



## Vincent Anthony Ottalagano

August 29, 1950 - December 5, 2016

Vincent Anthony Ottalagano, 66, of Gloversville, N.Y., a local icon and businessman who owned and operated Vishnu Music for more than two decades, passed away Monday after a courageous fight with cancer. In his final days, he was surrounded by his children, grandchildren, extended family members and best friends.

Born Aug. 29, 1950, to his loving and supportive parents, Theresa Bardascini Ottalagano and Gregory S. Ottalagano, he was named after his paternal grandfather. He had an older brother, Richard Ottalagano.

Vince was a devoted father who put family above everything else. He was extremely dedicated to his parents, children and grandchildren. He provided humor, fun, a dash of quirkiness and, most importantly, a deep love and unconditional support to those he cared about. A beloved "fix-it guy," he could mend anything, from a broken guitar to a broken heart.

He was an easy talker, willing to converse with loved ones, friends or strangers for hours at a time. He was also a creator, a builder, a woodworker. And he was a talented musician who loved to play guitar and a caring teacher with a deep knowledge of musical theory.

His parents encouraged his passion for music. When Vince was a teenager,

his father managed his son's most successful high school band, The Belvederes. The group won several Battle of the Band contests and even appeared on a television show called "Twista Rama USA" to perform the 1960s hit "Secret Agent Man." In the early 1990s, Vince played rhythm guitar in a local band Flashback, which performed at his parents 50th anniversary party. He enjoyed many genres of music, but especially rock and jazz, including such bands as The Beatles and Frank Zappa.

Vincent was a 1968 graduate of Gloversville High School. He began working as a journeyman toolmaker for General Electric as a teen. After a stint in the military and other jobs, he graduated magna cum laude with a bachelor's of art degree in psychology from the State University of New York at New Paltz in 1978.

He was drafted into the U.S. Army in July 1970. After completing basic training, he served in locations in the U.S. and abroad. Drawing on his skills with tools and crafting, he repaired the service's watercrafts. He received multiple awards during his time in uniform, including the National Defense Service Medal, M16 Sharpshooter Medal and Good Conduct Medal.

In 1971, while home on leave, Vincent married his first wife, Cheryl Burton. The couple resided in Germany, where Vince was serving a two-year tour of duty with the Army.

After his military service, he worked as a machinist for GE beginning in 1972, as a nuclear machinist for Morrison-Knudsen beginning in 1974 and then as an industrial arts teacher with Changing Education Through the Arts, or CETA, at West Park Union Free School in 1976.

After receiving his degree, he worked for Lexington beginning in 1980 as a counselor and vocational evaluator and as a consultant for Fulton County

Mental Health.

In 1987, Vincent turned his passion into reality and opened his first business, Vishnu Varieties, in Johnstown, N.Y. Shortly thereafter, he evolved the business into Vishnu Music, requiring a move down the road. As the business grew, he relocated it again in 1992 to its current location on Main Street in Gloversville N.Y., where he was present until the final weeks of his life when his illness made it impossible for him to work.

Vincent was predeceased by his parents and brother. He is survived by his three children, Nicole (Ron) DeLorenzo of Johnstown, Colleen (Gabriel) McGarry of Slingerlands, and Amanda (Jozsef) Boyer of Gloversville; and several grandchildren, Stephanie and Kayla DeLorenzo, Aidan and Grayson V. McGarry, Julian Ottalagano, Roslyn Chapin, Kacey Luft, and Valkyrie Boyer.

His survivors would like to thank everyone who donated, sent well wishes, prayed, made food and did special things for Vincent and his family. We appreciate all your support.

Calling hours will be at Amico Funeral Home at 150 S Main St, Gloversville, N.Y., on Sunday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The family invites attendees to express their love of music by wearing a band, guitar or music T-shirt to the calling hours.

There will be a private burial for the family.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to your local hospice or to the Vincent Ottalagano Scholarship for a student pursuing an education in music at PO Box 1248 Gloversville, NY % Nicole Delorenzo.

