish	None		

1920 CENSUS  
GIUSEPPE TIANO FAMILY  
Living at 7 4th Street

**JOSEPH TIANO:** Head, home rented, male, white, 43, married, immigrated in 1899, naturalization status: alien, can read and write, born in Italy, speaks Italian, father and mother born in Italy (spoke Italian), can speak English, no occupation.

**MARY TIANO:** Wife, female, white, 39, married, immigrated in 1899, naturalization status: alien, can read and write, born in Italy, father and mother born in Italy (spoke Italian), can speak English, no occupation.

**ANDREW TIANO:** Son, male, white, 19, single, didn't attend school, can read and write, born in Massachusetts, father and mother born in Italy, no occupation.

**JOSEPH TIANO:** Son, male, white, 16, single, didn't attend school, can read and write, born in Massachusetts, father and mother born in Italy, can speak English, occupation: printing office boy.

**FRANCISCA [sic] TIANO:** Daughter, female, white, 14, single, did attend school, can read and write, born in Massachusetts, father and mother born in Italy, can speak English, no occupation.

**JOHN TIANO:** Son, male, white, 9, single, did attend school, born in Massachusetts, father and mother born in Italy, no occupation.

**ANTONETTA [sic] TIANO:** Daughter, female, white, 6, single, did attend school, born in Massachusetts, father and mother born in Italy, no occupation.

1920 U.S. Federal Census, Cambridge City, Massachusetts



Three of the Tiano children would leave home and set out on their own in the following decade. By 1930, Giuseppe and Maria lived at 158 Bennington Street in East Boston, and only their youngest two children—19-year-old John and 16-year-old Ann—lived at home. Giuseppe, who was 54 years old then, still worked as a fruit peddler and paid \$28 in rent each month, the equivalent of about \$420 in modern currency. John, who was 19 years old then, worked as a packer for an ice cream company while his younger sister, Ann, attended school.

Knowing how difficult the Depression years became and how tight money was for most Americans in the 1930s, it is likely that Giuseppe struggled to earn money as a fruit peddler. However, the family was able to leave Bennington Street and move into a home at 282 Lexington Street, where they remained for the rest of their lives. The 1933 Boston city directory shows them living there, and Giuseppe was still selling produce from a cart that he pushed through the streets.

“He was maybe 5’7” and he had this mustache that went around, almost like a handlebar. He was thin, very small, maybe 150 pounds. And he used to wear those Italian berets, like, those hats. I always remember him as very small. Didn’t speak much, didn’t talk much...And he would...leave early in the day, go down to the marketplace, and he’d have this pushcart and he’d sell fruit—apples, bananas, and things like that. And he pushed the cart down to the square in East Boston and he’d sell his wares.”

—Joe Tiano Sr.

The Tianos had no money for overseas travel, so trips home to Italy were out of the question. In fact, Giuseppe and Maria may never have visited their family again after they left Italy. Most of their siblings immigrated to America, too, so they did have a number of relatives nearby. They continued to speak in Italian for the rest of their lives, but had plenty of people in their

community who also primarily used Italian to communicate. Although they lived in America, the flavors and cultural underpinnings of Italy dominated their neighborhood and their lives. Gradually, they picked up some words and phrases in English, and Giuseppe often used a smattering of English in his sales of produce. But he mostly sold his goods to fellow Italians.

“He would go into the north end in Boston, which was all Italian at the time. And where they lived in East Boston was all Italian. So everybody understood what they were saying.”

—Joe Tiano Sr.

The Tianos’ home at 282 Lexington Street was the ground-floor unit of a three-family home, a common dwelling type in their East Boston neighborhood. They had a small garden in the back yard where they grew their own food, and they were very self-sufficient.

“I remember when we visited them, there was a small alleyway that you could fit two people side by side, and you’d walk down the alleyway and come in through the back. You could go in the front, but we always went in the back, ‘cause that was the kitchen area, and they’d be in there, mostly. She’d be cooking...I remember he used to go down and carry the oil can up from the cellar and put it on. And we’d try to help him sometimes, but he was very independent. He’d get it and put it onto the stove when they had the oil heat.”

—Joe Tiano Sr.





# BIRDS OF PASSAGE

Many Italian immigrants became known as “birds of passage” if they came to the United States temporarily to work and save money as migratory laborers but intended to return to Italy. Before 1900, about 78 percent of all Italian immigrants were men. Many of them sailed to America in the early spring, worked until late fall, and then returned to the warmer climates of home for the winter. Overall, 20 to 30 percent of Italian immigrants returned to Italy permanently. However, it is clear that Maria and Giuseppe both intended early on to make America their permanent home. They

No. 4328137

Name TIANO, Giuseppe

residing at 282 Lexington St., E. Boston

Age 62 years. Date of order of admission Oct. 25, 1937

Date certificate issued Oct. 25, 1937 by the  
U. S. District Court at Boston, Massachusetts

Petition No. 178752

*Giuseppe Tiano*  
(Complete and true signature of holder)

No. 4676619

Name TIANO, Maria

residing at 828 Lexington St., E. Boston

Age 62 years. Date of order of admission Jan. 7, 1937 July 11, 1939

Date certificate issued July 11, 1939 by the  
U. S. District Court at Boston, Massachusetts

Petition No. 197714

*Maria Tiano*  
(Complete and true signature of holder)

both made it official and became U.S. citizens at the age of 62. Giuseppe was naturalized on 25 October 1937, and Maria filed a petition to become a citizen in Boston on 14 March 1939. She was officially naturalized on 11 July 1939.

Naturalization cards for Giuseppe and Maria Tiano. Note their signatures.



According to his grandson Joe Tiano, Giuseppe was rather quiet and even-tempered, a man who rarely yelled. However, he had a difficult relationship with at least one of his children—his oldest son, Andrew. Maria was a bit more vocal than her husband and also more physically imposing.

“She was maybe a little...heavier than him. Not a heavy woman—maybe 165 pounds. And she was about as tall as he was. Pretty lady. She had a pretty face.” —Joe Tiano Sr.

Maria was particularly devout and attended her local Catholic church regularly—up to three times per week. She displayed crosses and burned candles in her home and kept religious items in prominent view. Like most Italian families, the Tianos welcomed their relatives to their home on Sundays after Mass. Their son John and his wife, Helen, and their two sons, Joe and Tom, would often visit after church; Joe remembers many such visits.

“I used to call them ‘Nana’ and ‘Nonno.’ Nana would give me a little bit of meatball with the bread and we’d sit down and we’d talk a few minutes.” —Joe Tiano Sr.

Maria and Giuseppe both lived long enough to see their grandson Joe marry Roberta Ferrara in early 1962. However, Maria suffered from a number of medical conditions that eventually caused her death, including acute kidney failure, bronchitis, emphysema, and heart problems. After she suffered a severe heart attack and developed pneumonia in both lungs, she died at the age of 87 on 19 December 1964. Her funeral took place at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church in East Boston, and she was buried in St. Michael’s Cemetery.

Giuseppe, who was 90 years old by then, only lived another four months after Maria’s death. He died of cardiorespiratory failure and several other ailments at his home on Lexington Street on 21 April 1965. His funeral and burial took place in the same church and cemetery where Maria’s had been held a few months earlier.

## THE OTHER CHILDREN OF GIUSEPPE TIANO AND MARIA SPAMPINATO IN LATER YEARS

**Andrew**, the oldest child of Giuseppe Tiano and Maria Spampinato, was born in New Haven, Connecticut, on 13 August 1900. He lied about his age and joined the Army when he was just 15 or 16 years old. Many years later, just after the attack on Pearl Harbor, Andrew enlisted again on 15 December 1941. He served during World War II until 24 April 1943. After that, he seems to have been rather aimless as he tried to make a living outside the military.

“I remember when he was through with the service, he was in New Orleans, and he used to sell inflatable things to kids and stuff like that. He never had a real job. Then he came back to East Boston and lived with his mother and father for a few years. And then he would call us. And he knew my wife was a good cook, so he’d say, ‘Hey, can I come over on a Sunday?’ And he loved to eat pasta and meatballs and whatever he could. And we had the three boys that were small and he’d bring them little things, little gifts. And he’d say, ‘I’d love to see them go to West Point.’ He was always telling them about different colleges. And he liked us. He liked my wife a lot, ‘cause she’d invite him over.” —Joe Tiano Sr.

Andrew’s relationship with his siblings was fairly strained. After Andrew died on 3 January 1984, his brother John—Joe Tiano’s father—went to his home and found many coins and small bills stashed in cups throughout the house. It amounted to perhaps several thousand dollars.

“And I’ll never forget this: my father kept the money...And my brother went with him and they split the money, never called us. And we have the three boys and we’re both working, we’re struggling to make ends meet. And I was a postman at the time...And later on, we found out—my brother called me,



says, ‘I have a guilty conscience. And I’ve got some money here for you. I want you to take it. I know you can use it.’ ”

—Joe Tiano Sr.

**Joseph “Joe”** was born in Cambridge, Massachusetts, on 20 January 1903, the second child of Giuseppe Tiano and Maria Spampinato. A quiet and reserved man, Joe married a woman named Melvena. He became fairly wealthy and lived in Florida in his later years, and his nephew Joe Tiano saw him very infrequently. He died suddenly on 20 December 1957, a month before his 55th birthday. His funeral was held at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church in East Boston, and he was buried at St. Michael’s Cemetery.

**Frances**, born on 11 May 1905, married Giuseppe “Joseph” Pellegrino and they had six children. Joe Tiano has fond memories of her.

“My Aunt Frances was the best. She was short and a little chunky and always laughing. She would always laugh. And she lived in the same house as her mother—my grandmother. My grandmother lived on the bottom floor and I think they lived on the top floor. And she lived with her husband, Joe, and they were Pellegrinos. And she was very nice. I remember her a lot.”

—Joe Tiano Sr.

Frances died in Boston on 16 July 1976, when she was 71 years old.

**Antonietta, or Ann**, was born in Cambridge, Massachusetts, on 4 July 1913. She was “very strange,” according to Joe Tiano. She married Henry Cullerton Sr. and they had two sons, Henry Jr. and Anthony. Ann and her husband later divorced, and she married John Tammaro. She died on 20 October 1992. Her funeral was held at St. Joseph’s Church in Everett, Massachusetts, and she was buried at St. Michael’s Cemetery.

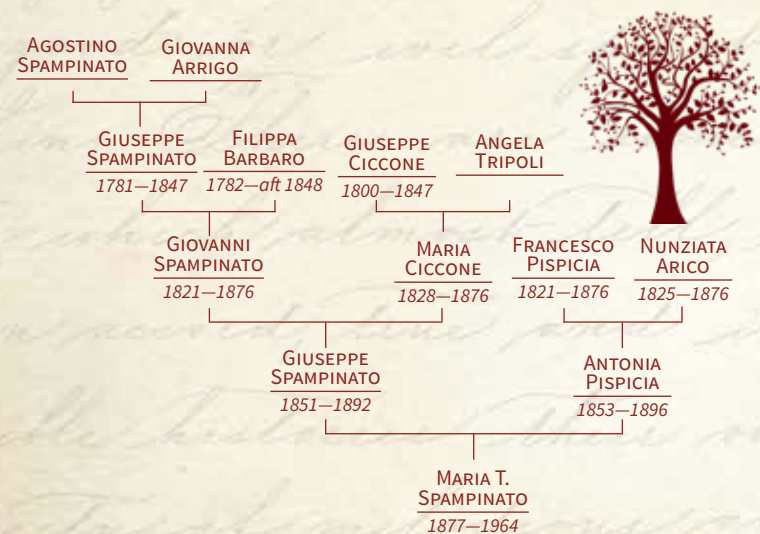


Frances Tiano and her husband, Joe Pellegrino



# A Glance Back

## THE ANCESTORS OF MARIA T. SPAMPINATO



### GIUSEPPE SPAMPINATO AND FILIPPA BARBARO

Maria Spampinato's paternal great-grandfather, Giuseppe Spampinato, was born to Agostino Spampinato and Giovanna Arrigo in Messina in about 1781. He married Filippa Barbaro, a native of Bagnara Calabria, Reggio di Calabria, Italy. She was born in about 1782.

Giuseppe was a seaman in Messina, and it is possible that he sailed a route from Messina through the Strait of Messina and along the western tip of Calabria to Bagnara Calabria. This may have been how he met Filippa, and it is where their son Giovanni was born in April 1821. They likely also had other children whose names are not known.

Giuseppe died in Messina on 23 January 1847, when he was about 66 years old. Filippa died sometime after 1848, although the exact date of her death is not known.

Bagnara Calabria is a small town on the northern coast of the province of Reggio di Calabria in Calabria, southern Italy. It is situated in hilly terrain facing the Tyrrhenian Sea. While the town is known for its elegance and natural beauty, it has also suffered from persistent economic poverty for many generations. It was a center of agriculture and fishing for many centuries. In fact, the village is known for the ancient and rare method its fishermen used to catch swordfish with harpoons from boats called feluccas. Incidentally, Bagnara Calabria is also where the famous fashion designer Gianni Versace was born and raised.



Giuseppe Spampinato's travels at sea from Messina up to Bagnara Calabria





## A GLANCE BACK (CONTINUED)

### GIOVANNI SPAMPINATO AND MARIA CARMELA CICCONE

**G**iovanni Spampinato, Maria Spampinato's paternal grandfather and the only known son of Giuseppe Spampinato and Filippa Barbaro, was born in Bagnara Calabria, Reggio di Calabria, Italy, on 12 April 1821. Like his father, Giovanni earned his living on the sea.

While his father's hometown was Messina, Giovanni appears to have grown up in his mother's hometown of Bagnara Calabria, and he likely met Maria Carmela Ciccone there. After they celebrated a civil marriage ceremony on 30 October 1848, Giovanni and Maria Carmela married in the parish church of Bagnara Calabria on 2 November 1848. Maria was the daughter of Giuseppe Ciccone, a seaman, and his wife, Angela Tripoli. She was born in Bagnara Calabria on 20 February 1828 and baptized two days later at the "Parish of Mia Madre." This may have referred to the Chiesa di Maria SS. del Rosario, which was located near the waterfront.

Maria worked as a spinner, likely turning wool into yarn. Her son Giuseppe's birth record describes her as such in 1851, when she was 20 years old. Spinning was a common cottage industry for women and sometimes children in Italy at that time. They would first card the fiber, breaking it up and sorting the disorganized fluff into long bundles. The work was not particularly difficult, but it could become monotonous. If she worked at a spinning wheel, Maria would have used one hand



Modern-day image of  
Chiesa di Maria church



Replica of a Spinning Jenny

to spin a large wheel made of wood or bone while holding the fibers in the other hand. The wheel twisted the fabric to produce a strong yarn which could then be used to make clothing or other textiles.

However, it is more likely that she worked at a Spinning Jenny, which was invented by James Hargreaves in England in 1764. Hargreaves, like most inventors of the 18th-century Industrial Revolution, focused on producing devices that would save time and labor. The Spinning Jenny made yarn production faster; the first one allowed one person to operate eight spools at the same time, but later models had as many as 120 spools. "Jenny" was a slang term for "engine," so the common belief that Hargreaves named the machine after his wife has been widely disputed.

The Spinning Jenny came to dominate the industry until the introduction of an upgraded textile processor called the Spinning Mule between 1775 and



1779. However, the much bigger and heavier Mules were often operated by men until a self-acting Mule was invented in 1847. It is possible that Maria operated one of these more efficient machines during her lifetime, although it is also possible that she stuck to the primitive and traditional spinning methods that were long established in her family and community. Many consumers continued to prefer the hand-spun textiles of earlier days.

Giovanni and Maria had at least three children—all sons—near the middle of the 19th century. The family stayed in Bagnara Calabria and Giovanni continued working as a seaman.

THE KNOWN CHILDREN OF  
GIOVANNI SPAMPINATO AND  
MARIA CICCONE

GIUSEPPE (ANCESTOR)  
(4 December 1851–7 June 1892)

FRANCESCO  
(died 5 December 1883)

CARMINE  
(died 7 May 1910)

Giovanni and Maria both died sometime after 1876, when their son Giuseppe married.

### *The Other Children of Giovanni Spampinato and Maria Ciccone in Later Years*

**Francesco** was not married when he died on 5 December 1883.

**Carmine** married Carmela Scarinci. He died on 7 May 1910.

### GIUSEPPE SPAMPINATO AND ANTONINA PISPICIA

**M**aria Spampinato's father, Giuseppe Spampinato, was the oldest known child of Giovanni Spampinato and Maria Carmela Ciccone. He was born in Bagnara Calabria, Reggio di Calabria, Italy, on 4 December 1851 and was baptized in the Parish Church of di Madre in Bagnara Calabria the same day.

