

## **News Release**

### **Lou Billittier, Owner of Chef's, Variety Club Member Passes Away after a long Illness**

Louis J. Billittier, owner and operator of the popular Chef's Restaurant at 291 Seneca Street in downtown Buffalo for over 50 years, passed away Wednesday evening August 2, 2000 at Buffalo General Hospital following a long illness.

Mr. Billittier was also a longtime supporter and member of many civic and charitable organizations in Buffalo and Western New York. His work with the Variety Club Tent #7 and the annual "Variety Club Telethon" on Channel 7 helped raise millions of dollars for children's charities. The Heritage Centers named their facility at 101 Oak St., the Louis J. Billittier Center for his work with handicapped and challenged individuals. Just this past spring Lou was honored by the Greater Buffalo All American City Committee as the "Outstanding Citizen of The Year" and by Children's Hospital of Buffalo as their "Hero of the Year" for his work to help sick and handicapped children. He was also a member of The 100 Club, a group organized to help the families of police and firemen killed in the line of duty. While Mr. Billittier was thankful of all the honors bestowed him over the years, he would always say he got involved not for the spotlight, but to help people, and the kids.

Mr. Billittier was a member of the Peace Bridge Authority, and a Commissioner on Governor Patacki's "Quality of care Commission" working to help meet the needs of the mentally and physically challenged. Lou ran for public office as Hamburg Town Supervisor in 1997 on the Republican ticket, losing by just over 300 votes. More than thirty years ago Lou was involved in the creation of what is now the sophisticated "911" emergency system for Western New York. He continued to work to make sure ambulance care for the area was safe, fast and efficient. Perhaps Lou's penchant for politics and community service was based in the fact that Chef's Restaurant has always been "the" lunch and dining spot for local and national politicians...not to mention many celebrities...over the years.

Lou Billittier was a veteran of the Korean War, taking a leave from his work at the restaurant to serve in the Army.

Lou Billittier was born and raised in Buffalo, and made his living here through hard work, and dedication to family and community. Lou Billittier would have celebrated his 50th wedding anniversary to his wife Ann(Battaglia). He is survived by his wife Ann, and daughter Mary Beth Billittier-DiSciullo, son Louis John Billittier, and grandchildren Michael, Ashley and Jade. Lou has many brothers, sisters and family in the Western New York area. Lou recently celebrated his 71st birthday July 16th.

Lou Billittier's family will continue the tradition of hard work and dedication to the community. Chef's Restaurant was recently renovated, and the world famous Pasta Sauce that has been the favorite of celebrities as vast and varied as news anchor Irv Weinstein and personalities like "Mr. Food" Art Ginzburg, Huey Lewis and The News, Bill Maher, Taylor Negron, Susan Anton, and Clint Holmes is

available at supermarkets throughout the area.

Mary Beth Billittier-DiSciullo is on the board of the Heritage Centers, Erie Community College and a member of Variety Club Women Tent #7. Louis John is active with the Make A Wish Foundation for children, and has worked over the years in the D.A.R.E. Drug Prevention programs in Hamburg.

Funeral services will be held Monday August 7th at 10am at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Athol Springs, New York at the Hamburg Border, just off Route 5 at Camp Rd.

Western New York can pay their respects to Mr. Billittier at the Lakeside Funeral Home, Route 5, on Lakeshore Rd, Saturday and Sunday, August 5 & 6 from 2-4 and 7-9.