



## Albert Joseph Gravallese PE, FCMAA, FSAME

September 21, 1932 - December 15, 2020

Albert (Al) Joseph Gravallese was born in Boston, MA September 21, 1932 while residing in Medford, MA. He also lived in Winchester, MA, San Diego and Oakland, CA, Cincinnati, OH, as well as Washington, DC; Arlington, Leesburg, and Basye, VA. He was the son of Albert and Celia (Tirella) Gravallese and the brother of Camille Gravallese and Ronald Gravallese (deceased) of Winchester, MA and attended Medford High School. He and his wife of 37 years, Virginia (Wildnauer) Gravallese, live in Leesburg, VA.

Al was married to Patricia (Gioiosa) Gravallese, deceased. Together they had four children: Burt Gravallese of Alexandria, VA, Julie Gravallese of Vienna, VA; Marc Gravallese of Arlington, VA; and Carla Martinese of Lowes Island, VA. He has 8 grandchildren – Chad (Tira), Darin (Katie), Aaron (Melissa), Jessica, Tara (Anthony), Sophia, Brandon, Eva and 3 great-grandchildren – Oliver, Cash, and Emmett. He also has 4 nieces and a nephew – Renee, Sal, Danielle (Ron), Nicole (Scott) and Elaine (Brye).

Upon graduating cum laude from Tufts University in 1954 with a degree in Civil Engineering, he was employed by AV Taurasi Construction Company as a highway and bridge engineer. During the Korean War he enlisted in the Navy and received a commission as Ensign from Officer Candidate School (OCS) in Newport, RI. After serving on the USS Winston (AKA94) and teaching engineering at OCS in Newport, RI, he entered the Naval Reserve Civil Engineer Corps and was active for 31 years. His reserve command assignments included: Commanding Officer, Reserve Mobile Construction Twelve; Commanding Officer 7th Construction Regiment; Commanding Officer Construction Battalions Atlantic; and he retired as Chief of Staff, Reserve Naval Construction Force, a 17,000 strong force of officers and enlisted men and women.

Following active duty with the Navy, he went to work at AVCO R&D Corporation, a major aerospace firm as a thermo structural engineer designing ICBM and nuclear warhead penetration aids. During this period, he studied thermo mechanical engineering for his Master's degree at Northeastern University and was selected to go to MIT as a Sloan Fellow to earn a Master of Science degree in Management at the MIT Alfred P. Sloan

School of Management. After 15 years at AVCO he was appointed to be Deputy Assistant Secretary for Environment and Urban Systems at the U.S. Department of Transportation in 1972.

After his public service, he formed his own transportation consulting firm, PrimaTec. Several years later he merged with another transportation firm, Dynatrend Incorporated at which he became Chairman of the Board, brought the company public, and subsequently sold it to EG&G.

In 1985 he joined Daniel, Mann, Johnson and Mendenhall (DMJM), a national engineering and architectural firm. He managed the entire eastern region and was the corporate principal-in-charge for the acquisition and execution of major federal projects including the renovation of the Pentagon; all capital improvements at Reagan and Dulles Airports; a new metro system in San Juan, Puerto Rico; design and construction of all Federal Job Corps Centers nationwide; National disaster assistance for FEMA; rail system connecting LaGuardia to Manhattan; and facilities design support for the FAA upgrades of the national navigational system.

He retired from DMJM, an AECOM company, in 2001. AECOM is now a public corporation and the largest engineering firm in the country with worldwide offices. Al was a legacy stockholder of AECOM.

His career honors include Eminent engineer Tau Beta Pi; MIT Sloan Fellow; Fellow, Society of American Military Engineers; Fellow, Construction Management Association of America; and received the Distinguished Service Award from the U.S. Department of Transportation as well as the President's Award from DMJM.

His civic activities include serving on the Board of Directors for The Society of American Military Engineers, The Construction Management Association of America, and Bryce Resort in Basye, VA; Chairman of the Architectural Covenants Committee for the River Creek Homeowner's Association, a gated golf and tennis community in Leesburg, VA; and active member of the Knights of Columbus.

His charitable activities include volunteering with Honor flights, Operation Home Front for veterans as well as Loudoun Homeless Shelter, fund raising for the new St. John the Apostle Catholic church in Leesburg, VA, and Capital Caring Health.

A visitation will be held at Loudoun Funeral Chapel on Monday, December 21 from 6pm to

8pm.