Like so many of his ancestors, Giuseppe was a seaman and likely also made frequent trips to Messina and the surrounding coastal areas. On 9 March 1876, he married Antonina Pispicia in Messina. She was born on 28 February 1853 in Fiumedinisi, Messina, a comune that was technically part of the city of Messina but about 16 miles southwest of the city center. Her parents were Francesco Pispicia and Nunziata Arico. She was baptized on 1 March 1853 in the San Pietro Parish Church in Fiumedinisi—an elegant church on Via Roma that boasts several valuable altars built with polychrome marbles.

Antonina was just 2 years old in 1855 when a terrible flood destroyed several important structures in Fiumedinisi, including a foundry and a large factory that employed more than 1,000 people. Fiumedinisi is known for its minerals; the first mining extraction there dates back to the 12th century. The comune earned its name because it is home to many *fumare*, or deep river valleys where streams flow in wet seasons.



San Pietro Parish Church in Fiumedinisi



A GLANCE BACK (CONTINUED)

Giuseppe and Antonina had at least two children together, including Maria, who later married Giuseppe Tiano.

THE KNOWN CHILDREN OF GIUSEPPE SPAMPINATO AND ANTONINA PISPICIA	MARIA T. (ANCESTOR) (7 January 1877–19 December 1964)
	GIOVANNI (died 4 August 1887)

Antonina worked as a spinner and cared for their children while Giuseppe was away at sea. Neither of them lived a long life. Giuseppe died in Messina on 7 June 1892, when he was 40 years old. Antonina lived to the age of 44; she died in Messina on 26 May 1896. It is possible that she married a man named Salvatore Miserissole after Giuseppe died, but that is not confirmed. The death indices of that time were not always reliable about names of spouses, and many records were lost or misplaced after the 1908 earthquake in Messina.



LOOKING FURTHER BACK: THE PARENTS OF ANTONINA PISPICIA:  
FRANCESCO PISPICIA AND NUNZIATA ARICO

Antonina Pispicia’s father, Francesco Pispicia, was born sometime after 1821, likely in Italy. He married Nunziata Arico, who was born in about 1825 in Italy.

Francesco and Nunziata had at least five children. Sadly, their daughter, Maria, was likely another victim of the Messina earthquake since she died on the day it happened—28 December 1908. Although Maria’s date of birth is not known, it is likely that she was in later adulthood when she died, considering that her sister Antonina was born in 1854.

The exact dates of Francesco’s and Nunziata’s deaths are not known, but both lived until at least March 1876, when their daughter Antonina married Giuseppe Spampinato.

The Other Children of Francesco Pispicia and Nunziata Arico  
in Later Years

- Santa married Stellario Migliorato. She died on 24 October 1891.
- Stellario married Giuseppa Baneri. He survived the 1908 earthquake that killed his sister, but died about seven years later, on 22 June 1915.
- Maria married Giuseppe Minisale. She died on 28 December 1908, likely as a result of the massive earthquake that took place in Messina that day.
- Vincenzo married Giuseppa Orlando. Also a survivor of the earthquake and its aftermath, he died four years after the quake, on 15 April 1912.

THE KNOWN CHILDREN OF FRANCESCO PISPICIA AND NUNZIATA ARICO	ANTONINA (ANCESTOR) (about 1854–26 May 1896)
	SANTA (died 24 October 1891)
	STELLARIO (died 22 June 1915)
	MARIA (died 28 December 1908)
	VINCENZO (died 15 April 1912)



## John C. Tiano and Helen Gizzi

John C. Tiano, the son of Giuseppe Tiano and Maria T. Spampinato, was born in Cambridge, Massachusetts, on 27 August 1910. At the time of John's birth, Giuseppe worked as a laborer, and he and Maria and their children lived at 4 Fruit Street in Cambridge.

The fourth of five siblings, John seems to have struggled in terms of family relationships. He had disagreements with his oldest brother, Andrew, who also had a strained relationship with their father, Giuseppe. And John went a few rounds with his father over the years, too.

"Sometimes they would argue...my father would argue with his father in Italian. And I didn't know what the heck they were talking about or what the argument was about. But I remember that."

—Joe Tiano Sr.

John grew up in Cambridge. The city, located directly north of Boston across the Charles River, had a population of about 105,000 then. The home of Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), the city drew many academics. However, college was out of reach for John. He did not even have the chance to finish high school because he went to work at a young age to help his family get by; he reported on a later census that he had had three years of "home schooling." In 1930, when he was 19 years old, he worked as an ice cream packer. Although his older three siblings had moved out by then, John lived at home with his parents and his younger sister, Ann.

John came of age during the hardest years of the Great Depression, and before it was over, he was a family man. When he was about 28 years old, he married Boston native Helen Gizzi in 1938. Helen was born to Tomasso Gizzi and Angelina Licciardi on 25 May 1914. (See sections starting on page 81 for more on Helen's ancestors.) Helen came from a large, warm, loving family.



The central square in Cambridge, Massachusetts, 1910.



Her father was a plasterer and was not wealthy, so she was used to helping out at home, too. Her youngest brother, Louis, remembers that Helen and all of her sisters were a big help around the house.

“Helen was a great baker, even when she was at home. Loved her—she used to make pies and cookies and everything else. She was a big help to my mother...She used to make everything—eclairs and cannolis and, I mean, [it’s] amazing what she used to do... She’d always make ‘em by hand. I always told her, ‘You should open up a bakery! You’re so good at that!’...She did a lot of cooking and she helped around the house a lot. All of my sisters did the same thing. They were very good. They helped with the [siblings] like myself, that was younger.”

—Louis Gizzi



The John Tiano and Helen Gizzi family  
Back row: Helen and John;  
Front row: Thomas and Joseph

Helen and John lived at 859 Saratoga Street in Boston after their marriage. In 1940, they paid \$22 a month to rent their home, the equivalent of about \$400 in modern currency. John worked as a cotton mill bobbin cleaner then and earned a yearly income of \$476, the equivalent of about \$8,500 in today’s dollars. Helen worked as a book binder at a printing shop and earned \$728 a year, the equivalent of about \$13,000. She had worked for the entire previous year (52 weeks), although John had only worked for 28 weeks

in 1939, or about half the year. Maybe it was the erratic nature of his job that led him to seek a different line of work in the years that followed, or perhaps he simply found more opportunity on the docks as industry and shipping rebounded following the Great Depression.

John and Helen’s first son, Joe, was born on 10 February 1941, and Helen’s youngest brother, Louis Gizzi, became his godfather. Five years later, John and Helen had another son, Thomas.

THE CHILDREN OF JOHN C. TIANO AND HELEN GIZZI	JOSEPH J. (ANCESTOR) (10 February 1941– )
	THOMAS (20 May 1946– )

As their sons grew up, John and Helen were not very religious, even though their parents seemed to have a strong connection to the Catholic Church. In fact, their son Joe remembers attending church by himself on Sundays as a teenager, and while he did attend religious education in preparation for his First Communion and confirmation, he often walked to church on his own and attended Mass with his friends.

The 1944 Boston city directory shows the Tiano family lived at 203 Falcon Street, where Joe and Thomas spent most of their childhood. John was working as a pipe fitter by then, but he soon became a longshoreman, which would remain his primary occupation. This was seasonal, unpredictable work, which meant that the family’s income often fluctuated according to the schedule of incoming ships.

“He’d work on the ships when they’d come in, and unload them. And I know he was secretary of the union for the ship workers. So when it was seasonal, they never had much money. They couldn’t work year-round...At that time, to be a longshoreman, you probably had to join the union. There were unions and everything back then...And there were a lot of ex-convicts that could get jobs doing that. They were in there. A lot of tough people. And there was a lot of pilfering going on...A carton would break off the ship and they’d get whatever was in it and take some of it.”

—Joe Tiano Sr.



# The Life of a Longshoreman

In colonial times in America, when a ship bearing goods from the Old World neared the eastern shores of the New World, it was greeted with cries for “Men ‘long shore!” Colonists, many of whom had full-time jobs, dropped their work and rushed up to the ships to help unload them because they needed the supplies on the ships so desperately.

The demand for such help continued as sea travel picked up in the generations that followed, and the occupation became established at the largest ports in America. Longshoremen began earning wages, and made sure the incoming and outgoing cargo was unloaded or loaded without damage. The work involved docking the ships, loading and unloading cargo, and inspecting cargo for damage.

As technology and machinery developed—especially after World War II, when John Tiano worked on the docks—longshoremen began operating heavy equipment, such as forklifts and cranes. Sometimes hundreds or thousands of containers had to be unloaded in a particular time period, and the work was done outdoors even in Boston’s often-inclement weather. They stopped for lightning, but kept working even if temperatures topped 100 degrees with humidity or if it was raining, sleeting, or snowing. Workers had to be physically strong—at 5’10” tall and about 170 pounds,

John was relatively small but had to meet the physical demands of the job and do his best to avoid the injuries that were common in his field. Longshoremen often worked irregular hours because docks operated night and day. Unions set the pay rates based on when the men

throughout the country, loading and unloading everything from cars and trucks to grain and everything in between. John’s service as secretary of his local union shows he was highly involved in its activities and leadership.

A modern-day podcast about global trade and technology called “Containers” spent an episode investigating the daily lives of longshoremen throughout history. It reported that a longshoreman’s day would start at the local hiring hall in the morning, where the workers picked up their assignments and found out what gang they would join for the day. Often, the job was to unload an entire ship before their shift ended. Those who worked in freezer containers were known to put on six layers of clothing to stay warm. Depending on the contents of the ships to which they were assigned, the work was often unsanitary.

“Then you’d start working. It wasn’t always fun. Some of the cargo was downright disgusting. One of the worst things was hides, freshly cut off the animals. Asbestos was nasty, too. Fish meal. Huge rolls of newspaper. There were the diesel fumes, too. Maybe it’s not surprising that the guys drank themselves through the day sometimes.”

—“Containers” podcast



Longshoremen on a New York dock loading barrels of corn syrup onto a barge on the Hudson River, 1912

joined the union and how many years of experience they had. In 2018, a longshoreman’s average pay rate was \$25 to \$35 per hour, but a typical rate in the 1950s was between 70 cents and \$2 dollars per hour.

John was a member of the International Longshoreman’s Association, a union that dated back to the late 1800s. By 1905, it had 100,000 members



The gritty nature of his work and the many rough characters who worked alongside John may have been responsible for some of his own gruff demeanor. His son Joe remembers yearning to be closer to his father and wishing John could find more joy in family life.

“He tried to work whenever he could. He’d work weekends, he’d be gone the whole day. Whenever the ships came in, he’d be gone and he’d stay there for two days until it was unloaded, and that’s where they’d make their money. But his weaknesses were that we never really knew him well enough. He was away a lot, and he was very strict. I would play Little League baseball. [He’d] never come to any of the games or whatever I was doing. Never came. He just never came. And I would have one baseball glove, probably got it for Christmas, and I’d have to treat that glove—if I left it outside in the rain, I wouldn’t have a glove. I wouldn’t have anything. That’s how I was brought up, with very little things—gifts and things like that at Christmas time or birthdays. You got one gift and that was it. I remember him being very strict and he’d use the strap (whip me with his belt) if we did something wrong in school or things like that. And that was it. I was glad to get out of the house. Very strict.” —Joe Tiano Sr.

Because of his father’s rules and expectations, Joe often felt confined as a boy, but his love of sports was evident from an early age. He spent every minute he could playing one game or another outside with his cousins and friends. Unfortunately, his father sometimes used Joe’s love for sports as a way to discipline him.

“I remember he punished me. I lived on the end unit—they were three-deckers—and I could look out my side window to the ballpark. And I’d see my friends playing, and I’d be punished. And I’d be in the house and I’d try to look out, and I said, ‘I’ll never do that [to my kids]. I won’t punish them that way.’” —Joe Tiano Sr.

The difficult relationship he had with his father was balanced by the love and care Joe received from his mother, Helen. While Joe and Tom were growing up, she was a homemaker and spent her days cooking and taking care of her sons. However, she shared John’s concerns about having enough money to pay the bills. She also likely struggled with his irascible nature, for which the family sought explanations throughout the years.

“I think maybe being out of work at times and hoping that he’d have to work more—I think that had something to do with it. I think his upbringing, maybe. He didn’t get along with his brother Andrew at all. They’d argue a lot, I remember that. And I used to say—my mother! If it wasn’t for my mother, bringing us up more, I don’t know where I would have turned to... She was friendly with people. She was outgoing, a great cook, and she was a Gizzi, and the Gizzi side was like that. All the Gizzi side was like that—very friendly and outgoing. She was a pretty lady.”

—Joe Tiano Sr.

For Christmas and New Year’s Eve and other holidays, the Tianos would go to Helen’s sister Theresa’s house in East Boston, and Joe and his brother, Tom, would have a chance to spend time with their cousins. These gatherings produced some of Joe’s best memories of family life together. The women and girls would cook a feast, complete with Helen’s signature desserts like cannolis and eclairs.

The boys also had close friends on their street, and to this day, Joe regales his own grandchildren with stories of the “Falcon Street Gang” of his youth:

“When I was growing up, we all had nicknames. Everybody. And we lived on Falcon Street, where I lived in the three-decker. And everybody had gangs, so to say. No knives, no guns. If you got in a fight, you fight with your fists and it was over, okay? So we called ourselves the Falcon Street Gang, and we all had



nicknames. I was Teabags and then we would have Hoogie, Doogie—these were all nicknames—Delmar, Fatso, Slim—all these names. And I tell my kids the story and they laugh.”

—Joe Tiano Sr.

Helen had a sunny and loving personality and was a “sweetheart,” according to Joe. He recalls that she went to work for a printing firm in the early 1960s. It’s not clear whether this was the same printing company for which she had worked in 1940, but she certainly had experience in the industry from earlier days. Helen and John had moved to a new home shortly before their son Joe married, and her income helped pay the mortgage. Despite reentering the workforce late in life, she always found time to cook the foods she knew her family loved, and when Joe married Roberta Ferrara and they had three boys, she showered them with gifts, both homemade and store-bought.

“My mother was great. My mother was beautiful...But she used to come...up the stairs to the house and visit and bring gifts. And she was very, very nice. She was a good cook, too. My wife learned from her.”

—Joe Tiano Sr.

“She never came up empty-handed. She always worked to help out and she’d go shopping and pick [the boys out] three pairs of pajamas.”

—Roberta Tiano

Helen also always took the boys out for lunch or a special outing on their birthdays.

“Grandma Tiano was very loving and a very good cook. I remember taking the ‘T’ into Boston with her and going to the swan boats and doing a couple things like that.”

—Joe Tiano Jr.

A firm proponent of the family belief that “food is love,” Helen often cooked foods she knew the boys enjoyed. For her oldest grandson, Joe, it was her special fried meatballs.

“She’d fry them first before she put them in the sauce, the gravy. She’d always put a couple aside before she put them in the gravy so we could eat them.”

—Joe Tiano Jr.

John and Helen’s son Tom and his wife, Cheryl, brought two more grandsons, Thomas Jr. and John, into the family in 1968 and 1971, respectively. Sadly, Helen did not get much time to shower them with gifts and homemade treats. When she was in her late 50s, she was diagnosed with ovarian cancer, and the disease caused her much suffering in her final years. As she tried to battle the disease, she lost a lot of weight and took medicine that caused her face to swell. In her final days in the hospital, her only request was to see her grandsons once more. She died in Winthrop, Massachusetts, on 2 December 1973, when she was 59 years old. Her oldest son, Joe, had learned a lot from the way she lived her life, especially how to be open, friendly, and loving.

After Helen’s death, John offered to sell their house to his son Joe and his wife, Roberta. With three active boys, they needed the extra space, and John lived in the basement rent-free as part of the arrangement. He stayed to himself downstairs most of the time. Joe often invited him to watch the boys’ baseball or hockey games, but John did not have much interest in attending.

“My kids might be playing right around the corner from him. There’s a big field behind the house, there’s a baseball field, and they’d be playing. I’d be coaching them. And they were excellent athletes! They were probably the best ones on the team, and they’d get all the write-ups. He wouldn’t walk over. I’d tell him, ‘Well, they’re playing.’ ‘Oh, yeah, I saw that listed in the paper,’ he said to me.”

—Joe Tiano Sr.



His grandsons do remember many interactions with their paternal grandfather throughout the years, although they often had to overlook his prejudices and racial remarks.

“We used to aggravate him. He used to get testy. We told him Jim Rice was a better ball player than Ted Williams.”

—Joe Tiano Jr.

“He had this silly sense of humor. He would tell us jokes. And my brother John would kind of pretend to catch on late and he would just laugh and giggle and say, ‘Johnny just caught on!’ He was like a silly guy who was a little bit more of a loner, and I didn’t really know him that well.”