# Tribute Wall

JE

“ With sadness I recently learned of "Vinnie's" passing. I'm no longer in the area, but I knew him quite well in the 90's. At that time, I decided to learn to play guitar and went to Vinnie to get an acoustic. I couldn't play, and I knew nothing about guitars, so I asked Vinnie to play each of the ones he had for sale. He, of course, complied, and I laughed and listened for most of an afternoon. As he played, I narrowed it down, and found the Fender I still have today. He told me we could have saved a lot of time if I just asked him what one to get. He would have recommended the one I bought. :) It still sounds great.

*I'm sorry to know he's gone, and ask for blessings for his family.*

*Jean "Veeder"*

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**Jean** - August 03, 2018 at 11:39 AM


GM

“ As a fellow musician I've had many great conversations with Vinnie. He will be sorely missed. A contributor to the community. I am so sorry for your loss

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**Gary McCoy** - December 23, 2016 at 08:35 AM

LW

“ Condolences to all of the family for the loss of Vince. Such a funny guy !!!

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**Lori Western** - December 11, 2016 at 09:59 AM

ML

“ I have known Vince for over forty years. He was surely one of the best. I will always remember the kindness and compassion he showed me when I lost my father while in high school. My heart goes out to Nicole, Colleen, Amanda and all of his beautiful grandchildren. He loved you so. May God comfort you.



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**Mary Semione Lane** - December 10, 2016 at 07:00 PM

CS

“ Vince was such a wonderful man. He will be missed. Keeping his family in my thoughts



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**Christina Sitts** - December 10, 2016 at 04:15 PM

JB

“ So sorry to read of Vinnie's passing, I haven't been in the area for years, but I visited his store many times in the 90's. I enjoyed my talks with him, just a real nice guy!

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**Jim Bordis** - December 10, 2016 at 03:35 AM

PF

“ I knew Vince from School and music. Always a top notch Guy. I know he will be missed.

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**Paul Frederick** - December 09, 2016 at 06:23 PM

JJ

“ *Jacqueline Johnson lit a candle in memory of Vincent Anthony Ottalagano*



Jacqueline Johnson - December 09, 2016 at 04:55 PM

JJ

“ *Rest in peace, my friend.*

Jacqueline Johnson - December 09, 2016 at 04:54 PM

RP

“ *My sincerest condolences to all of Vincent's family and friends. He helped me more than once in life and always took the time out to listen to me whenever I stopped in the store. Very sorry to know he has left us.*

Richard Payne - December 09, 2016 at 11:12 AM

RD

“ *Ron & Carol DeLorenzo purchased the Pretty Ple ase for the family of Vincent Anthony Ottalagano.*



Ron & Carol DeLorenzo - December 09, 2016 at 10:41 AM

LF

“ *Our sincere condolences to all of Vinnie's family and friends. Tony and Lyn Ficili*

Lynda Ficili - December 08, 2016 at 05:16 PM

RS

“ *Family,  
Tragedy brings strength. I'm sure your dad would be proud of the strength you have grown into. He isn't gone, he's just in a spot where it will be easier for him to keep an eye on you all.  
With much respect.  
Rick Simon*

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**Rick Simon** - December 07, 2016 at 09:40 PM

HO

“ *Vince always had time to keep my guitars running would even make house calls great guy miss him already God Bless*

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**howardmichaelhunter** - December 07, 2016 at 07:48 PM



“ *I've done business with Vince since the beginning in Johnstown. He was always very helpful and knowledgeable. At one time late in the evening my band was playing just down the road from his house when one of my amplifier tubes blew. The only thing I could think of was to knock at his door and see if he could sell me one. He did not have one but didn't hesitate to loan me a 6L6 from his personal amp. I am proud to call him a true friend and he will be greatly missed by all.*

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**Len Aldous** - December 07, 2016 at 05:08 PM

JC

“ Vincent was indeed a big asset to the area; he loved to share his talents to others in music.....he was a teacher of his talents to thousands of children over the years in music.....his store indeed was a big anchor in downtown Gloversville.....he was a great person; friendly.....he earned the respect of the community.....his family and parents are devoted Catholics-----prayers to St. Jude for Vincent and his family.....the community will miss Vincent along with his talents in music.....