A Catholic Mass will be held at St. John the Apostle Catholic Church in Leesburg, VA at 1:00pm which will be streamed online by the church's Facebook page

[here.]<https://www.facebook.com/stjohnleesburg>

In lieu of flowers a memorial donation can be made to: [Capital

Caring]<https://www.capitalcaring.org/get-involved/donate/> and to [Saint John the Apostle Catholic Church.]<https://saintjohnleesburg.org/donate>

# Cemetery

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## St. John the Apostle Catholic Cemetery

101 Oak Crest Manor Drive  
Leesburg, VA,

# Events

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**DEC 21** **Visitation** 06:00PM - 08:00PM

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Loudoun Funeral Chapel  
158 Catoctin Circle, S.E., Leesburg, VA, US,  
20175

**DEC 22** **Catholic Mass** 01:00PM

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Saint John the Apostle Catholic Church  
55 Oak Crest Manor, Leesburg, VA, US,  
20176

# Comments

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“ We were saddened to learn of Al's passing just today. We have so many wonderful memories of times together at Bryce Resort. John installed the wiring for their home her at Bryce. I enjoyed many rounds of golf with Ginny and Happy Hours as well in the Copper Kettle. Our prayers and condolences to you Ginny and God's blessings. Thanks for the memories! Love, Karen and John McInteer

**Karen McInteer** - December 29, 2020 at 03:55 PM

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“ So sorry to learn about Al's passing, he will be missed, but he had done a lot to give back to the world he lived in! He will be remembered fondly! Rita and Irv Liptz

**Rita** - December 27, 2020 at 02:00 PM

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“ I am a brother Knight to Al. A good and giving man. God bless his family.  
Matt Zolbe

**Matthew Zolbe** - December 22, 2020 at 01:08 PM

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“ John and I send our condolences to Ginny, and to Al's family. He was a very special person, and we will miss him.  
John and Ann Wildnauer

**Jean Toney-Wildnauer** - December 22, 2020 at 11:58 AM

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“ My deepest sympathy for the passing of Al. Your family is in our prayers and hearts in this hard time. Love to all, The Conway Family

**Pam Conway** - December 22, 2020 at 09:27 AM

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“ My thoughts and prayers go to you, Ginny, and your family at this sad time. What a terrific guy Al was and will always be in your hearts. Love to you , Vivian Bolt

**vivian bolt** - December 22, 2020 at 09:12 AM

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“ I got to know Al when I moved to River Creek in 2015. He was not content to just take things the way they are but to challenge in a creative way. We spent time sharing a glass of wine (white not red) talking about the community he loved, how things could be made better and life in general. These were always encouraging and uplifting sessions.

Al could always be counted on to turn to and ask for his ideas and opinions on how things could be better. He had a knack of looking not just at a problem but in a wider way. His input was measured and respected. We did not always agree but I had tremendous respect for him.

After the Covenants Committee was reconstituted largely through his efforts, he was the "fount of knowledge" that all members turned to for advice and often final decisions. Although Al respected the rules, he was willing to put a human touch to some decisions that came from his large heart.

We will miss Al but never forget him. He is one of those people who leave his mark on anyone who had the good fortune to meet or work with him. My sincerest thoughts are with Ginny and the family, Requiem in Pacem.

Richard Kuziomko

**Richard Kuziomko** - December 22, 2020 at 07:22 AM

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“ I had the honor of knowing and working with Al for about fifteen years in the 1990s and 2000s. In addition to our corporate relationship, I also had the honor of working with him on activities associated with the Society of American Military Engineers, a professional organization we both valued tremendously. He was more than a corporate partner or work acquaintance, I considered him a valuable mentor, and both he and Ginny dear friends. We shared mutual roots in Massachusetts which provided a convenient reference point for stories and discussion, and we spent many, many hours together, not only discussing business and work related activities, but also important parts of our personal lives. I recall with much happiness the many personal get-togethers we had with both he and Ginny. I am deeply saddened to see that he has passed and my heartfelt condolences go out to Ginny and his entire family. Rest in peace Al, I will always remember you. You are a good man!

Tony Leketa

Anthony (Tony) Leketa - December 21, 2020 at 11:51 AM

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“ I had the pleasure of working with Al on various River Creek projects. He was the best kind of volunteer because he not only had strong opinions, he was willing to get his boots dirty putting in the work to implement them. He gave tirelessly. If he thought the community leadership was on the wrong track, he'd tell you in no uncertain terms, but would always end his sometimes cutting remarks with a little grin or a pat on the back because it was never personal and always about building a better place to live. And after reading the touching obituary, I now appreciate Al's humility. In a time where many will brandish their resume as a justification to accept their point of view, that wasn't Al's play. It was well known that Al "had an engineering background," but that was the extent of it. He never waived his impressive degrees or momentous professional accomplishments around. Instead, he let his work as a volunteer speak for itself. And it spoke loudly. River Creek lost a lion. Other than (perhaps) the developer, no one has given more to our community than Al. And we are all better for it. May Al's memory be a blessing to all that knew him.

David Greenberg - December 21, 2020 at 09:14 AM

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“ Kim McIvor lit a candle in memory of Albert Joseph Gravallese PE, FCMAA, FSAME



**Kim McIvor** - December 21, 2020 at 09:08 AM



“ Julie Jessica and family

Mr. Gravallese has his wings. He'll be watching over you all. Condolences to you and the family. God Bless you and keep you.

**Kim McIvor** - December 21, 2020 at 09:10 AM

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“ BG,  
my most sincere and heartfelt condolences on the lost of your father. May God comfort and bless you and all who mourn your dad.