—Sal Tiano

“He wasn’t as gregarious and outgoing as Pop Ferrara was, but he lived downstairs from where we were living for a period of time and he would come up for dinners. But I think he was more of a loner. He wouldn’t come down to watch our Little League games, which were a couple blocks away.”

—John Tiano

“He had family pride but he wasn’t as outgoing as the other side of our family. He was more of a quiet pride and more of a hardened individual...You knew that he loved you. He just didn’t express it the way the other side of our family did. But I think he was a good man at heart. He had a little bit of a mean streak at times. He was very passionate and proud of the Italians and his heritage, but a quiet man.”

—Joe Tiano Jr.

John continued to work as a longshoreman until he was 65, when he could start collecting Social Security. He also began dating a woman named Charlotte, who remained his companion until he died. Like many Italians of his generation, John rarely sought medical treatment and did not pay much attention to his health.

“They never went to doctors, if [they] had something wrong. I don’t even know if he went to a doctor till he had the heart attack. They’d eat anything, eat whatever, smoked a lot. Oh, smoking all around. When I was growing up, smoke in restaurants, movie theaters, you name it. [They] smoked in the house, you know?”

—Joe Tiano Sr.

On 23 December 1983, when he was 73 years old, John stopped to get a sandwich at Kelly’s Roast Beef in Revere, Massachusetts. As he ate his sandwich in his car, his heart stopped. Joe still remembers when he heard the news.

“I remember getting a call two days before Christmas...I was working for the post office at the time and I was delivering mail. And he was eating a roast beef sandwich at Revere Beach, we called it—Revere, Mass. And there’d be the sandwich place. He was eating a roast beef sandwich and he had a heart attack. They found the sandwich on the floor [of the car].”

—Joe Tiano Sr.

John was buried near his wife, Helen, in the Winthrop Cemetery.



Shared gravestone of John and Helen Tiano



## THOMAS TIANO IN LATER YEARS

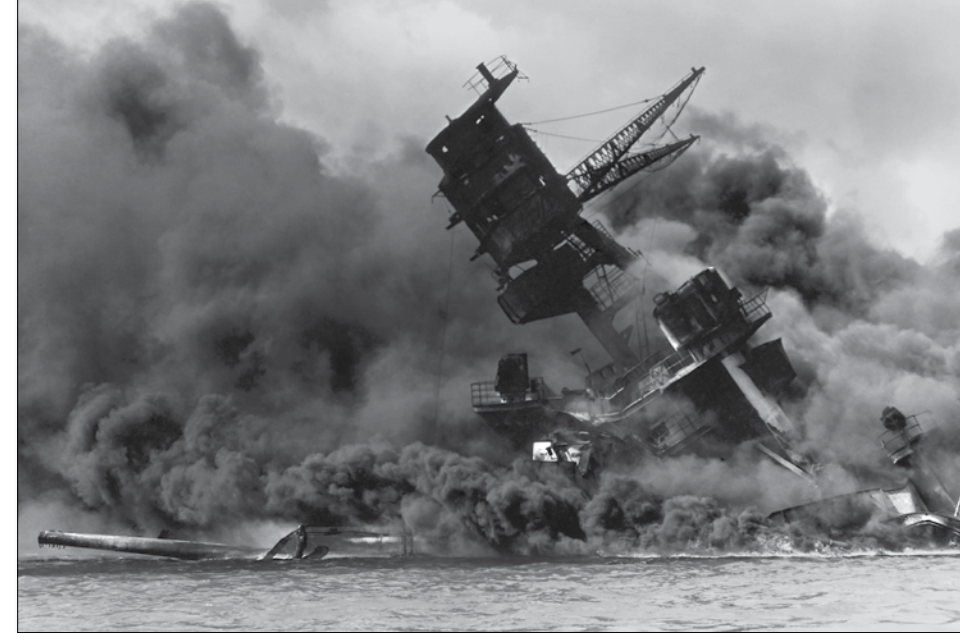
Thomas, the younger of John Tiano and Helen Gizzi's two sons, was born on 20 May 1946. Like his brother, Joe, he enjoyed playing baseball as a boy and throughout his years at Winthrop High School. After graduation, he took a job in a warehouse. He met and married Cheryl Martel, who worked for a food broker, and they had two sons, Thomas Jr. on 17 October 1968 and John on 19 May 1971.

Now both retired, Tom and Cheryl live in Tyngsborough, Massachusetts. Their son Thomas Jr. and his first wife, Joanne, had a daughter, Sophia, on 4 April 1997 and a son named Jaedan on 2 February 1999. Thomas Jr. is now married to Rebecca.

Tom and Cheryl's son John had two children with his first wife, Michelle. John Jr. was born on 9 March 1999 and Tyler was born on 22 September 2000. John is now married to Jillian Fosman and they have two children: Talia, born on 5 May 2015, and Tate, born on 12 April 2017.

## *Joseph J. Tiano and Roberta J. Ferrara*

Joseph J. Tiano, the firstborn son of John C. Tiano and Helen Gizzi, was born in Everett, Massachusetts, on 10 February 1941. The country had largely rebounded from the desperation of the Depression years, but World War II was already well underway by the time Joe was born. The U.S. had maintained neutrality, but nine months after Joe was born, at 7:48 a.m. on 7 December 1941, the blue waters of the Pacific were cast under a dark shadow as more than 350 Japanese warplanes attacked Pearl Harbor on the Hawaiian island of Oahu. The attack killed 2,403 Americans and left thousands more injured. Before noon, authorities declared martial law, and less than 24 hours later, the United States entered World War II.



The USS Arizona burning after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor

As Massachusetts families sent their boys off to fight in the Pacific and Europe, life on the homefront was busy during World War II. After struggling through the Great Depression, the state's industries suddenly boomed with business. Factories that were in danger of closing in the 1930s hired thousands and increased wages by 50 percent. At the universities in Massachusetts, researchers created technology that changed the war, including the first worldwide navigation system. But, as with every war, the sacrifices made by Massachusetts citizens weighed heavily on the state. From meat to tires, clothing to fuel, rationing entered every part of their lives. Although most Italian families already had small gardens in their back yards, the victory garden became common as the government encouraged people to grow their own food. As a coastal state, Massachusetts even saw some action with German submarines mining in Boston Harbor.



U.S. Naval officers and men stand on the tower and deck of the German submarine U-805, next to an American flag, after it had surrendered off Portsmouth, N.H., 15 May 1945.



The Tiano family knew how to scrimp and save, but the simple pleasures of life helped them through the war years. From an early age, Joe was passionate about baseball, and would find a way to get outside to play in a neighborhood game or pick-up scrimmage any time he could. The local ballpark was right on the corner near his house, and he could watch ball games taking place from his bedroom window.

“Then we’d also play in the street. We had a big streetlight over a homemade basket where we would play basketball. And we’d get all the kids in the street playing games and then, when it got dark at night, our mother or our father would be calling us in. ‘Come on in! Dinner’s ready!’ And that’s what we did mostly. Everything was outside playing. We didn’t have a TV then, growing up. We listened to the radio a little bit. We’d all gather in the house and listen to programs. No TV, just a bunch of kids playing outside, and that was it.” —Joe Tiano Sr.

John was often working on the docks while his sons were playing games, but even if he was off duty, he did not show up on the sidelines very often.

“People would say, ‘Where’s your father?’ I’d go to games and I’d walk there and I’d look around and he’s not there, and other fathers are there. That made me think. I said, ‘When I grow up, and I meet a girl that I love, get married—and we’re gonna have kids ‘cause I love kids—I’m going to be with them all the time.’ And I was. And my sons would tell you [so] to this day...I coached them for years, doing everything. I even do that with my grandchildren.” —Joe Tiano Sr.

Much like his own father had done, Joe sacrificed some of his leisure time at an early age when it became apparent that he had to earn money to help his family make ends meet. However, he fit his work around his school schedule so he could continue his education.

“I remember I was working when I was 13 years old. Little part-time jobs, going to school, trying to play sports, and I’d give some of my money to my parents so they could pay the rent...We also lived in one of those three-deckers and we lived on Falcon Street, so that was a little walking distance from Lexington Street, where my grandparents lived. I remember the landlord coming in and getting the rent.”

—Joe Tiano Sr.

Instead of attending the local high school in East Boston, Joe attended Boston English High School, an all-boys high school some distance from his home.

“[It] was probably the second best high school in Boston at the time for education. It was an all-boys school and I went there to play baseball. I used to get on the subway. It used to take me an hour to get to school, but that was okay.”

—Joe Tiano Sr.



Joseph J. Tiano  
age, 20

Joe’s daily commute involved riding on a bus, then a train, and then walking a quarter of a mile to the school. If he had team practices after classes, he often would not get home until 8 p.m. and then he would have to start his homework. It was a grinding schedule for a teenager, but it paid off when he made the varsity baseball team at Suffolk University in Boston.

Joe went to college at Suffolk for one year and played baseball for the school team while also working part-time. However, he did not like it much, and his ambivalence about the classes and his family’s tight money situation caused him to leave college.



Joe picked up various jobs and then worked for a plastic chemist for two or three years, making epoxy paints and a number of different chemicals. Then a family decision to move to Winthrop, Massachusetts, changed Joe's life forever. His new home was six houses up from the family home of a young Italian woman named Roberta Ferrara. Roberta's brother, Buster, played softball in a league in Winthrop, and was instrumental in bringing Joe and Roberta together.

“So he says, ‘Hey, do you play ball?’ I said, ‘Yeah!’ He said, ‘Come on and join us.’ So I did. I ended up playing softball for him. And then one day—he would be playing right field, I was playing center field—and he came over to me during the inning and he said, ‘Joe, you see that girl down there sitting on the bench?’ I’m looking, I say, ‘Yeah.’ And her sister was sitting next to her. And he said to me, ‘Do you go out with anybody special? Are you going steady?’ I says, ‘No, just dating.’ And he said, ‘Well, here’s her number. Why don’t you give her a call?’ I said, ‘Sure, I’ll call her!’ The only thing is, I thought it was her sister. I didn’t know! I mean, she was attractive to me, but I thought it was her sister.”

—Joe Tiano Sr.

The identity confusion was quickly sorted out, and Joe found himself quite taken with Roberta. Born to Salvatore and Lucy (Iovanna) Ferrara in Massachusetts on 29 October 1941, Roberta was just a few months younger than Joe.





## ROBERTA FERRARA TIANO'S EARLY LIFE

When Roberta was very young, her family lived in the upper level of her paternal grandparents' home in East Boston. The Ferrara family attended the local Roman Catholic parish and she and her siblings attended St. Lazarus Catholic Elementary School, which was affiliated with the parish. Roberta has fond memories of the school's teachers and staff, and proved to be a devoted and devout student. When she was in the second grade, her teachers chose her for a special honor. Each May, one student was selected to crown the statue of Mary during the May Crowning celebration.



The three oldest Ferrara siblings, (L to R): Minnie, Roberta, and Buster

"I remember the sisters saying, 'Whoever prays the hardest is going to get picked to crown the Blessed Mother.' So guess who got picked to crown the Blessed Mother in the parade?" —Roberta Tiano

Even after her family bought a home in the nearby town of Winthrop, she asked if she could finish grade school at St. Lazarus. It would require extra driving to and from the school, but her father's employees in the construction business helped pitch in to make it happen.

"I remember his workers used to meet in the morning and one of them would give me a ride to East Boston. It wasn't a long time, but they would drop me off at school and somebody would pick me up, just so I could graduate from that school."

—Roberta Tiano

Her father, Sal Ferrara, gave Roberta the nickname "Birthday Cake" when she was little, and he called her sister "Skinny Minnie with the meat-ball eyes." Minnie and Roberta shared a bedroom and a double bed growing up and have always been very close. When they had a childhood argument, one of them would place tape down the middle of the room and warn the other not to cross the line. Most of the time, though, they enjoyed the benefits of sisterhood.

When she was in the 9th grade, Roberta enrolled in the local junior high school in Winthrop, which was within walking distance of her home. She made many friends there, likely because she was outgoing, like her father, and also because her older brother and younger sister attended the same school and they developed a circle of friends. The next year, at Winthrop High



Roberta and Buster Ferrara with their dog



School, Roberta played both basketball and tennis—the only sports offered for girls in those days. She also started dating a boy named Paul Shell, who became Roberta’s long-term beau as they made their way through high school.

During her senior year at WHS, Roberta ran for class secretary. Her next-door neighbor, Jimmy, was running for treasurer but also happened to be dating another girl who was running against Roberta for secretary. However, because she and Jimmy were best friends, he helped Roberta write her election speech, which made his girlfriend irate. Roberta eventually won the race.

Roberta and Paul’s relationship had continued steadily for nearly four years, and the young couple decided to marry. Paul gave Roberta a hope chest and a diamond and they dreamed of the wedding reception they would have at the Elks Club in Winthrop. However, Paul kept postponing their wedding. Eventually, he revealed the real reason for his continual delays.

“He finally told me he likes this woman at work. So I threw the ring in his face! And I thought it was the end of the world, because he was my first and only boyfriend and I loved—his parents loved me, you know?” —*Roberta Tiano*

Roberta’s father, Sal, did his best to console her after the break-up.

“I remember my dad hugging me, and [saying], ‘Don’t worry, honey. Everything is gonna work out for the best.’ And I remember I bought my first car then. I finished high school and I wanted to be a physical education teacher, but I did not want to go away to college. You know, you live in a little town and you’ve got everybody around you. So what I did is I went to work for the telephone company and I worked in the engineering department, doing some drafting and things like that.” —*Roberta Tiano*

Having a job allowed Roberta to earn the money to buy her own car, so Sal took her to the car dealership owned by Bob Crossman, who was married to Sal’s sister Ann.

“You always went to people that were in the family. And I got my first car and I was so proud of that. And some of the girls I met at work, we used to go to the cape and do things together. And then I went to my brother’s softball game and I saw this hunk in the outfield. I said, ‘Hey!’” —*Roberta Tiano*

Soon, all thoughts of Paul Shell were behind her, because she had met Joseph Tiano.



The Ferrara kids at Christmastime, (L to R): Roberta, Minnie, and Buster, with Anthony in front



Joe decided to take their relationship beyond the local ball field and asked Roberta out on a date. They planned a leisurely drive of 40 miles or so to Canobie Lake in southern New Hampshire in Joe's 1941 Ford, complete with the old-fashioned running boards. He offered to pick her up at home, but was blown away by what happened when he got there.

"I parked the car at the end of the street and I'm walking across and all of a sudden, she's coming out the door and her father's with her. And he's yelling—there's some car that went by and he's yelling, 'You dirty S-O-B! I'll kill you!' And I'm walking in, I'm saying, 'What the heck? Is this me he's talking about?'"

—Joe Tiano Sr.

Soon he learned the explanation for the outburst. Roberta's former fiancé, Paul Shell, was driving that car that had cruised by the house, and the Ferraras were still angry since he had just broken off his engagement to Roberta. Her father, Sal, was not happy to see Shell still appearing in the neighborhood, and Sal's outburst had coincided with the arrival of his future son-in-law on his first date with Roberta.

As if that unusual welcome was not enough, Joe soon found himself in an embarrassing situation as he tried to impress Roberta on their way to Canobie Lake.

"We're going up a slight incline and the car stalls, right in the incline. So I say to her, 'Roberta, I'm sorry, but I can start it—I can jumpstart the car'...I says, 'Well, you'll have to push it a little with me and then once we get it rolling, then hop in the car and I'll jumpstart it and we'll get it going.' So we did that. And then the rest of the day was a great day. We got home fine. I said, 'She'll probably never come out with me again. She's pushing the car and this and that.'"

—Joe Tiano Sr.

"I helped him. I knew he was a good guy, and I knew he was embarrassed about the situation. But we really enjoyed each other's company. We would come home from a date [with someone else] and the first thing we would do is call each other up, 'cause we missed each other, you know? Young love!"

—Roberta Tiano

More dates followed, and Joe and Roberta discovered they had many of the same interests, including a shared love of sports. She was also an excellent athlete and had played basketball, tennis, and softball on various teams. They saw other people from time to time, but always found their way back to each other.

"She'd call me and she'd say, 'I went out with this guy and it was awful. We went on a hayride and it was horrible.' I says, 'Yeah, okay.' And then I'd be going with a girl from Ireland that was sweet and everything. But there was nothing there—no chemistry."

—Joe Tiano Sr.

In hindsight, Joe said he never needed to date other people to know his true feelings.

"I knew right away that she's the one I want...I liked everything about her. I liked her smile, her personality, her looks. She was very thoughtful, and we just loved each other."

—Joe Tiano Sr.

"What other girl would push a car with him?"

