

# JERRY L. CRISPINO

*An attorney, government official, member of the judiciary, husband, father, grandfather and friend.*

Daddy, it's been one year since you passed home to heaven and forever our lives have been altered. So, Daddy, in honor of the amazing man you were here on earth and in celebration of your 1st anniversary home in heaven I want to share these words.

Daddy had a dream – a lifelong desire to make this world a better place and to leave a legacy. Daddy lived to help others. Being in service was a part of who he was. Be it as a councilman representing his constituency – where his council office became “a home away from home.” It was so welcoming and friendly and a place where many would come with complaints and requests. One thing they knew they could count on – Daddy would get the job done.

Daddy had a gift of listening. People would often come to him to discuss whatever significant and tumultuous events were going on in their lives. Daddy would listen and get to work on solving the problem.

Daddy was a confidant. He touched so many people's lives in so many different ways. He was a mentor to so many young attorneys with dreams and aspirations of their own. Daddy would sit with them offering advice and helping them chart the course of their lives. Daddy never turned anyone away – he would make the time to spend and give of himself always.

Family was the most important thing in Daddy's life. He loved family—being around family—preparing to host family—creating the invite list and menu and of course the entertainment. These times were among his happiest.

Family to Daddy extended beyond the bloodline. For Daddy's close friends were also his family. Daddy was an only child so adopting those he loved and calling them family came naturally to him.

Although Daddy was an only child, and he had his first cousins “The Crispinos” (as they are lovingly known) whom he considered his siblings because they were raised together. Their first stop here in America was to Zia Nina and Zio Luigis where they would live until their parents were able to join them.

Daddy was born in a cold water flat in East Harlem. His parents instilled in him the love of Christ, a strong work ethic and a space for him to dream, and Daddy did just that—he dreamed and with his faith, determination, passion, courage and with our mother by his side, Daddy made his dreams come true.

Daddy referred to Mommy as the wind beneath his wings. Their relationship was 62 years old and 62 years new. His admiration for Mommy was amazing. Sure they loved each other, more importantly they liked each other—they were best friends in every way.

How fortunate Louis, Felicia and I are to witness the love that was shared between Mom and Dad. It was so special, that “once-in-a-lifetime, if-you're-lucky” love. The way they looked at each other told it all; honor, respect, dignity and trust. The sparkle in their eyes still burned strong. They loved to be together, to work together and to play together. One of Daddy's favorite phrases – work hard and play hard. It's how he approached life...with passion and joy. Daddy understood life was a gift and he lived his life with “no regrets.”

Daddy instilled in us what we believe are the pillars of life:

**RESPONSIBILITY** – he taught us to stand up for what we believe in. He taught us to enjoy life's gifts...work hard and strive. He taught us not to give up.

**TRUST** – he showed us he believed in us. That life is good and so are people. He taught us to always be honest.

**FAITH** – he taught us to love our Lord. To always keep Jesus close and often, to pray and be a good Christian.



**DIGNITY**—he taught us to hold our heads high—follow our dreams, and be proud of who we are.

**CONTRIBUTION** — he taught us to serve and give to others. He taught us only through giving can we receive.

**LOVE** — he taught us what unconditional love is. He taught us what family means: To support one another, enjoy in each other's joys and hold each other up through the hard times.

Daddy taught us this by example; by the way he and Mommy lived their life; and by what they believed in. Daddy was our best friend—the place we went to feel safe and be reminded “everything will be okay.” We found strength and comfort from his love. All he had to do was wrap his arms around us, tell us he loves us and encourage us to continue whatever it was we were up to.

As a family we receive strength from one another. This was never truer than thru Dad's illness. We prayed as a family – we laughed as a family – we cried as a family and we planned as a family. I never thought it was possible to be any closer than we were and then Daddy got sick – his illness pulled us closer than we had ever been before.

As many can attest, Daddy loved a party—whether it was hosting one with Mommy or proudly sponsoring Louis famous Absolut parties in our basement with hundreds of college students having fun, or proudly opening his home to Felicia's friends and their families, hosting many birthday and pool parties with airplane rides and jumping castles to Joe Barney the Clown and Nancy the ice cream lady—well he beamed. The joy radiating from Daddy as he watched Felicia have fun was contagious.

Felicia, you were the apple of Papa's eye—the center of his life...his “Principessa.” He was so proud of you. Your courage and strength, your warm heart and beautiful spirit. His favorite thing to do was spend time with you. How he looked forward to your “10 minutes of quality time together.” Papa loved picking you up from school and watching you run to him because you were so excited to see him. Or when you would take him to school and proudly show him off to your class and he'd teach your friends about law and justice. Listening to you sing or simply helping you hide your vegetables on your plate at the dinner table. You are Blessed Felicia to have so many special memories of Papa – I know you'll always hold them close and remember Papa is always with you!

There is no truer testament of unconditional love than the relationship between Felicia and her Papa.

Daddy's pride in his family never wavered. So Daddy – I know you're with us every day – missing the feel of us as much as we miss the feel of you, and I know you're happy home in heaven, giving advice and running the show. Daddy always remember, we inherited your big-hearted tenacity that along with our faith and one another will carry us through anything. Your passion for life has transcended into us and will live on forever....

Daddy, you stood as a lighthouse so others would find their way. Your partnership was inclusive and one we could all count on. Your legacy will live on in all of us...your family, your friends, and the community of NYC that you have touched.

So, Daddy, you DID achieve your “impossible dream” and left a legacy. This corner of the world is definitely a better place because of you. Thank You Daddy!!!

A JOB WELL DONE • A LIFE WELL-LIVED  
WE MISS YOU, DADDY • WE LOVE YOU, DADDY  
REST IN PEACE