God bless!!  
Deon

**Deon Rowe** - December 20, 2020 at 09:45 PM

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“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



**Richard Zulewski** - December 20, 2020 at 03:02 PM

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“ Burt, Darrin,  
Sorry to hear about the loss of your Father and Grandfather. You both will be in our thoughts and prayers. Hope to see you soon.

Fondly,  
The Hanafins

**JERRY HANAFIN** - December 20, 2020 at 12:50 PM

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“ Al and I crossed paths a couple of times. First, we were both Civil Engineer Corps officers in the Naval Reserve. Al was Chief of Staff to the Commander of the Reserve Naval Construction Force and I was a member of the Brigade staff. He made the association interesting and enjoyable. Later in the civilian world, Al was the Senior Executive for DMJM which was part of the Joint Venture hired to provide Program Management Services for the Expansion of National and Dulles airports. I worked for the Airports Authority and coordinated with Al through out the life of the program. Here is an example why Al was so successful in the Engineering world. A mutual friend and I were attending a large holiday party filled with Engineering and Construction owners and managers. My friend suggested I watch how Al "worked the room". Before the evening was over, Al had met and spoke to nearly everyone there. If they did not know him before the event, they did after. This kind of personal interaction paid dividends for future contracts. Most people kick back in retirement, but not Al. He wrote a book entitled "An Immigrants Grandson" about his grandparents immigration from Italy to America and how their experience impacted his life. It is a very interesting read. So Al, I hope you are able to read this. For those of us who knew and particularly worked with you, you will be missed.

Richard Cullerton

**Richard Cullerton** - December 20, 2020 at 12:03 PM



“ I sure share all the great comments on Al. What a superstar he was for both the Navy CEC and the Seabees as well as his exceptional civilian career. He was an inspiration for all that knew him. Jack Buffington.

**Jack Buffington** - December 20, 2020 at 12:48 PM

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“ A mentor, a friend, a one-man support group. I will never forget what he did for me and the support he gave me. I would not be the man I am today without his mentorship. Thank you - you will never be forgotten.

**Herve. Kopciak** - December 19, 2020 at 10:19 AM

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“ God call his children home at Christmas time. Sadly, for us he called Al. 22 and 1/2 years ago Al decided to take a chance on me. My job was coming to an end. I had no prospects and he agreed to meet with me. He needed a new administrative assistant. Well it was clear I was not the person for the job, but Al saw someone in need and found a place for me on one of his projects. He placed me on the FEMA project where I worked for 22 1/2 years. Al was a visionary. He could see possibilities where others did not. He was a problem solver. Al was a kind, generous and will be missed by many. My thoughts and prayers go out to his family. May God hold the family in the palm of his hands and give them comfort during their time of grief.

**Melanie Hendrickson** - December 17, 2020 at 06:54 PM

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“ My favorite memory of Al was the weekend my Dad and I spent with him at his summer place up in the mountains. We made ravioli together and had so many laughs. A great host. Such a dear friend who was my Dad's favorite person from the time he was young; like the son he never had. I cherish the photos we made. Al was one of a kind!



**Sandra Casazza Kilbride** - December 17, 2020 at 04:13 PM



“ Al was my mentor and friend. He first introduced me to the entity known then as DMJM, later AECOM. He did everything 100 percent from pursuing a project to seeing it fulfilled. My favorite memory is of his Retirement Party at the Four Seasons where he and Ginny were celebrated by many dear friends and colleagues.

**Nancy Butler** - December 19, 2020 at 12:47 AM

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“ 5 files added to the album Memories Album



**Danielle Chase** - December 17, 2020 at 01:55 PM

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“ Al and I enjoyed the same fondness for Cannoli's and all things "Italian". His enthusiasm and commitment to RiverCreek will be missed.  
Dorothy and Bill

**Dorothy McDonald** - December 17, 2020 at 11:57 AM

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“ Always fond memories of "Uncle Al" one of the best of a group of wonderful couples who gave us the best family "Aunties, Uncles and especially Cousins". Forever in our hearts and memories. RIP Love, Jeanne

**Jeanne** - December 17, 2020 at 07:26 AM

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“ First time I met Al I was with Walt and Al for dinner at Coleman's at Bryce Resort. All night he asked me questions about me, my life, and my goals. He was that way with everyone, making an honest effort to know who you were. Very generous with his time and thoughts. A genuine, and compassionate person. He had a knack of making you feel like the important person in the room. Both Keith and I will miss him.

**Marilyn Jackson** - December 16, 2020 at 07:34 PM

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“ When I think of Al, I think of an extremely generous man who never stopped smiling and cracking jokes. I feel very fortunate and grateful to have spent a considerable amount of time with him growing up. I am so very sorry for the loss of him and am keeping his family in my thoughts during the days ahead. Wishing you peace and fond memories.

**Danielle Chase** - December 16, 2020 at 07:02 PM



“ Most wonderful father <3 ~ julie

**julie gravallese** - December 16, 2020 at 04:15 PM



“ And, what a devoted and respectful daughter. I'm sure he appreciated your being attentive, and I'm positive Jenny loved having your help.

**Rita** - December 27, 2020 at 02:03 PM