—Roberta Tiano

About a year after their legendary first date, Joe and Roberta got engaged when they were both 19 years old.





Roberta Ferrara's engagement announcement in the local newspaper

"Thankfully, I married young. We got married when we were 20, so I think that really helped me out a lot. My mother thought, 'No, you're too young.' My father says, 'Oh, let him go.'" —Joe Tiano Sr.

"I know his mother was worried because she was [concerned] that they would[n't] be able to maintain the house without his help. But we were in love and we wanted to be together. We wanted to start a family." —Roberta Tiano

Joseph and Roberta married at St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church in Winthrop on 14 January 1962. Roberta's sister, Minnie, was the maid of honor, and several of Roberta's friends from high school and work were her bridesmaids. Joe chose

Roberta's brother, Buster, as his best man and several of his cousins as groomsmen. Roberta's younger brother, Anthony, was a junior groomsman. Their reception was held in the Knights of Columbus Hall at St. John's.

Joe and Roberta had planned a honeymoon in Miami Beach, but neither of the newlyweds had ever flown on a plane before, and they were both anxious about the trip even during the wedding festivities.

"I was a nervous wreck! I can't say that I enjoyed it. I couldn't eat. I was just nervous, worrying about going on the plane and going on the honeymoon." —Roberta Tiano



Joseph J. Tiano and Roberta Ferrara on their wedding day



On top of that, Roberta tipped her bouffant wedding veil backward as she greeted guests in the receiving line, and it grazed a lit candle and caught on fire. One of Roberta's cousins ripped the veil off her head and stamped out the fire.

After the reception, Roberta and Joe were escorted to the airport in a limousine driven by her cousin Ernie Caggiano. On the way, the newlyweds quizzed him about flying.

"I remember asking, 'What's it like to be on an airplane?' He says, 'It's just like driving in this limousine.'"

—*Roberta Tiano*

After a fun honeymoon in Florida, Joe and Roberta settled into life at home. Even though Joe was working hard for a vending company at General Electric and money was tight, their first months of marriage were romantic and fun. They lived in an apartment in Winthrop and planned special nights out together.

"We'd go into Boston. We'd drive in, have dinner, and then we'd go watch the Boston Celtics play basketball, and they had Bob Cousy and Bill Russell playing. And then we'd go to some of the hockey games, the Bruins. We loved it!"

—*Joe Tiano Sr.*

It was only about two months after their marriage that the Tianos learned their first child was on the way; their son Joseph John was born on 16 November 1962. Soon, the small apartment in which they lived—located right around the corner from both sets of their parents—seemed too small. However, Roberta's father, Sal, was remodeling a two-family home on nearby Ocean View Street at the time, and when it was ready, Joe and Roberta moved into the top-floor unit.

Two more boys—John Anthony and Salvatore Anthony—followed on 25 April 1964 and 17 February 1966, respectively. Suddenly, Joe and Roberta found themselves the parents of three boys under the age of 5, and they threw themselves into their roles with great love and energy. Roberta used to love dressing the three boys in the same clothes.

"My mother, if she did buy something, she dressed us all alike. We used to look like idiots dressed in the same exact bumble-bee sweaters."

—*Sal Tiano*

It was around the time that their youngest son, Sal, was born that Joe Sr. began working for the post office. His first route was about 45 minutes from home, but he jumped at the opportunity, knowing he could try for a route closer to home later.

"I liked it at first because of the benefits we had. Oh, they were great! Medical benefits and sick leave, vacation time. Actually, I built up a year of sick leave over 34 years. I used my vacation time, never sick—knock on wood. Everything was great. And I went to work every day, never out of work. Always worked. And then, later on, as the kids were in high school, we got a lot of overtime. We didn't get much overtime at the beginning, so I had to work a part-time job."

—*Joe Tiano Sr.*

Joe's part-time job was in a rubber and hose factory called Cheeseman's, assembling hoses and fittings. He would get one day a week off from the post office, which was open Monday through Saturday, but would go into the factory for eight hours on that day off to make extra money. Later, he was able to give up the second job when the post office started offering overtime. After that, he was able to work 10 hours a day, six days a week.



“I was hustling all over the place. I was walking routes. I’d do part of my route, then someone would call in sick, and we’d go over and do another two hours on that route, and a lot of hustling and walking. And I did that for a number of years. We would have a truck but we would park halfway up the street and I’d take my bag and fill it up. Walk up, walk back down, then move up again. And when I first started, we didn’t even have a truck. We had storage boxes, and they delivered the mail and put it in the storage box for the whole road.”

—Joe Tiano Sr.

About a year after he started with the postal service, Joe landed the route in Winthrop. He became a neighborhood favorite by carrying the mail for about 20 years on the same route where his own family lived. When people were away on vacation, he kept an eye on their houses to make sure everything was okay. He was especially vigilant about checking on older residents or widows and spending time chatting with them. They showed their appreciation for his many kindnesses by leaving generous gifts for him during the holidays.

“It would all start two weeks before Christmas. People would give me gifts—money in envelopes, bottles, and then, if they missed me, on Christmas Day or the day before Christmas, they would bring it to my house and leave it at the door. I would come home with a thousand dollars and maybe 20 bottles of liquor. And we didn’t drink! I would drink a beer or two.”

—Joe Tiano Sr.

“There was this older woman who really liked him. He used to spend time and talk to her. Christmas time, she gives him an envelope with \$500. She was very wealthy. I said, ‘What did you do for her for her to give you \$500?’”

—Roberta Tiano

“Her name was Ruth Lutz. And I’d say to her, ‘Ruth, you don’t have to do this. This is too much money.’ [She’d say], ‘Oh, you stop it. You spend time with me, we talk a little. If I need this or that, you help me out.’ I said, ‘Well, I really appreciate it. Thank you very much.’ She did that for years until she passed away.”

—Joe Tiano Sr.

Looking back on her husband’s postal career, Roberta always points out how hard Joe worked to provide for the family.

“Through our whole married life, he just worked so hard. There were times when he had the day off and I wanted him to stay home, ‘cause he’s tired working six days a week. Once I even took the phone off the hook. But he used to get up [at] his regular time, get into his post office uniform...He knew they were gonna call [and ask him to take an overtime shift] and he would sit by the phone waiting for them to call. Never refused, ‘cause we could always use the money.”

—Roberta Tiano

Joe’s unflagging work ethic was one of the qualities Roberta’s father, Sal, liked most about him, too. It also prompted him to help the family out when he could.

“He knew what a hard worker [Joe] was, too. And my father liked hard workers. He was always very helpful to us. Because sometimes...we worked, but you didn’t have enough money, with three kids.”

—Roberta Tiano

***The work ethic and dedication that both Joe and Roberta exemplified has passed to all three of their sons, who have not missed a single day of work in their careers.***





The Tiano siblings (L to R): Joseph Jr., Salvatore, and John

THE CHILDREN OF JOSEPH J. TIANO AND ROBERTA J. FERRARA	JOSEPH JOHN (16 November 1962– )
	JOHN ANTHONY (25 April 1964– )
	SALVATORE ANTHONY (17 February 1966– )

Roberta ran the household and cared for the boys as they navigated school and their many activities.

“Our mother was absolutely all about family, and she did everything for us. Never put herself first. She was always prepared to be there for us. She cooked us meals every night, kept the family together, took care of my dad. They were just wonderful parents and they’ve always been there to set a great role model for us.”

—Joe Tiano Jr.

By the time their youngest son, Sal, was in kindergarten, Roberta decided to pursue more regular work outside the home in order to have more resources to give their sons a good start in life. More specifically, they wanted to have enough money to be able to send the boys to college—the first generation in either of their families to be able to do so. Roberta asked her younger brother, Anthony, if she could borrow his car to drive back and forth to a Boston-area high school that had a licensed practical nurse (LPN) certification program, in which Roberta could enroll for free. Joe and John already attended the local parochial school during the day, and friends and family members agreed to help take care of Sal before and after kindergarten. She began attending classes five days a week from about 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Joe would get home from work by about 2:30 p.m. to take care of the boys. For the year the program lasted, family life became a puzzle of scheduling. Most days, Roberta dropped Sal off at her parents’ home for the morning until the school bus picked him up.

Roberta had worked as a nurse’s aide for some time before she went back to school, so she knew she was drawn to the work and excelled at it. Others noticed this about her, too.

“I worked at the small community hospital, and an older nurse took me under her wing and said, ‘You’d make a real good nurse. You really should go to school.’ I said, ‘I’ve got three young kids. How can I do that?’ She says, ‘Try as hard as you can, because you’re made for this field.’ So I took her advice and I went and the pay was a lot better than an aide and I didn’t have to work as hard, truthfully. But I was the type of person that would get right out on the floor with the aides and help them...And then there was a job opening with an obstetrician/gynecologist right in my hometown, so I was his office nurse, which I loved. I loved that, for 15 years.”

—Roberta Tiano



Roberta kept her work schedule to three days a week, often between the hours of 3 p.m. and 11 p.m., knowing Joe was taking care of things at home during those hours. The boys also had numerous cousins, aunts, and uncles nearby, in addition to their grandparents. In fact, the boys all had at least one cousin in the same grade as they progressed through school, although John pointed out that this meant his parents usually found out about anything he did wrong.

The Tianos attended Mass at their local parish every weekend, and every holiday meant large family get-togethers. Thanksgiving was the high point of the year for the Ferraras, who celebrated at Sal and Lucy's house in earlier days. Later, Roberta hosted the extended family at her house, and when the group grew even larger, they moved the party to the church hall. Joe and Roberta and their boys usually celebrated Christmas Eve with the Ferraras—watching Santa Claus ride by on the Winthrop fire truck—but they spent Christmas Day with Joe's parents.

Preparations for such family gatherings were extensive, because the Ferraras did not just roast a turkey and put out the usual Thanksgiving spread.

“We had a long, long area and it starts with an antipasto—stuffed mushrooms, stuffed artichokes—eggplant, manicottis, meatballs, sausages, plain pasta. Then on the other side, you've got the turkey and all that stuff...Big, big table with all kinds of desserts imaginable.”  
—Roberta Tiano

As soon as the boys could throw a ball and hold a hockey stick, Joe and Roberta got them involved in sports. All three boys played football, hockey, and baseball, and Joe was often their team's coach. He also spent countless hours working with them at home after school.

*The Tianos also had a number of pets as the boys were growing up. One of the first was a miniature collie named Cinnamon, followed by a favorite pooch named Mojo.*

“I used to get them on my own and I'd sit on this milk case in my back yard and I'd have 'em so many feet away, and teach 'em to pitch. And I'd say, 'Okay, now you got an 0-2 count. What are you gonna throw? Don't throw it right over the plate. Give me a pitch outside. Give me a pitch inside.' Things like that. Strategy. Thinking. Be a thinker! And they'd pitch three innings to me. I'd have three innings 'cause I didn't want their arms to get sore or anything. And we'd do that maybe three times a week. And I'd sit on the milk case. And there were times when they'd throw wild pitches and they'd hit me and I'd be nervous...I'd catch the ball, but boy, if it went into the dirt or something, they'd hit me. I'd have these knees knocked up and everything.”  
—Joe Tiano Sr.

“We would be firing baseballs off the pavement, hitting him in the shin and [stray pitches] going out in the street. But he would do that religiously.”  
—John Tiano

Joe was an extremely dedicated Little League coach and logged countless hours on the diamond with the boys. One year, he even won the Man of the Year Award—an honor he treasures to this day. When the whole family had time to spend together, they often went to the field and Joe would pitch to each of the boys while Roberta fielded the balls for hours at a time.



The award Joseph Tiano Sr. received for being named Winthrop Little League “Man of the Year,” 1990



## Joe Tiano Sr.'s Competitive Nature

“My dad—let’s not mistake somebody who is even-keeled with somebody who is not competitive. My father was my Little League coach, and let me tell you something: he hated to lose in baseball.”

—Sal Tiano

A perfect example of Joe’s competitive nature took place during a middle school baseball game in Lynn, Massachusetts, when Sal was in the eighth grade. Sal was the catcher, and Joe and Roberta were standing right behind the fence, watching every pitch.

“There was a runner on third base with one out and there was a ground ball to the third baseman. And I was the catcher and the kid on third ran on contact and the third baseman threw it wild to me. So...he’s coming in here and I had to jump up, catch the ball, and I anticipated him sliding so I had to jump up and then come in front of the plate to tag him. And the kid, as I was coming [down], went head first with his helmet to run into me and he hit me and I broke my collarbone. I had a compound fracture where the bone was sticking out of the skin. And so I fall over. The kid was out. I held onto the ball. And all I hear is my father: ‘Did he hold onto the ball?’ And then, I hear him yell, ‘Get up, he’s going to second!’”

—Sal Tiano

When the sports schedules got hectic, Joe often rearranged his mail delivery schedule to make sure he could be on the sidelines at game time. Football games were often played on Saturdays in those days. If the boys had a game in another town, Joe went to the post office at 6 a.m. and worked until about 9:00 or 9:30, setting up his route. Then he headed for the game but only had to take five hours of vacation time rather than a whole day. If the game took place at home in Winthrop, Joe would follow the same routine but then ran his full six-mile route to make sure he got to the field on time. With all the stairs along his route, it usually took him three hours on a good day, but on game day, the sprint was on. People in the neighborhood were happy to get their mail early, but they also knew what was happening when they saw Joe on the run.

“Boy, I had to run. I had to really move. And the people knew. They said, ‘Oh, he’s going to see his son.’ They went to the games. They’d see me there! They’d say, ‘Oh, Joe, you made it!’”

— Joe Tiano Sr.

Joe never took a single sick day, and he loved being outside, even though he had to face the frigid conditions along the ocean in Winthrop many days during the winter. In fact, Joe’s unused sick days and vacation days piled up over the years, and by the time he retired, he had accumulated a year’s worth of extra pay.

Through it all, Joe and Roberta never missed a game. Joe had kept a promise he made to himself when he was a boy—that he would always be present and involved in his children’s lives. This was rooted in his disappointment in his own father, who was simply cut from different cloth when it came to engaging with his sons.

As the boys grew up and played in various youth programs and on the high school teams, the family began to travel all over the state, and later to more distant destinations such as Rhode Island, Connecticut, and New Hampshire.





Sitting youngest to oldest, the cousins: Toni Ann (Martucci) Cherico, Sal Tiano, Maria (Martucci) Hodgkins, Gus Martucci, John Tiano, Chris Ferrara, Joe Tiano, Frank Ferrara, about 1969

“We went to all the functions and colleges started getting interested in them. We were getting calls every day and every night and just great thrills. We met a lot of nice people through sports.”  
—Joe Tiano Sr.

Despite the demands of her own work schedule, Roberta relished being a mother, and loved getting to know her sons’ friends.

“I would make sure they ate well, always. An Italian mother: you gotta eat, you gotta eat, you gotta be healthy! When they were in sports, I used to make them frappes to build them up... We couldn’t give them the best of clothes, but they were clean and everything. And I made sure they had—they always had friends, they were always outgoing and had friends—I’d have the friends come in, especially on Ocean View Street. Next door,

the Casey family—John went to school with Joe and one of the other ones might have gone to school with my John. They were older than Sal. And I always invited them over. Their friends were always welcome in the house. I loved that!”

—Roberta Tiano

Her sons remember that Roberta always showed her love for people through her culinary gifts, even when she worked at a nursing home for a time.

“She used to take home some of the patients and she’d feed them.”  
—John Tiano

During football season, the Tianos hosted parties for the team about once a month in their home on Shirley Street.



“It absolutely was the gathering place. Our friends felt as welcome there as we did, and my parents made them feel that way. They’d always have pasta and food and feed anybody who came by. People were always welcome there and they’d let us hang out and have a good time. They’d rather have us at the house than out driving around, getting into trouble.”

—*John Tiano*

Buying the sports equipment, shoes, and clothing for three active boys was expensive, but Joe and Roberta always found a way to pay for the gear the



The Tiano brothers—the first time they tried hockey skates  
(L to R): Sal, John, and Joe Jr.

