

WILLIAM & AGNESE FRANCO VOCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP

William and Agnese Franco were born first generation Italian in America. Their parents entered the United States through Ellis Island in the early 1910's. Even through the harsh depression years, the families worked hard to stay together and to survive.

Because of the early struggles of the families, education played a very prominent role in their lives. Both attended night school even after their marriage. They believed that each generation should be an improvement from the prior generation. Both were taught to believe in God, country, and family – in that order. William and Agnese lived these beliefs until the day they died.

William served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War. Their son also served as well as their grandson (U.S. Air Force) and granddaughter (U.S. Marine Corp). William worked for General Electric for over 40 years and continued his education in night school. He was a perfectionist as an electrician. He had the ability to build things from nothing. He always saw opportunity even when people only saw trash.

Agnese was a true promoter and protector of children. She worked for the Schenectady and Niskayuna school districts until her retirement in 1999. She firmly believed that children were the future, and their education was as necessary as breathing. She championed their cause always.