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**Joey Caruso** - December 07, 2016 at 04:53 PM

KD

“ So very sorry for the loss of Vinnie to his family .. I was in his class in high school and .. always remember his smile...Went a few years back to visit him ..at his store with another class mate ... was nice to see him in his world of music .. Great man ... Please know you have my prayers .. and RIP Vinnie ... God bless you all ... ( Kathi (Karl) Dermott )



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**Kathryn (Karl) Dermott** - December 07, 2016 at 02:49 PM

WT

“ Vince was predeceased by his second wife, Marybeth. He was the father of our nieces and cousins. Rest in peace. The Tucker Family.

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**W. Tucker** - December 07, 2016 at 01:21 PM

MT

“ Vince was a thoughtful good man he will be missed. My thoughts and prayers to his family.



Marae Tesi - December 07, 2016 at 07:42 AM

CD

“ Worked with Vince at Lexington along time ago, Sending prayers to his Family and Friends

colleen duesler - December 07, 2016 at 07:38 AM

RW

“ My thoughts and prayers are with the family. What a wonderful legacy Vince left...he will be remembered fondly and missed by many.

Robin Wentworth - December 07, 2016 at 06:05 AM



“ 2 files added to the album New Album Name



Elizabeth Emery - December 07, 2016 at 05:22 AM

BL

“ Just a great guy and a man I called my friend. You will be missed sir!

bradley luberto - December 07, 2016 at 04:20 AM

CF

“ I remember the first time we met Vince. I went in to his store to see if I could find a piece of equipment for my husband. My two youngest boys accompanied me. Through the years he would be a source of information and facts we didn't know. He provided my son an internship where my son learned more about Vince's amazing character. It was always clear he loved family which was one of his attributes we enjoyed. He will be missed, but there is no doubt he was loved and liked by many.

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**Cheryl and Louis Fritz** - December 07, 2016 at 01:07 AM

JA

“ PXMQUW. I will never forget. Small things became huge when I was thinking of you; your lesson were huge. Thank you for being in my life.

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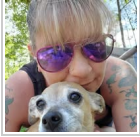
**Janene** - December 07, 2016 at 12:17 AM

DO

“ I met Vince about 7 years ago and he sold me my first guitar. 7 years later I'm a music student in college. He will forever be an influential person in my life and career. I am very sad to hear about his passing and send my prayers to his family.

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**David Ormiston** - December 06, 2016 at 11:24 PM



“ I Met Vinny 5 years ago When My Husband and I Opened Our Store Also On Main Street. He Always Came in and had Coffee with us and Chatted for sometime.He was a Great Man. So Full Of Information and Knowledge And a Huge Smile.he Fought Is A\*\* Off! To The Family I am So Very Sorry For Your Loss! May You all Find Peace That He is No Longer In pain. RIP Vinny!!



Sabrina Dixson-Little - December 06, 2016 at 09:32 PM



So sorry to hear this. May he be rockin with the angels. Blessings to his family

Debra Degner - December 07, 2016 at 11:32 AM

LB

I met Vince through my daughter & her friend Aaron. Vince has the greatest smile & gentle touch. I have many memories, but the best was sitting on my front porch talking the night away & seeing the sunrise. He was a good person and will be missed by many. To His Family - you have a part of him in you - Carry it proudly.

Linda Willis Bouck - December 07, 2016 at 10:30 PM

NR

Whether I was doing business with him or not I always had a good time stopping in and shooting the breeze. Every musician in this county and beyond just lost another friend.

Nick Robinson - December 08, 2016 at 10:42 AM

JM

Condolences to the family. He was a good man. My son and I would visit Vishnu and always receive a friendly welcome

James Miller - December 09, 2016 at 12:00 PM

RI

*I learned today about the passing of your dad and I'm deeply saddened. I know you have been told numerous times since the passing on your dad how wonderful of a man he was, but I wanted to let you know how much he meant to my son and I. My son has unfortunately suffered from substance abuse for several years. Whenever my son seemed to be at his lowest point, your dad always had words of encouragement and truly cared about his health and well being. I truly appreciate your dad for his kind and caring way. What a great guy.*

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**Rich** - December 24, 2016 at 06:49 PM