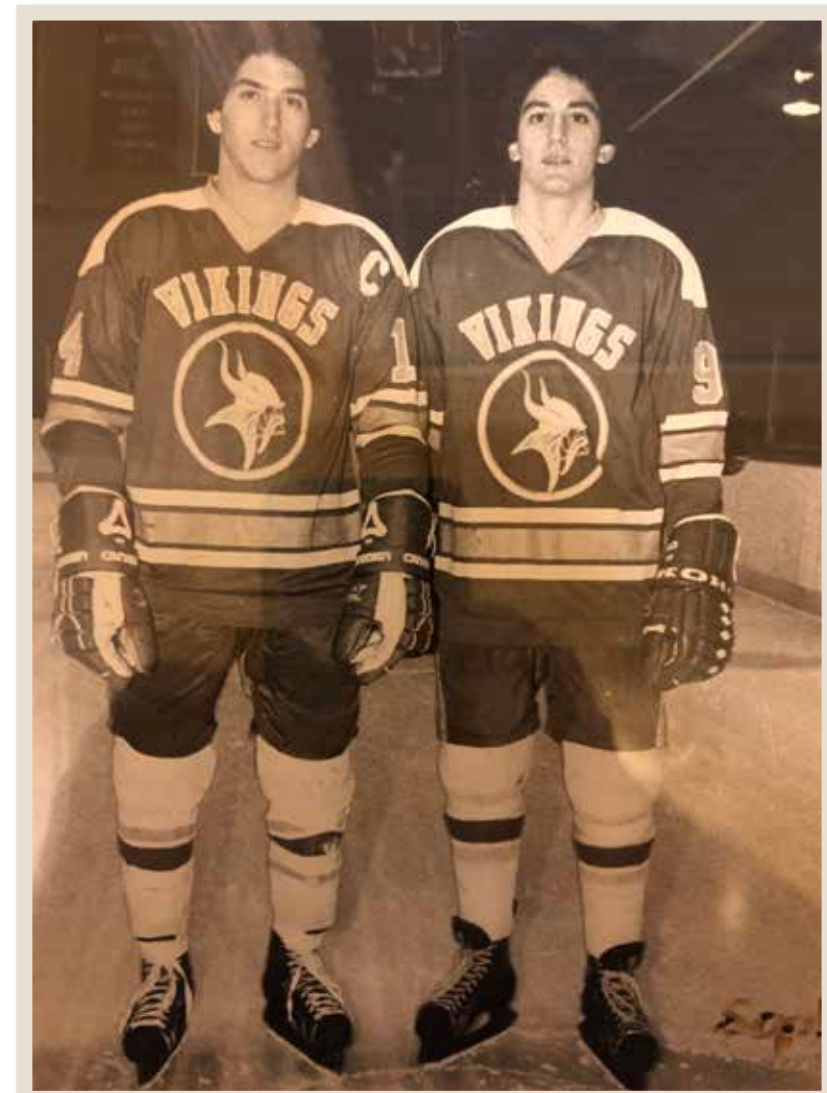
boys needed. They also kept everything in good shape; during hockey season, Joe regularly took the boys’ skates to be sharpened.

“I’d take ‘em in the mail truck. I’d be home with the mail truck, doing my route, and then I’d say, ‘Okay, who needs their skates [sharpened]?’ We’d get ‘em once or twice a week, ‘cause you’re playing in games, you want those skates sharp. And I’d

bring ‘em to a place in the next town, and I’d...say, ‘Jim, I’ll be by after I get out of work and I’ll pick ‘em up.’ ‘No problem.’ And I’d pick ‘em up. Always made sure they had equipment.”

—*Joe Tiano Sr.*

Roberta’s father, Sal, helped foot the bill for such things when money was tight. However, Joe always paid him back in cash or by helping him with some other task.



Senior captain John Tiano (left), and sophomore Sal Tiano (right), in their hockey gear in 1982, when Winthrop High School won the Northeast Conference championship



“Three boys playing travel sports back then, especially travel ice hockey, was very expensive and [Pop] was always the first one to give my dad money if he needed it. He never insisted on him paying it back. But my father, the person he is, always paid every cent back. Made sure of it. My grandfather would say, ‘Oh, I don’t remember giving you that.’ My father said, ‘I do. I got it. I’m giving it to you.’ So that’s something I always remember—how generous he was.”

—*Sal Tiano*

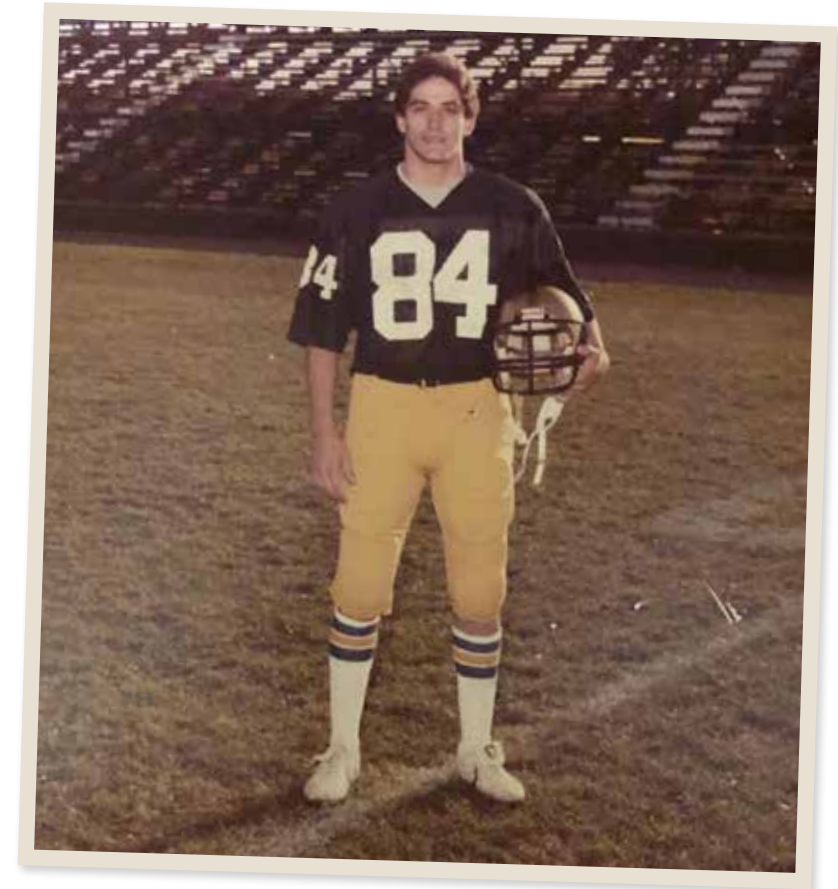
Every time it snowed, Joe or one of the boys showed up in Sal’s driveway with a shovel to make sure the snow was cleared. Even if there was no work to be done, Joe enjoyed spending time with Sal, talking and enjoying his company. They spent a lot of time talking about the boys and debating the big decisions in their lives, such as which college they should attend.

“I’d go in and we’d talk and we’d say about this and that. And, ‘What do you think about him going here? What do you think of this?’ And he wasn’t an educated man. He didn’t go to college or anything like that, but he could give me advice, which was very good...He was like a second father to me.”

—*Joe Tiano Sr.*

The boys spent a lot of time with both of their grandfathers. After Joe’s mother, Helen, died of ovarian cancer in 1973, Joe’s father offered to sell their home to Joe and Roberta as long as he could live rent-free in the basement of the home. Joe gave some money to his brother, Tom, as his portion of the home sale, and the deal was done. John lived downstairs until his death in December 1983.

The Tiano boys were renowned as three of the top athletes in their school and community, racking up one honor after another as the seasons flew by. But



During Sal Tiano’s senior year of high school (1983-1984), he helped lead the Winthrop High School football team to the state championship. The WHS team had a 33-game unbeaten streak over several seasons

the busy schedule meant the years passed quickly, and their sons began leaving home in rapid succession to pursue their next steps.

“It was nice having them together. I can’t say it was easy, but I’m glad we did it. The hard part was they left right away together, too. You know, one’s off to college; two years later, the next one’s off to college; two years later, the next one.”

—*Roberta Tiano*

However, Joe and Roberta followed their sons’ college games as closely as their high school games. On several occasions, two of their sons played



in college games on the same day. Roberta remembers once when Sal had a hockey game at Dartmouth College in Hanover, New Hampshire, while John was playing hockey at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, New York. She and Joe went in different directions, each attending one of the games.

“If I had a hockey game, if my parents weren’t there during pre-game warm-ups, I’d think something was wrong. So they would make that trip—that 2 hours and 45 minutes or 2½-hour trip—just about every home game.” —*John Tiano*

Sal’s Dartmouth team was in the same Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) league as John’s RPI team, and it was always a thrill when they competed against each other. The first time the two teams played at Dartmouth in Hanover, Joe and Roberta made the trip to watch their two youngest sons play on opposing teams. Between periods, Joe was asked to visit the broadcast booth, where the announcer asked Joe which team he was cheering on. Sporting an RPI sweatshirt and a Dartmouth hat, Joe replied, “I’m cheering for both my boys and I don’t care who wins.” When the announcer pressed further, asking how Joe thought they would do in competition against each other, Joe answered, “Knowing them, they’ll probably kill each other!”

These games provided travel adventures for the Tianos for many years, and they had little time to travel anywhere else.

“Our whole life was following our children and being there for them.” —*Roberta Tiano*

“I just think we were really lucky growing up where we did, the time we did, with the family all around us. And I remember just being very proud of my brothers and their accomplishments and always wanting the best for them and just taking pride in everybody’s success. Not only growing up,



her Joseph J. and Roberta Tiano

to take care of the baby.

Roberta’s love of family extends to her cousins, nieces, and nephews, too. She has remained close to her cousin Ernie Caggiano Jr., the son of Grace Ferrara Caggiano, Sal Ferrara’s oldest sister.

“We’re like kissing cousins...But Roberta is dear to me. Very dear to me...She’s just a wonderful human being, and so is her husband. And of course, Sal is a great kid. I’ve got nothing but plusses as far as they’re concerned. We’ve been relatively close over the years. She lived in my town for many, many years until they came down to Florida. And I have nothing but the highest regard for her and her whole family...Family’s family. And as far as I’m concerned, Roberta and that whole crew—they’re great. Absolutely great.” —*Ernie Caggiano Jr.*

Joe and Roberta always encouraged their sons to learn from each other and look out for each other. Even when the miles began to separate them

but later in life and their accomplishments, and it’s a source of pride for the family.”

—*Joe*

*Tiano Jr.*

Roberta continued working as a nurse three days a week after she became a grandmother in her early 40s. The Tianos’ oldest son, Joe, brought the first grandchild, Joseph Salvatore, into their lives in 1984, and on two weekdays off, Roberta often drove up New Hampshire to help Joe and his wife



during and after college, they treasured their close relationships.

“We always pushed with our sons to be close, be there for each other, never let your significant other interfere with your relationship with your family, because that happens so much. But yeah, my three sons have good hearts.”

—*Roberta Tiano*

When Joe was 59 years old and still walking his daily mail route, his youngest son, Sal, offered him a job answering phones in his office. By then, Sal had established a successful wealth management practice. At first, Joe was not sure he should accept the offer. He had grown accustomed to working outside, being active, setting his own schedule, and working almost as his own boss.

“I said, ‘I don’t know how I would feel working inside after being outside all these years.’”

—*Joe Tiano Sr.*

Still, he decided to take two weeks off from the post office to give it a trial run.

“I went into Boston, where his office was, and met everyone in there. And I had to dress, wear a suit jacket and tie, and it felt weird. But I kinda liked it. It was computer work, and I didn’t even know how to put a computer on. We never had a computer. I said, ‘Wait a minute...’ [They said], ‘Oh, we’ll teach ya, don’t worry about it.’ And I learned how to work the computer. And I talked to a lot of clients on the phone. And we got used to each other.”

—*Joe Tiano Sr.*

He agreed to take the job, and Joe quickly became a favorite with the clients. Sometimes they would call to speak with Sal, but after a rousing debrief on the latest sports news with Joe, they hung up, forgetting their initial reasons for calling.

“My biggest client would...be returning my call. And my dad

would get on the phone with him and talk about the Yankees and the Red Sox World Series and this and that and the grandkids and their grandkids. And then I’d be, waiting to get the call and the next thing you know, the light would end. I said, ‘Dad! Where is he? Where is he?’ And he said, ‘Oh, oh, he just hung up. He had to go. He had to go do something.’ I said, ‘You just talked to him for 20 minutes, I was about to do a big trade!’ ‘Oh, sorry, son! Sorry about that!’ They used to call and ask for Joe. ‘What’s Joe doing? Where’s Joe? I miss him!’”

—*Sal Tiano*

By the time Sal’s children were playing on sports teams themselves, Joe was ready to coach again. He helped Sal run practices in Dover—about an hour from his own home in Winthrop. Joe remembers a time when he was helping coach a team on which Sal’s oldest son, Tory, played. They had made it to the finals and the big game was approaching, but Sal had to leave town to attend a charity event he had organized for his friend who died in the 9/11 terrorist attacks, and the trip conflicted with the game schedule.

“Sal had to go away. [He] says, ‘Dad, I’m not going to be here for the championship game.’ I says, ‘Well, Sal, I don’t even know some of the kids’ names, but I know how to coach.’ So I said, ‘We’ll get there.’ He kept calling me every half an hour and I’m on the field coaching. So it ended up a tie game after about 12 innings. It got too dark, so they had to play the next day. And [Sal] was gonna be back the next day. So it worked out and he came back the next day. We went there and we won in the next inning. So he said, ‘See, you needed me here.’”

—*Joe Tiano Sr.*

In 2005, along with their son Sal and his family, Joe and Roberta moved to Jupiter, Florida, where they still reside. Joe continued to work for Sal’s office, but cut his schedule back to three days a week. He was nearly 70 years old



before deciding to retire for good. To make sure he did not get bored in retirement, Joe started coaching the middle-school baseball team at the school his grandson Nick attended, a position he kept for two years.

Joe and Roberta have enjoyed good health for many years. Joe benefited from the many thousands of miles he walked on the postal route. He still walks three miles every morning and coached his grandchildren's teams until he was 71 years old. He was 74 years old before he was ever in the hospital, and that was to have a knee replacement.

The Tianos have many friends in their new Florida home. Joe gets a group of friends together regularly at the Elk's Club or "the Moose." He and Roberta attend St. Peter's Catholic Church and take part in Knights of Columbus events, especially an annual free-throw basketball contest that Joe oversees.

Roberta is a member of the Loggerhead Gym and has a close-knit group of friends who exercise there and plan lunches and other celebrations together. Roberta is known as "the Boss" because she takes the initiative to coordinate frequent group outings; they meet for coffee every Wednesday afternoon.

One weekly standing appointment in the Tiano family is dinner on Sundays. Roberta starts cooking and preparing on Thursday of each week, frying eggplant for eggplant parmesan. Her greatest delight is cooking a feast for her whole family.

"I'm getting tired, I admit that. But once they come and they enjoy their meal and we have some laughs, I enjoy that... it's very casual and I try to make everybody comfortable."

—*Roberta Tiano*

The fact that their grandchildren are eager to bring their friends to such family gatherings is important for both Roberta and Joe, who know that such actions are a true sign of their grandchildren's pride in them.

Joe and his brother, Tom, were not particularly close as children because of the five-year gap between them. But as they have aged, Joe has done his part to develop more of a bond with his brother, who lives in Tyngsborough, Massachusetts. Even though many miles now separate them, Joe faithfully calls Tom once a week.

The Tianos love their community in Florida and enjoy spending time together at home. They also like going out to restaurants like Bonefish or the Outback Steakhouse, and catching an occasional movie at the theater. Because Sal serves on the board of directors for the Maltz Theater in Jupiter, he often gives them show tickets, and they invite friends to join them.

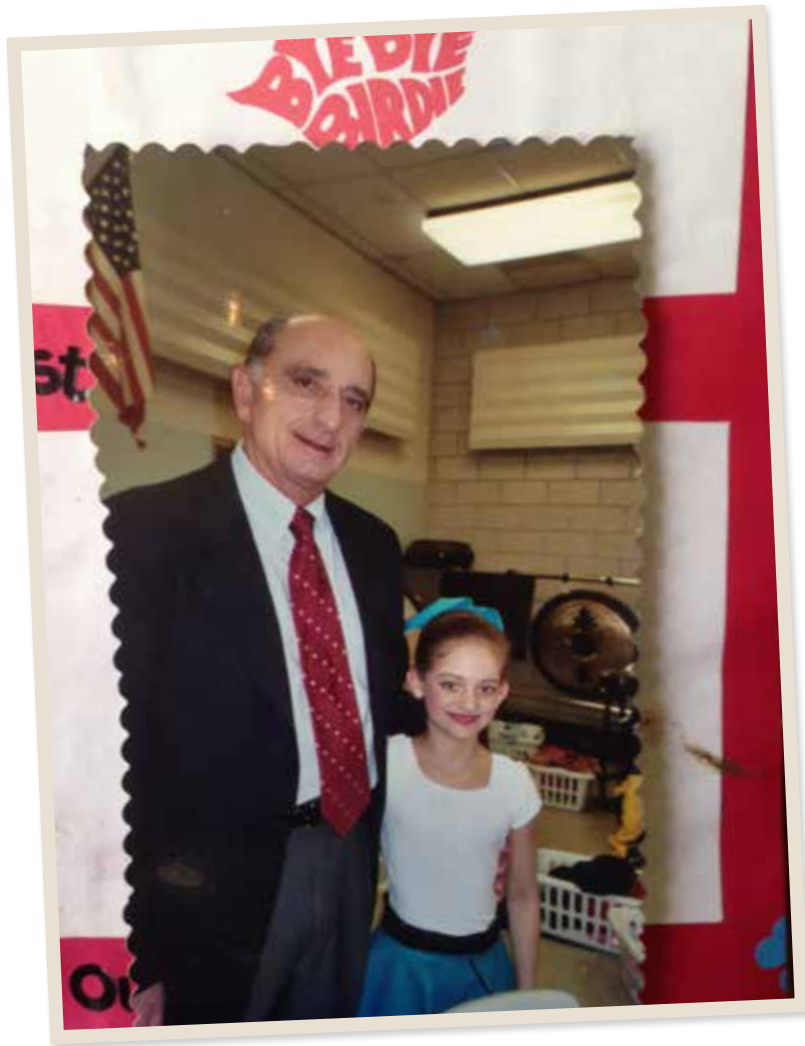
Much like he did during his days at the post office, Joe rises early. By 6:30 a.m. he is drinking his morning coffee, reading the newspaper, and catching up with friends on the computer. Each morning at 8:30, he takes a long walk to avoid the heat of the day. Joe and Roberta also treasure the time they are able to spend with each of their grandchildren.

