

## OBITUARIES

ANTHONY T. MARTORANA, 101

# Retired tailor won U.S. award for being oldest square dancer

By Krystyna Slivinski

Special to the Tribune

Until just a few months ago, Anthony T. Martorana, 101, would go out square dancing at least twice a month.

The retired tailor died Thursday, Nov. 22, in Resurrection Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Park Ridge.

Mr. Martorana developed a passion for square dancing when he was 65 years old. He recently won an award from the National Association of Square Dance and Round Dance Suppliers for being the oldest living square dancer in the country. Mr. Martorana spent the past 20 years as a member of Square Spares, a dancing club that met at the seniors center in Park Ridge.

"He had all his ladies picked out that he was going to dance with," said Inge Carlson, who assists in organizing the club's

dances.

"He was very talkative and he would go and shake hands with everybody," she said, adding that he would always ask people if they knew how old he was.

His age also gave him another distinction this past summer, when he was the oldest bachelor ever to participate in the Bachelor Auction during the Northbrook Days summer festival in August. He was the last man to be auctioned off.

"So he was the hit of the evening," recalled his daughter Jo Halls, who said her father decided to cook spaghetti at home for his winning date rather than go out to a restaurant.

"She thought it was just charming," said his daughter.

Born in Sicily, Mr. Martorana came to the United States in 1920 and within a few years settled in Chicago. Trained as a tailor since the age of 7, he opened Anthony Tailoring Co. in Chicago

during the '30s. He custom-made men's suits and women's clothing and also did dry cleaning.

A resident of Park Ridge since 1961, Mr. Martorana retired in the early '80s.

"He just stopped doing it because of his eyesight," said daughter Dot Aumann, adding that her father used to say that had he known he was going to live that long, he would have continued working.

Other survivors include two daughters, Pauline Cahill and Toni Hernandez; eight grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

Visitation will be from 3 to 9 p.m. Sunday in Nelson Funeral Home, 820 Talcott Rd., Park Ridge. Prayers will be said at 9:15 a.m. Monday in the funeral home. A mass will follow at 10 a.m. in Mary Seat of Wisdom Catholic Church, 920 Granville Ave., Park Ridge.