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## Eulogy: Eugene Mariani

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EULOGY -- EUGENE MARIANI

June 17, 1980

We are gathered today to grieve, to mourn the death of Eugene Mariani and to pray for his soul. He was a loving husband to his wife, Gail, and a devoted father to his son, Ralphie. Twelve years ago, he suffered the loss of his beloved mother, to whom he was extremely attached. He was her pride and joy and I know that he kept her memory close in his heart through the rest of his days. He was a caring son to his father, a concerned brother to his two sisters, Dee Dee and Jackie, and an attentive son-in-law to Gail's parents, and an affectionate relative to his uncles, aunts, and cousins. He was a very special uncle to his nieces and nephews. Gail's brothers, Al and I were proud to call him brother-in-law. He was a friend and counselor to many and touched many lives in many ways. It is now incumbent upon us to remember his life and his example.

Gene was born only 36 years ago. As a young boy, with his father's guidance, he came to know and enjoy the outdoor life, and he carried that enjoyment throughout the years. He served his country in the United States Navy and was a veteran of the Vietnam War. After his discharge, he attended Cornell University from which he graduated in short order with honors, receiving Bachelors and Masters degrees in accounting. He quickly obtained his certificate as a certified public accountant and embarked upon his career.

Although he soon was employed by a large firm, progressing

rapidly in the executive suite, he always longed to return to Catskill. Finally, after working in many parts of the United States and Mexico, he came back to us. He began private practice as an accountant about six years ago. Gene immediately plunged into professional activities. Many relied upon him for guidance in financial matters and he was nothing less than brilliant in his profession. He was a member of The American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, The New York State Society of Certified Public Accountants and a professor of accounting at Russell Sage College.

His voluntary services to the community are too numerous to mention, but he was always there to serve. To mention only a few examples, he was the president of the Greene County Industrial Development Corporation, president-elect of the Catskill Lions Club, and a member of the county legislature's Tourist Advisory Board. Very recently, he worked long hours in a successful effort to win the approval of the state legislature for casino gambling in Greene County. He had boundless energy for his community as well as for his family, his friends, and his clients. He was a charitable man and put service to others above personal interest, including concern for his own health.

I called on Gene for help on many occasions, and he always dropped whatever he was doing to give me that help. From time to time, the fires of ambition burned brightly in me; he understood, encouraged and assisted me in trying to achieve whatever it was I was then in pursuit of. Those ambitions seem very unimportant to

me now. What is important is the memory of a man who was selfless and magnanimous. What is important is the good humour and the twinkle in the eye that now is closed. What is important is the teaching of morality and justice that he provided to us. What is important is the legacy of concern for others. What is important is the example of his life for his children and ours. What is important is the love and the beauty and the truth.

What is most important is the preservation of a particular place in our hearts, forever imprinted with the name -- Eugene Mariani.