"I see my grandkids and I light up...A lot of times, Nick will come over here and he'll say he's got his father's credit card to get food. But Nick is the type that doesn't like to spend money that his father gives him. He's very, very conscientious about that. So he'll come over to the house and he'll have something to eat. And I'll say, 'Here, take this.' I'll give him \$20. And I'll say, 'Get yourself a sandwich.' 'I don't need it, Gramps.' 'Lookit, I won a couple of things on the scratch ticket.' I tell him that. And, 'Take that and go with it.' He says, 'You didn't win it.' I says, 'Yeah, look!' I happen to have a scratch ticket I won \$15 on. I'd get a scratch ticket a couple of times a week."

—*Joe Tiano Sr.*

Joe also has been known to appear in the occasional drama production with his granddaughters.





Joe Tiano with his granddaughter, Brenna Tiano, in a production of “Bye, Bye Birdie.” Joe played the role of town mayor.

“The girls love us. They always laugh. They see me, they say,

‘Oh, Gramps, you look good. You got this.’ They laugh when

I talk, ‘cause I do that purposely, too. I don’t want to lose it because I know they have fun with the accent.”

—Joe Tiano Sr.

His grandchildren know Joe is always a good sport and is willing to help however he can. When his granddaughter Brenna was in middle school, she performed in the musical “Bye, Bye Birdie” at her school. The director asked Joe if he’d play the town mayor in the production, and Joe eagerly agreed. That was his first opportunity to sing Elvis Presley’s “Return to Sender.” He and Brenna sang it together onstage as an addition to the script. Now, every time the family is at an event where a microphone is handy, the family—usually led by Brenna—convince Joe to sing that tune, which suits him well as a former postal worker.

“Oh, God. She’ll put my name in. If we go somewhere and they have karaoke, forget it. She’ll be the first one over, and



Joe Tiano during one of his frequent on-stage performances





Joe Tiano winning “World’s Sexiest Man” contest on a cruise

‘Joe Tiano sings this or that’...I watch them and they’ll go up and they’ll grab Grandma and say, ‘We want Grandpa to sing. Put this song in or put that song in.’ And I get up. I’m a little nervous at first but then I get up and I know the song and as long as the words are there, I can sing. ‘Return to Sender’ is my favorite...Yeah, they get a kick outta me going up and singing. And I do it for them. That’s the reason.” —Joe Tiano Sr.

Another time, Brenna was working on a high school video project to warn young people about predators who purport to be

someone else on the internet. She convinced Joe to appear in the video as the much older male predator.

“And she got an A from it. She ran it in school and I was one of the stars! And one of the girls says, ‘I know that guy! That’s your grandfather, isn’t it?’” —Joe Tiano Sr.

Perhaps his most legendary star turn was when the family took a cruise that held a contest for “World’s Sexiest Man,” and Joe was chosen to compete. Although he thought the competition was tough, he did his best, singing, dancing, and flirting with the judges.

“So there were six or seven of us, and some of these muscle-type guys that were in it. I says, ‘I’ll make a fool of myself. I don’t care.’ So I get down there and they had four women judges all there. So you had to sing a little bit and you had to dance—dance mostly. Do some moves on the stage while they played music. I

said, ‘Ah, brother.’ There was one black guy that was ripped. So I did a few moves and I put my knee up on the woman’s chair there, said, ‘Oh, hi.’ Stuff like that. I said, ‘Look, I’m a little older so I can’t move as well.’ And they were laughing. So after the first set-off, I’m still there. The second, I’m still there. I’m saying, ‘What the heck?’”

—Joe Tiano Sr.

Joe won the contest, and some of the other guests even asked him for his autograph. The contest organizers gave him a small plastic trophy, but within the family, Joe gained bragging rights for a lifetime.

Joe and Roberta believe their ancestors would be happy to see how their lives have turned out. Even though they worked hard for many years, they are now reaping the benefits and doing just what they want to do. They realize this is possible because of the courageous choices and monumental sacrifices their ancestors made.



The Tiano family on a Christmastime cruise to the Caribbean (front row): Joe Sr., Brenna, Nick, Alexa, Roberta, and Tory; (back row): Sal and Kim



# The Tiano Family



(Back row, L to R): Tory, Chris, Joey, Brenna (on Joey's lap), Mike, Anthony, and Mike J. (on Anthony's lap) (Front row, L to R): Roberta and Joe



Roberta Tiano (center) celebrating her birthday with some of her grandchildren.



(Back row, L to R): Anthony, Joe Jr., Joey, Bev, John, and Sal  
(Middle row, L to R): Michael, Chris, Kathy, Mike (holding Nick) and Kim (holding Alexa)  
(Front row, L to R): Roberta, Joe, Krista, Brenna, and Tory



Joe and Roberta Tiano with their grandchildren. (Back row, L to R): Joe Jr., Roberta (holding Alexa), Chris, Joe Tiano Sr., Anthony; (Sitting, L to R): Tory, Michael, Mike T. (holding Nick), Brenna, and Krista



# Joeph J. Tiano Sr.'s 70th Birthday



Joe Sr. and his 3 sons in "Joe Tiano" masks at his 70th birthday party



**Please Join us to celebrate  
Joe Tiano's 70<sup>th</sup> birthday**



**Date: Saturday, February 5<sup>th</sup> 2011**

**Time: 6:30 pm**

**Location: Jupiter Elks**

**10070 West Indiantown Rd.**

**No Gifts Please**

**RSVP to Roberta  
by Jan. 25  
(561) 972-0777**



The "Joe Tiano" masks

Joe Tiano Sr.'s 70th birthday party invitation





Roberta and Joseph Tiano

## THE OTHER SONS OF JOE TIANO SR. AND ROBERTA FERRARA

**Joseph John**, born on 16 November 1962, was the first son born to Joe Tiano Sr. and Roberta Ferrara. He shared his parents' love of sports and family.

*"He was a very good athlete himself—very good baseball player, good basketball player growing up and was a very popular kid, understated, well-spoken, a gentleman who loved the ladies. Never had issues with the women, my brother Joe."* —*Sal Tiano*

After graduating from Winthrop High School, Joe attended the University of Massachusetts-Lowell. He studied engineering and was recruited by Sanders Associates upon graduation in 1984. The aerospace and defense company was later acquired by Lockheed before it became BAE Systems, its current name. Joe started as a Quality Engineer and then took on many increasingly important roles including Quality Assurance Manager, Technical Operations Manager, Program Manager, Program Director, and Manufacturing Director and Global Process Owner for the Electronic Combat Solutions Business Area.

Joe's oldest son, Joseph Salvatore, was born on 11 January 1984. He and his wife, Beverly, then welcomed Anthony John into the family on 11 August 1985. Christopher Louis was born on 21 March 1990, and Michael Joseph was born on 13 August 1992.

Joe enjoyed coaching his sons' baseball, football, and basketball teams and mentoring and teaching children. Like his father and brothers, he was a highly

successful coach of youth sports, and his teams once won eight town Little League championships in a row. He also coached many successful all-star and AAU travel teams.

Joe's son Joseph works at Arrowstreet Capital in Portfolio Management and Investment Services. Anthony is a sales representative at Rotech Healthcare. Christopher is president of the SmartFoods Vending company, and Michael is a project manager at APX Net Inc.

Joe is now married to Karen (Spiller) Tiano, a Global Strategic Communication Leader at Millipore Sigma.

**John Anthony**, born to Joe Tiano Sr. and Roberta Ferrara on 25 April 1964, was a star athlete throughout high school and college. After a stellar four years at Winthrop High School, he was offered scholarships in three sports and was named the best all-around athlete in the state of Massachusetts as a senior.

*"My brother John was the most popular kid in the school because he was the stud athlete and everybody wanted to be like him, from grade school all the way through high school. He was always the leader and the three-sport captain."*

—*Sal Tiano*

John attended Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, New York, and played for the school's hockey team. He married Kathleen Connors right after college and began working for Furman Lumber Company in New Hampshire. Now called Boise Cascade, the company is a wholesale distributor of building materials. John is a branch manager and is responsible for the company's facilities in Greenland, New Hampshire, and Portsmouth, New Hampshire.

John and Kathleen had a son, Michael, on 4 October 1988. They also adopted a daughter, Krista Rose, when she was 7 days old. She was born on 15 January 1996.



# Joseph J. Tiano Jr. Family



Joe and  
Karen Tiano



(Clockwise from top left): Anthony, Michael, Joey, and Chris  
Tiano with their father, Joe J. Tiano (in the center)



Joe Tiano Jr. with his granddaughter Jiya,  
daughter of Joe Tiano III and his wife, Wex



Joe Tiano Jr. and  
his granddaughters  
Ruyi and Aria

(L to R): Michael Tiano  
holding his daughter, Aria;  
Joe Tiano Jr.; Roberta and Joe  
Tiano; Joe Tiano III (back); and  
Wex holding Ruyi





# John Anthony Tiano Family



Krista and Michael Tiano



John Tiano (center) with his children, Krista and Michael



John Tiano with his daughter, Krista



Krista Tiano (center) with her paternal grandparents, Joe and Roberta Tiano



## *Salvatore Anthony Tiano and Kim M. Hendrickson*

**S**alvatore Anthony Tiano was born in Everett, Middlesex County, Massachusetts, on 17 February 1966, the third and youngest son of Joseph J. Tiano and Roberta J. Ferrara.

Sal and his older brothers had what they describe as an idyllic childhood that revolved primarily around sports. They would stay outside each afternoon until the street lights came on, and played outside all day long on Saturdays and Sundays.

“Both my parents were athletes, so it wasn’t about movies or culture, it was about being on the baseball field, the hockey rinks, shoveling snow so we could skate. My dad used to flood the back of our yard in wintertime, and it’s not like we had money to go skiing or anything like that, but we all played three sports. We played football, hockey, baseball. My brother Joe ended up playing basketball. But whatever it was, it was always competition. We were always competing and we had so many cousins in the area that lived in the same hometown that we were always playing with them or against them or on the same teams as them.”

—*Sal Tiano*

As the youngest of three boys, Sal spent much of his childhood doing what his older brothers did. He wore their hand-me-downs and kept up with them during impromptu wrestling matches at home. He shared a bedroom with his brother John. On any athletic field, he did his best to compete with his older, bigger brothers.

“I always had to work a little harder to get attention, being the youngest of three boys. And I remember one time, I just wouldn’t shut up or I was talking back to my mother or

something, and we were eating dinner and my brothers were encouraging me. And my mother said to be quiet and I kept going and I wouldn’t be quiet. And she said, ‘One more time.’ And my brothers were kicking me, needling me under the table and encouraging me. So I said something I shouldn’t have said and my mother got a plate. She was standing up and I was sitting down and she whacked it on the top of my head, and I don’t think she realized how hard she did it. The whole plate—it was porcelain, it was a big plate. And it did—no matter what she says—it broke in half over my head. She snapped it over my head. And thank God we didn’t know what a concussion was back then. And my brothers just started laughing and I wanted to cry but wouldn’t. And I laughed in her face and I told her, ‘It didn’t hurt and you can’t hurt me.’ And it got her pissed off more. And she chased me around and I ran into my bedroom and shut the door. And then when everybody was sleeping, I put ice on my head.”

—*Sal Tiano*

When Sal was in kindergarten, Roberta pursued further education in nursing so she could return to work part-time, and each morning Sal spent time with his grandparents or other relatives before catching the school bus. Joe was usually home from work by the time school was out, ready to take the boys outside to throw some pitches or practice fielding. From an early age, Sal could spot the sacrifices his parents were making to give him and his brothers opportunities.

“My dad would get up at 5:00 in the morning all the time and be at work by 6:00 and he’d do his route and he’d be home by 3:00. And then my mother would go in from 3:00 to 11:00 or sometimes she’d work 11:00 to 7:00—she’d do the night shift. I remember them always just trying to make ends meet, but never using money as an excuse. Always giving us and enabling us [with] whatever we needed, but not necessarily



what we desired, which I think was a good thing. Because I saw how hard they worked...And they borrowed money to allow us to play and compete and do things. They used to sacrifice vacations just so we could play. We would take a family vacation in August and we'd load up the station wagon and drive to New Hampshire at Pop's place...it's not like we stayed in hotels.”

—*Sal Tiano*

His parents made sure their sons' clothes were clean and their sports equipment was in the best condition possible. However, Sal's ability to see his parents' work ethic in action kept him from complaining about not having new clothes or other conveniences.

“If my skates were too tight, I didn't tell them. I'd say, 'I can go another year with these.' Until he saw me with blisters, right?”

—*Sal Tiano*

His older brothers set an example as hard-working athletes from the beginning, but as Sal became an athletic star in his own right, he also excelled academically. He had the drive and motivation to get top grades.

“I applied myself more in school, so I said, 'Okay, I'm gonna work my tail off to be as good an athlete as he is. Even if I'm not, I'm just going to keep working and working and working.’”

—*Sal Tiano*

In each success or failure his brothers experienced, Sal learned valuable lessons, and they wanted him to learn, sharing advice when they could. Their parents had high expectations for them, and they knew it.

“When I was growing up, I remember one time I think I stole a piece of candy from the convenience store and my mother heard me talking about it. And she slapped me in the back of the head and said, 'Get your ass back to the store. Tell them

you did it, and here's the money, and we're taking it out of your allowance. And you tell them what you did and you look 'em in the eyes.' You respected authority. You did the right thing and the teacher wasn't always wrong—you were probably wrong. You did something wrong? Own up to it, say you're sorry, and move on.”

—*Sal Tiano*

Much like the grandfather for whom he was named—Sal Ferrara, or “Pop”—Sal mastered charm at an early age.

“I remember my classmates saying, 'How the heck can you be the class clown AND the teacher's pet at the same time?' So I had a way of ingratiating myself with the teachers that allowed them to want to be on my side while also being the class clown.”

—*Sal Tiano*

In his senior year, Sal had a fantastic hockey season, and was even named player of the game after scoring a game-winning goal in the last minute of one high-profile contest. In a TV interview, a reporter asked him how he felt, always being compared to his brother John.

“And I said, 'Lance, it's a great question because my brother was the best player I ever played with or against, and if I'm half the player he is, I gotta be pretty good.' I said, 'So thanks for asking. He was a great role model.' And he said, 'Wow, what a great answer!’”

—*Sal Tiano*

Sal appreciates the guidance his parents gave him from childhood all the way through his college years. They emphasized the importance of family bonds.

“For me, [my dad] was perfect because I'm not a type A, I'm a type triple-A. So I always put so much pressure on myself. My intensity level was very high. He used to just be this soothing,





(L to R): Sal, Joe, and John Tiano in Positano, Italy

calming influence for me that I needed. And there was my mother: ‘Don’t take any shit from anybody’...I just remember always being together. And I really enjoy my relationship with my brothers, to this day. And there’s one thing I can say, too—I can say this very confidently: I don’t think there’s ever been an ounce of jealousy in my family with my brothers—

with me for my brothers and my brothers for me. I don’t think there’s ever been. We are all very blessed that we always pull for one another, no matter what the situation is. And I’m the little brother, so I always try to do things the right way, even now...I felt like if my brothers succeeded in anything, I felt like I succeeded. And we always felt that way...I mean, I was in the perfect place at the perfect time in my childhood. I have just about all fond memories. I look back now and I say I’m kind of glad I didn’t have a lot of money. I’m kind of glad that my parents couldn’t afford certain things because it gave me an appreciation for things now that I would have never had.”

