

Press Release:

February 22, 2010

Contact: Paraco Gas Corp.

Michael Gioffre- 914-250-3770

mg@paraco-gas.com



Entrepreneur Pat Armentano Dies at Age 80

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RYE BROOK, NY - Pat Armentano, Chairman of Paraco Gas Corporation, one of the nation's largest propane retailers, passed away on February 20, 2010 at the age of 80.

For decades, Pat was the driving force behind the success and growth of Rye Brook - based Paraco Gas Corporation, a propane gas and service retailer with 250 employees and 22 locations in the Northeast, where he held the title of Chairman of the Board.

Pat grew up in Mount Vernon, New York, the youngest of 10 children born to Mary and Giuseppe Armentano of Sicily and Calabria, Italy. Known as a generous, kind and extremely personable man, he made an impact on everyone he met. "He truly loved and lived life and all that it could offer," says Mike Gioffre, Vice President at Paraco Gas, "but above all else he will always be remembered for his innate ability to connect with people and bring out the best from all those lucky enough to have known him."

Pat Armentano's success in business is a "rags to riches" story. Born in the era of the Great Depression, he claimed that his greatest wealth was the relationships with the many family members, friends and business associates in his life. His unique "gift" for business and connecting with people was demonstrated at an early age. When he was nine, he purchased his mother a much-needed refrigerator with money he earned by shining shoes in the Bronx. At 16 he enlisted in the Marines; he was stationed in China.

Upon leaving the military he worked as a milkman, a bread man and at various other jobs before landing a sales position with Forney Industries at age 25 where he was a top sales performer for the next 14 years. Sparked by the "entrepreneurial bug" in 1968, Pat risked everything he owned to start a welding supply and distribution business called Patsems Inc., based out of a tiny garage in Mount Vernon. Despite lacking a formal education he was a natural and talented entrepreneur and continued to grow his company throughout the 1970's. In 1979, on instinct and with very limited resources he purchased Paraco Gas, a small propane marketer in Peekskill, NY. In 1986 the company purchased the assets of Suburban Propane on Long Island, which transitioned the business from a mom and pop to a corporate operation. Over the next 20 years, working with his wife and sons, the company grew into one of the nation's premier propane retailers.

Throughout all he never forgot his roots nor his Italian heritage.

As Chairman of the Board at Paraco, Pat fostered a culture of giving back to the communities in which his company and employees lived and worked by supporting many charitable and civic organizations.

In what he felt was his most important role, patriarch of his family, Pat took great pride in teaching his life lessons and values to his children and grandchildren. He stressed a strong work ethic, personal responsibility and respect for oneself and others, all of which served as the foundation of his truly genuine personality.

Pat is survived by his four sons- Joseph, Robert, Michael and John- eleven grandchildren a brother and three sisters. His wife Rose predeceased him.

##