—*Sal Tiano*

Sal and his brothers were the first in their family to graduate from college. When it was time for Sal to choose a school, Dartmouth seemed to be the best choice, but he knew it came with a hefty price tag.

“I remember going up to Dartmouth with my parents and walking on campus and saying, ‘This is where I want to go.’ And the coach came to watch me play; it was Winthrop against Saugus. And I remember playing in that game and I remember us winning the game 5-4 and I got four goals and an assist. And I scored the game-winner with a minute to go, and I knew the Dartmouth coach was watching me. I thought, ‘Okay, I think I got this.’ And he was waiting for me in the lobby when I came out of the locker room and said, ‘Yeah, you gotta apply.’” —*Sal Tiano*



Sal Tiano (center, with the puck) when he was a freshman at Dartmouth College, 1985

Sal could have earned a sports scholarship to a non-Ivy League school, but Dartmouth was a better fit for him. Joe assured him that they could swing it financially, and told Sal he could work during the summer to pay for one trimester, which he did.



“My father told me to choose a school where, if hockey didn’t work out or if I got hurt the first day in practice and could never play again, where would I be most happy? And that was Dartmouth. And I don’t regret it.”  
—*Sal Tiano*

At Dartmouth, Sal found himself in a different world from the Winthrop of his youth. He felt prepared in writing and mathematics, but quickly learned that some of his classmates had a stronger foundation in economics, which was his major. In one of his first classes, the professor asked the class of about 80 students how many of them had taken economics in high school.

“I look around, almost every hand was raised. [The professor asked], ‘How many kids didn’t take economics in high school?’ I see two hands raised and I wasn’t gonna raise my hand. I was all embarrassed. I thought, ‘Oh, boy.’”  
—*Sal Tiano*

“He used to call me his freshman year. He was on the hockey team. He got recruited, but he had the marks, too. If you’re an athlete, you get pushed up a little bit in the Ivy League schools on that list. The coach wants you. So he’d call and he’d say, ‘Dad, everybody’s got their own credit card up here. They’re just very rich.’”  
—*Joe Tiano Sr.*

“He was a little bit intimidated because they all came from prestigious prep schools, where Sal came from a little public high school.”  
—*Roberta Tiano*

“And then I’d tell him, I said, ‘Lookit. Once you’re with the hockey players and you start practice, you’re not going to feel that way, ‘cause some of them are the same as you.’ You know? We got a little intimidated.”  
—*Joe Tiano Sr.*

Even though he worked hard in high school, good grades had always been fairly easy for Sal to achieve. College was different. Once, Sal called his parents in the middle of the term when he was getting a C in one of his classes.

“My mother said, ‘You know what? One thing I know about you is you’re working hard.’ And this is what I love about my parents. They said, ‘If you get a C, then we’re proud of you. Just do the best you can.’ I thought, ‘Wow!’ You know? And my dad said, ‘Absolutely! Don’t worry about it, son. We know you’re working hard. If a C’s the best you can do, then get a C.’ I just thought, ‘Wow!’”  
—*Sal Tiano*

“Well, I knew how he was. I never doubted that he’d have a problem in his marks in school. I always had confidence in that. Never doubted that at all.”  
—*Joe Tiano Sr.*

“Sal, when he does something, he doesn’t do it 100%. He has to do it 110%. And he was really, really tough on himself, coming from a public high school.”  
—*Roberta Tiano*

The pep talk helped, but Sal soon realized that he did deserve to be at Dartmouth and that he could compete with—and surpass—his classmates. He loved his professors and classes and maintained a distinguished scholastic record. He remembered a lesson his father had taught him years earlier—that the best athletes have to balance on the border of confidence and cockiness. Joe had told him not to be outwardly cocky but to believe in his own abilities.

One time, when Sal had the opportunity to spend a term off campus, he was hesitant to call and ask his parents for the money he needed for the program.



“He wanted to go to San Diego in college for a semester or whatever, and he needed the money. And I said, ‘Don’t worry about it. We’ll get it. Tell me what you need.’ Now I had saved up some money on the side...well, that’s how he got there. And he went there and I think he remembered that, that we would be able to send him.”

—Joe Tiano Sr.

Sal has remained grateful for the numerous sacrifices his parents made to help him attend an Ivy League school, and Joe and Roberta know it.

“He knew that we worked from paycheck to paycheck. And that’s why I think he got through college and he appreciated so much what we did for him to go. And my father was a big part of that, too. My father helped...[Sal] promised us [that] when he graduated, he was going to do something nice for us. When he graduated from Dartmouth, he sent us on a cruise.”

—Roberta Tiano

After college, Sal networked with some of his fellow Dartmouth alumni and his efforts led to a job and an 18-month-long training program at Drexel Burnham, which was at one time the fifth-largest investment bank in the United States. He remembers the grueling interview process he went through to land the job.

“I went to New York for the second round of recruiting and I walk in his office...and he hands me a pencil or a pen and he says, ‘Sell me this.’ I thought, ‘Okay...’ I just kinda laughed at him and I picked up the pen and I said something like, ‘Let me ask you, sir. I know that you and I have communicated in the past and you told me you were looking for a writing utensil that was a little bit different and unique.’ I said, ‘I think I have the perfect thing. Do you have a minute to talk about it?’ Like that. And then I just started winging it. He nodded his head and said,

‘Thanks a lot.’ And then when I left, I knew I impressed him. I got the job.”

—Sal Tiano

During this initial Wall Street training program, Sal was living in Battery Park City in a two-bedroom apartment with three roommates. He worked 80-hour weeks, earning \$20,000 a year while trying to pay off his student loans. However, his life changed forever one chilly December night in 1988 when he was relaxing with friends at a bar in New York called Live Bait. A young woman named Kim Hendrickson walked in and caught his eye.

Kim was studying fashion merchandising at Butler University in Indiana, but was completing a one-year transfer program to get an associate’s degree at the Fashion Institute of Technology. She had just finished her final exams when she walked into Live Bait with some girlfriends and found there was nowhere to sit.

“Of course, being a little confident bordering on cockiness, I look over and I go, ‘Come here.’ I just waved her over. ‘Come on, bring your friends.’ So she came over and I said, ‘As long as I got a lap, you got a place to sit.’ I offered her my seat and then she ended up squeezing in, sitting next to me. We just started talking.”

—Sal Tiano

When they left, Kim wrote her number on a napkin in red lipstick. Sal called her the next morning to see if he could take her to dinner, but Kim had to pack for a flight home to Indiana the next day for Christmas break. She declined the offer, but Sal persisted.

“I said, ‘I’ll tell you what. I’m gonna come by at 8:00. If you come down, we’ll go somewhere really fun, have a quick bite to eat. If not, I guess I’m going out to dinner alone.’ So I had no idea that she would actually show up.”

—Sal Tiano



Kim did come down to meet Sal and they spent the evening talking almost exclusively about their families. Kim did mention a boyfriend back in Indiana, but Sal was not too worried.

“And I said, ‘Okay, whatever. You’re out to dinner with me, so it can’t be too serious.’”

—*Sal Tiano*

Over Christmas break, Sal and Kim talked on the phone once or twice a week. The first night she was back in New York City, they went to dinner again—and then again the next night. That’s when Sal made a big confident-bordering-on-cocky pronouncement.

“I told her, ‘I don’t want to scare ya. If I scare ya, kick me out, but I think we’re gonna get married.’”

—*Sal Tiano*

Kim did not kick him out, and they continued dating. Their only challenge was finding inexpensive ways to have fun in the Big Apple.

“My salary—with no bonuses, during training, I cleared \$550 every two weeks. And I remember Kim coming over on a Sunday and I gave the cab driver \$20 to get her back to her dorm. And I came back in, and the next morning, I walked to work ‘cause it was only three blocks away... And I realized I had no money for lunch. So I walked back and I remember I had Captain Crunch cereal for lunch Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, and on Wednesday, I ran out of milk. So I ate dry Captain Crunch cereal for lunch. And I think I scrambled up eggs or something for dinner. And I didn’t have a credit card. And Thursday I got paid. And I remember I didn’t own a winter jacket... And Kim used to get a stipend from her dad once a month, and Kim bought me my first winter jacket in New York City.”

—*Sal Tiano*



Sal Tiano and Kim Hendrickson

After she graduated, Kim moved to Boston to take an internship at a Jordan Marsh store. She and Sal both moved into his parents’ home for the summer of 1989 to save money on housing. Sal’s training program had been cut short because of Drexel Burnham’s sale to Smith Barney, but he was working in production with Smith Barney and was able to do that in Boston. After her internship ended, Kim returned to Indiana for her senior year at Butler.

Sal visited her frequently and attended her sorority dances and other events. He got along well with Kim’s parents, Bill and Sandy Hendrickson, but it took a bit of time for them to adjust to the idea that he might soon be their son-in-law.

“A girl from Indiana is not supposed to meet Salvatore Anthony Tiano, a guinea from Boston, in a bar in New York City. She’s supposed to marry the farmer up the street.”

—*Sal Tiano*



After she graduated from Butler, Sal bought Kim a Toyota Celica—her first car—and they drove it back to Boston together. She had taken a job at TJX Corporation in Framingham, Massachusetts—the corporate headquarters of T.J. Maxx. They both lived with Joe and Roberta again.

While they both knew marriage was on the horizon, Kim was ready to make things official and dropped a few hints about getting engaged. It wasn't until they took a trip back to New York, where they had met, that Sal popped the question.

“We went to see a Broadway show, and I had the ring in my sport jacket the whole time. I was kind of nervous. And then we went back to the place where I met her—Live Bait. And Live Bait's kind of a biker bar, where you walk in and there's a sign on the wall that says, 'If you want good home cooking, stay home'...I had called in advance and there was a line out the door, [but] we walked right up and they got us a booth. And we were joking and I said, 'Kim, I'll tell you what, 'cause you always ask me about getting engaged.' I said, 'If they play our song in here'—because our song was Linda Ronstadt and Aaron Neville's 'All My Life,' right?—and we said that's what we would play at our wedding for our wedding song. And I said, 'If they play our wedding song, then I'll propose to you.' She said, 'You know they don't play that music in here. They'll never play that music.' And about 15 minutes later, I gave the manager a hand signal and they played the song and I said, 'Oh, my God!' I asked her to marry me.”

—Sal Tiano

On 7 September 1991, Sal and Kim married in Indianapolis, Indiana. At 25 and 23 years old, respectively, they were ready to return to Boston to create a life together.



Kim and Sal Tiano on their wedding day, 7 September 1991



In January 1991, Sal left Smith Barney for Bear Stearns and quickly rose up the ranks of his company. In fact, by the end of 1993, at the ripe age of 27, Sal was named the youngest Senior Managing Director in the history of Bear Stearns.

After their wedding in 1991, Sal and Kim moved into a house they had bought on Clayton Street in Medfield, Massachusetts, about 18 miles west of Boston and close to her workplace. Within about six months of their marriage, they learned they were going to be parents, and Salvatore “Tory” Joseph was born on 6 March 1993. In October of the following year, Sal and Kim welcomed the first daughter born into the Tiano family line in many years. In fact, Brenna Rose had been preceded by 18 boys in a row across multiple generations. Roberta and Joe still remember the day Sal called to tell them they finally had a granddaughter.

In May 1994, the Tianos moved to a home in Dover, Massachusetts. It abutted 600 acres of conservation land with horse trails, bike paths, and streams. Sal realized again the depth of love his parents had for him when he closed on the house.

THE CHILDREN OF SALVATORE ANTHONY TIANO AND KIM M. HENDRICKSON	SALVATORE “TORY” JOSEPH (6 March 1993– )
	BRENNA ROSE (October 1994– )
	WILL CHARLES CLERVIL (1 June 1995– )
	NICHOLAS “NICK” WILLIAM (12 December 1997– )
	ALEXA LOUISE (19 April 2001– )

“It was a pretty big house but I got a great deal on it. And they were all stressed. And I said, ‘Ma, what’s the matter? You don’t really seem happy.’ She goes, ‘You’re buying this

mansion.’ And she said, ‘We’re afraid that we can’t help you if something happens.’ And I said, ‘Ma, you’ve helped me my whole life.’”  
—Sal Tiano

Another son, Nicholas William, arrived in the Tiano family in 1997, and Alexa Louise, the youngest child, was born on 19 April 2001.

When Sal and Kim relocated their family from Massachusetts to Jupiter, Florida, in 2005, Sal’s only hesitation was moving his children away from their grandparents. He agonized over the decision for some time and finally decided to ask them to move to Florida, too. Before he proposed the idea to Joe and Roberta, however, he called each of his brothers to get their blessing, because moving to Florida would take them farther away from Joe and John and their families in the Northeast. He knew asking them first was the right thing to do.

“Respect is important to me. So both my brothers said, ‘Thanks for calling. Ask. Tell ‘em to move down. It may be the perfect thing.’”  
—Sal Tiano

Sal and Kim’s first home was in BallenIsles Country Club on PGA Boulevard in Jupiter, Florida. They started attending Christ Fellowship Church, and came to know the community called Place of Hope, which houses about 45 foster children in small cottages. Because of its association with their church, the Tianos donated toys and clothes their children had outgrown to help the organization.

At that time, the Tianos had no idea how much Place of Hope would change their lives. In about 2011, Charles Bender, the organization’s president, asked Sal if he would mentor one of the boys living there, which involved an occasional phone call or outing and taking a general interest in the boy’s life. Sal was open to the idea, but said he could not take on a role like that until he finished helping his oldest son, Tory, choose a college, after which he would





The Tiano children (L to R): Tory, Nick, Alexa, and Brenna

have more time. Sal was also handling more than 100 clients and coaching travel baseball and hockey teams. However, he slept restlessly that night, second-guessing his response. Kim noticed, and asked Sal what was bothering him. “Charles asked me to help somebody, and I said no because I have so little time right now.” Kim said, “You’re not lying. You don’t have any time. But you’ll make it work. Call him up and tell him you’ll do it.” Sal told Kim that if he did agree to be a mentor, he was not going to do it halfway, and that he would need her help. “I got it,” she said. “Just call him.”

Charles was happy to get that phone call, and then described each boy to Sal, asking him to choose one to mentor. Sal responded, “Charles, who am I to decide? Give me your neediest kid.” Charles said that Will Clervil, who was 14 years old then, was most in need because mentors often avoided older children, thinking they were already set in their ways. That did not deter Sal, though. He said, “I have two daughters at home. As long as you can tell me they’re safe, I’m in.”

“Charles said, ‘Sal, you will love this kid. He’s got a smile that’ll brighten up a room. He’s the best kid. He’s an awesome kid.’ ”  
—*Sal Tiano*

Will had survived a childhood of extreme poverty and homelessness. By the time he was 11 years old, he was begging for old food from fast-food restaurants in order to feed not only himself, but his younger brother and his mother, who suffered from mental illness. On their first outing, Sal took Will to Duffy’s, a sports restaurant, and began building trust right away. Both of them started to feel comfortable as they opened up about their lives.

“And he did something that night that Charles said he rarely does. He looked me in the eyes when he talked to me, and he said he hardly ever does that because he doesn’t have confidence.”  
—*Sal Tiano*

Sal and Kim helped Will catch up academically, hiring English and math tutors, and they attended parent-teacher conferences as his representative. He had never attended middle school or learned basic math, English, and writing skills, so he was about two years behind his peers in school. He started competing in football and wrestling, and joined the track team once he got into high school. He and his younger brother, Dorson, spent weekends with the Tianos.

After Will turned 18, the age when he had to leave Place of Hope, the Tianos



The Tiano family, (Back row, L to R) Nick, Brenna, Tory, Alexa, and Will. (Front row, L to R): Sal and Kim Tiano

invited him to live in the guesthouse attached to their home. The Tianos had moved from BallenIsles to Admirals Cove in 2012. Will still had two more years of high school ahead of him then. The success he had in the following years is remarkable. He qualified for the state finals in wrestling at 182 pounds, set the 100-yard-dash record at his school, earned All Palm Beach County honors in football, and made the honor roll in his last semester of his senior year.

“He knocks on my door at quarter of 11 at night...’Dad! Dad! You gotta look at this list’...And I look at it, and there’s about 15 kids on it and he’s one of them. I said, ‘What the hell’s this? The knucklehead list?’ He said, ‘I made honor roll—first time in my life.’ I gave him a big hug.”

—Sal Tiano

Will, a native of the French side of the island of St. Martin, became a U.S. citizen on 5 July 2018. He moved on to college and is planning to earn a master’s degree in social work so he can help other children who are in the same dire situation he once experienced. Sal and Kim often host parties to raise money for Place of Hope and introduce people to the organization’s mission, which they support wholeheartedly. In March 2018, Place of Hope held



Will, with Kim to his right, presents the keynote speech at the Place of Hope’s annual gala at The Breakers in Palm Beach, Florida, March 2019

its annual gala at PGA National Resort and Will gave the keynote speech in front of 700 people. It was so successful that he gave another speech at The Breakers the following year. Kim chaired the event.

While the whole family embraces Will

as son, brother, and grandson, the bond between Will and Sal has grown especially strong since that first night at Duffy’s. Sal says the change in Will since that time has been remarkable.

“We would take him to a restaurant, and he would sit next to me because I was his safety net, even though he loves my whole family. And he couldn’t really read the menu that well and he couldn’t look up at the waiter or waitress, and he would just say, ‘I’ll have what he’s having,’ and just point to me. ‘I’ll have what he’s having. Whatever he has.’ And even when we start drinking, if I have a Moscow Mule, he drinks Moscow Mules now. If I drink a beer, he’ll drink a beer. And [he says], ‘I’ll just have whatever he has.’”

—Sal Tiano



The Big Red Machine baseball team, the runner-up to the national championship in 2006. Sal Tiano, who coached the team, is in the back row, far right, and his son Nick is in the front row, far left





Celebrating a second-place finish at the national tournament in North Carolina, 2006 (L to R): Alexa, Kim, Sal, Nick, Joe Sr., and Roberta

After the 2008 financial crisis, J. P. Morgan acquired Bear Stearns, so Sal's business cards changed again while his client list and focus remained largely the same. Sal had also purchased the Pure Hockey company with a partner, and it was growing exponentially. After they bought one small store in 2002, the business expanded to include 54 locations in 18 states, employing more than 1,000 people.

Despite his busy professional life, Sal always made time to coach his sons' Little League teams, as his father had done for him and his brothers. After receiving a fair amount of criticism from Joe after one of the games Sal coached, Sal signed Joe up to be his assistant coach the next year. Knowing Joe had the patience to help each boy improve, Sal asked him to hold special practice sessions with the three or four weakest players while Sal worked with the others.

"When they're younger, they can't catch a ball over their heads, so he'd start with tennis balls and throw them tennis balls. And then he made it fun and competitive so that we would split up and then come together as a team. By the end of the season, our weakest kids were by far the most improved players in the league because he worked so much with them."

—Sal Tiano

Even though she was not listed as an official coach, Roberta was closely involved with the various teams her sons and husband coached, and often shared her own observations and analysis with them.

"My mother doesn't miss a beat. She's there. She understands sports better than most of the dads do. She understands the finer points, too, so I could sit and talk to her and she'd be like, 'Tell me why you did this, then,' or we'll talk the game afterwards. Not just baseball—any sport. So it's kind of our way."

—Sal Tiano

Roberta has had many reasons to be proud of her sons throughout the years—reasons that go well beyond the realm of sports. Because she and Joe have always lived near Sal and his family, they have been able to attend most of the family's special events.

"Sal was on the National Honor Society in high school. They invited him back once he was in the work field to come



Sal and Kim Tiano





The Tiano family (back row): Kim and Sal  
(front row, L to R): Tory, Nick, Alexa, and Brenna

back and talk to the National Honor Society. He stood up and he gave a nice speech and everything.” —*Roberta Tiano*

Sal also has served on the board of directors for the Maltz Jupiter Theatre since 2006, and often shares the show tickets he is given with his parents and their friends.

Sal and Kim have been blessed to be able to include his parents in many of their activities, and Roberta and Joe have always felt welcomed. They enjoy a close relationship with their daughter-in-law, Kim, whom they admire and respect.

“Kim...was always very appreciative, and she always includes us. She’s appreciative and respectful. That’s the word. [She’s] always been like that to us.”

—*Roberta Tiano*



Sal Tiano

Sal says Kim has always been the glue for their family, guiding each of their children with her insightful maternal wisdom and serving as his own moral and religious center.



Photos of Kim coaching her children’s teams.  
(Clockwise from top left):

Alexa’s high school golf team at Augusta National with Kim on the far right and Alexa 5th from the right; Kim and Brenna at a cheerleading event; and Alexa’s soccer team with Kim (far right) and Alexa (front row, second from left).







The Tiano brothers (L to R): Joe Jr., John, and Sal

“I give my wife, Kim, a lot of credit because she’s a great mother. And she doesn’t allow our kids to feel that sense of entitlement... She’s a good moral compass for me. I love the

fact that she reads the Bible every day. She’ll find a passage and text it to me and say, ‘Hey, I was thinking about you. Have a great day. Appreciate everything you do. Love you.’ That means the world to me. Little things like that. And she keeps me grounded, too. So, we live the good life, right? We love having a good life, but we also give. And the giving part and the generous part is what I think was passed down to us from our parents and my grandparents.”

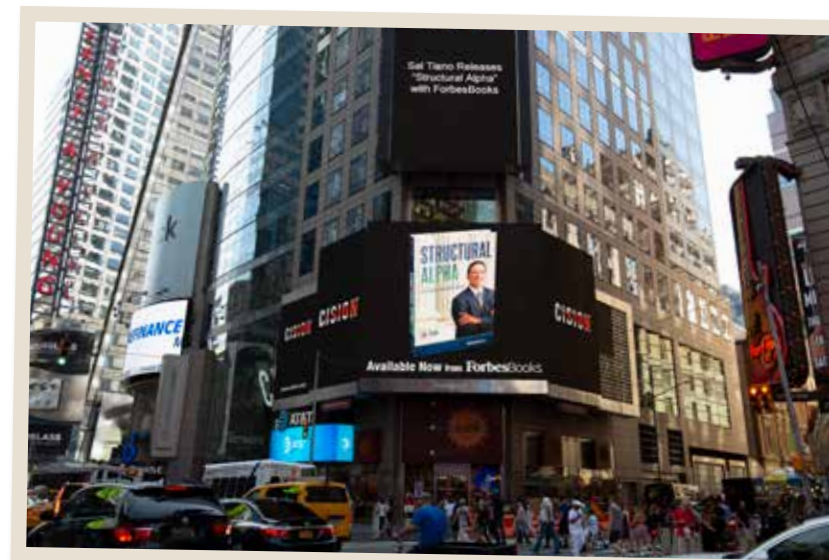
—Sal Tiano

Sal has been named by both Barron’s and Forbes on their lists of the Top 100 Financial Advisors in the Country. His wealth management practice is the largest in the country at J. P. Morgan, managing billions of dollars in client assets from a clientele comprised primarily of entrepreneurs, corporate executives, professional athletes, and retirees. Sal also partnered with Forbes in 2019 to publish a book on wealth management, titled *Structural Alpha: Building & Maintaining an Elite Wealth Management Practice*.

“I love what I do, and I hand-picked every person on my team. There are 14 of us in the office...And I gotta tell you, I love going to the office and hanging with my team.”

—Sal Tiano

Charity work has always been important to Sal, too. In addition to his and Kim’s long-time support of Place of Hope, Sal joined the Benjamin School’s board of directors. He also serves on the board of the Jupiter Medical Center and founded the Jimmy Martello Foundation to honor a friend who died in the World Trade Center on 9/11. Following his parents’ example of always helping family members when he can, Sal has helped his nephew Chris Tiano start the Smartfoods Vending Company in Florida, offering healthier foods in vending machines. However, between his family’s activities, his demanding work schedule, and his volunteer commitments, he is still able to find some moments to relax and pursue the hobbies he loves.



Sal’s book, *Structural Alpha*, is advertised on the big screen in Times Square, summer 2019

“I enjoy playing golf, I enjoy the beach, I enjoy traveling, I like the water. I like to read. I like to always try to better myself. I like to work out. I like to be fit.”

—Sal Tiano

The relationship between the three Tiano brothers remains one of the family’s biggest blessings.

“There’s not a major decision I make in my life without consulting them. I still look at them as mentors. I still look up to them, but I am very happy and proud of the fact that they also look up to me now.”

—Sal Tiano

Sal and Kim frequently visit the Bahamas and own land there, on which they hope to build a vacation home someday. They enjoy traveling to other destinations, too, and each year, Sal invites his parents on a trip, still paying them back for their sacrifices and devotion. Sal has a deep devotion to his family and the role the earlier generations played in making his own successes a reality. Therefore, gratitude for his own family's history remains one of the guiding priorities of his life.

"I really appreciate my Italian heritage and my roots, and I think my kids know I want to pass that on to the next generation. I want them to learn about the sacrifices that our ancestors made to come here because...usually when an immigrant comes to this country, whether they're European immigrants or wherever they're from, it's not the first generation that flourishes. It's typically the second or third. And the first generation typically does the menial labor so that the second generation will reap the benefits and receive the

education...[I'm the] first generation to go to college, right? If I was a generation or two earlier, I'd have never been educated. I had that opportunity because of them. I don't take it for granted. I mean, that's why I get up every day. That's why I haven't taken a sick day in my entire career. I mean, it's why I feel the responsibility to bring it forward. And...what I've been taught from my grandparents and my parents is you just want to give your children a better percentage shot of succeeding in life. Maybe a better percentage chance than what you might have had. And that's all we can give our kids...And so I come home at night and I sit out on the back patio and I pinch myself. And I look at it and I say, 'So God has blessed me with a family, with health, with resources. Don't just spoil yourself. Make sure that if you do this, you also do other good things'...It's not all about buying things for yourself. If you can do that, that's great. But it's about helping others to be the best version of them they can be,

as well, and changing lives. To me, that's what this is all about. And maybe God gave us these resources to do something like that. Maybe I'll retire early and mentor kids that are less fortunate. I don't know. I haven't decided yet. The book's not written yet. It's not complete yet."

—Sal Tiano



Top right: The Tiano family in the Florida Keys (L to R): Kim, Tory, Will, Sal, Brenna, Alexa, and Nick



Bottom right: The Tiano family in Italy (L to R): Sal, Nick, Kim, Brenna, Alexa, and Tory

*The Tiano family loves the New England Patriots, and Sal and family have attended 10 Super Bowls in which the Patriots have played.*



"Super Bowl LI—New England vs. Atlanta in Houston in 2017—the greatest comeback in Super Bowl history. I was able to witness it with my three boys!" —Sal Tiano (front row, L to R): Tory, Sal, Will, and Nick



Super Bowl LIII—New England vs. L.A. Rams in Atlanta in 2019. (L to R): Will, Nick, Sal, and Brenna



# Sal and Kim Tiano



Mr. and Mrs. Sal Tiano on their wedding day



(Above and left):  
Sal and Kim Tiano



Sal and Kim on a golfing vacation





# Sal and Kim with Tiano Children



Sal Tiano with his two sons,  
Tory and Nick



Tory and Sal Tiano



Going back to school (Clockwise): Brenna,  
Tory, Nick, and Alexa Tiano



(L to R): Brenna, Kim, Sal, and Tory Tiano



(L to R): Nick, Sal, Tory, Kim and  
Brenna Tiano



(Clockwise): Brenna, Tory, Nick, and Alexa Tiano



# The Tiano Brothers



(L to R): Sal, Joe Sr., Roberta, John, and Joe Tiano



(L to R): John, Kim, Sal, and Joe Tiano Jr.



(L to R): Joe Jr., John, and Sal displaying their usual crazy antics.



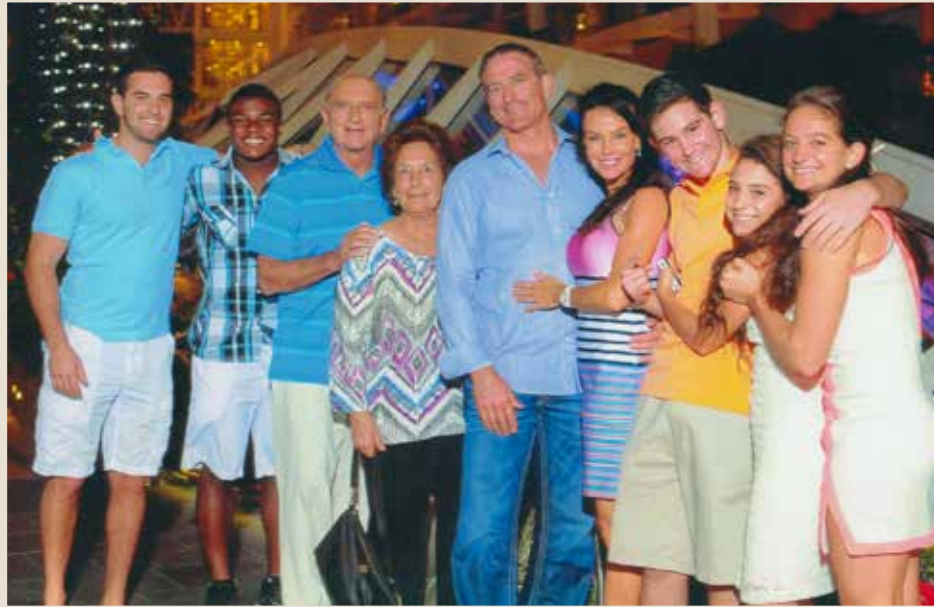
(L to R): John, Joe Jr., and Sal Tiano on horseback in Italy



(L to R): John, Joe Jr., and Sal Tiano at Joe's wedding to Karen Spiller



# Tiano Family Gatherings



Sal and Kim Tiano's family with Sal's parents on a cruise to the Caribbean,  
(L to R): Tory, Will, Joe Sr., Roberta, Sal, Kim, Nick, Alexa, and Brenna



(L to R): Sal and Kim Tiano with Sal's parents, Roberta and Joe Tiano Sr.



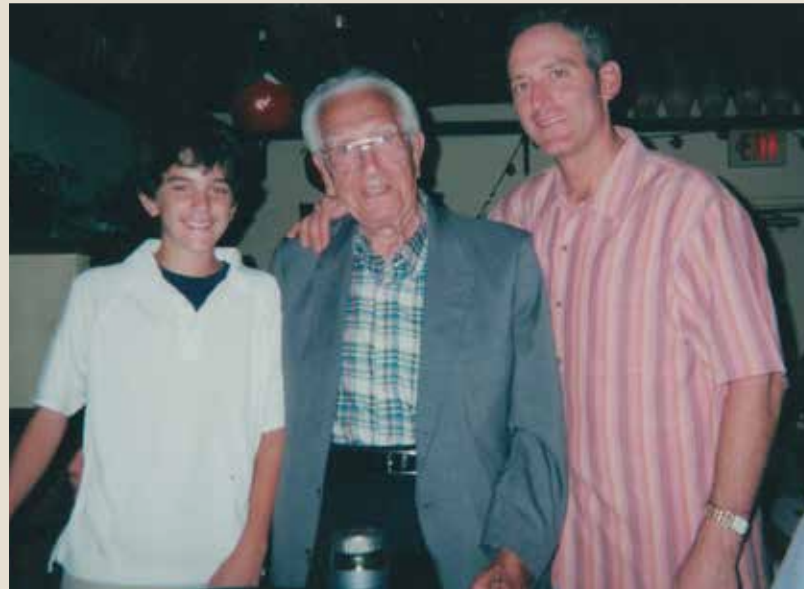
Sal and Kim Tiano with their oldest son, Tory, at his graduation  
from Dartmouth College, Sal's alma mater



(L to R): Tory, Nick, Alexa, Kim, Sal, Will, and Brenna Tiano



# Tiano Family Moments



The Three Sals, (L to R): Tory Tiano, Salvatore “Pop” Ferrara, and Sal Tiano



The Tiano family, (L to R): Nick, Alexa, Brenna, Kim, Sal, Will, and Tory



At Super Bowl XLIX—New England vs. Seattle in Glendale, Arizona, in 2015 (L to R): David Nectow (President of Pure Hockey and Sal’s partner in the business), David’s son Ethan Nectow, Nick, Tory, Will, and Sal Tiano



Family cruise to the Caribbean, (Top): Sal Tiano; (middle, L to R): Alexa, Kim, and Brenna; (bottom, L to R): Will, Nick, and Tory



# Tiano Family Vacations



Vacationing in Italy in the summer of 2007 (back, L to R): Sal and Kim Tiano; (front L to R): Tory, Alexa, Nick, and Brenna



Family trip to Atlantis in the Bahamas, (L to R): Kim, Brenna, Tory, Sal, Alexa, and Nick Tiano



The Tiano brothers and their significant others in Italy in the summer of 2018 (L to R): Joe and Karen, John and Kris, and Sal and Kim



Tory, Nick, and Brenna Tiano pose with Mickey Mouse.



Dominican Republic golf vacation, Sal and Kim Tiano