



Michael Giardino

December 13, 1948 - December 3, 2018

Michael Giardino, beloved family man and friend to all, passed away on December 3, 2018 while surrounded by his family at his home in Manchester. He lived every day of his 69 years as a humble, proud, hardworking and committed family man. He was born and raised in Brooklyn, NY where he developed a love for the NY Yankees, NY Rangers and L&B Pizza and spumoni. He loved to bust chops, specifically his childhood friends that he kept for life, but he loved them deeply and never hesitated to help them, or anyone for that matter, at a moment's notice. He loved life in Brooklyn and would often reminisce about the fun and simplicity of growing up there with his brothers and sister. An accomplished athlete, he received a full scholarship to Arizona State University to play baseball and was proud to have had the opportunity to try out for the NY Yankees. During his 35 years living in Brooklyn, he met the love of his life, Juliet DeStefano, to whom he was happily married and devoted to for 44 years. The last words he spoke were "you are my whole life." Mike and Juliet raised their two sons, Michael and Frank, in Brooklyn before moving to Staten Island. He instilled in his children a strong work ethic second to none and the importance of family. He could often be heard saying "let me tell you something, family and loyalty are everything." His love for sports and natural athleticism carried over to fatherhood as he coached Little League and soccer for both of his sons. He retired in 2010 from Nortel in New York City as a project manager. Over the course of his career he made countless friends as people were drawn to his larger than life personality, sense of humor and integrity. Mike and his wife, Juliet, retired to Renaissance in Manchester where he became a member of many clubs including Passaic-Morris, Bocce, Men's Club and Essex-Bergen. True to form, Mike continued to cultivate many new friendships throughout his retirement. While he enjoyed golfing and the freedom that retirement brought him, he would swear that no time in history was better than the 1950's. Mike is survived by his wife of 44 years, Juliet, and their sons Michael C & his wife Stephanie, and his youngest son Frank C. He was a proud Papa to his twin granddaughters Charlotte and Samantha who loved him dearly. He is survived by his 2 brothers, Eugene and Frank Giardino, sister Catherine Giardino and countless in-laws, nieces and nephews. Visitation hours are Saturday and Sunday 2-4pm & 6-8pm at Oliverie Funeral Home 2925 Ridgeway Rd Manchester. Funeral Liturgy is Monday 10 AM at St John's Church, Lakehurst. True to his character,

throughout his illness as people remarked that it wasn't fair, Mike said, "You know what isn't fair, kids who get cancer. That's not fair." In light of this conversation and in lieu of flowers the family is asking for donations to St Jude Children's research Hospital 501 St Jude Place Memphis, TN 38105. To view the tribute video for Michael please click on the link below:

<https://www.tributeslides.com/tributes/show/598C9ZR6Y8CZ5PC7>

Cemetery

St Joseph's Cemetery & Masoleum

56-80 Cedar Grove Road

Toms River, NJ, 08753

Comments



“ I wish I didn't have to write these words...

Mike was a dedicated family man and friend. He was always willing to extend a hand to anyone who needed it. He never complained or said "why me". I've known Mike for over 50 years, and although we haven't seen each other in 20 to 25 years we would speak on the phone occasionally (always talking about the "old days") and always planning to get together with our wives , but we never made it come to pass. Christmas cards were always exchanged. Although we never got together, it was comforting to know Mike was there. It's hard to believe that he's gone from this life. But his spirit lives on. He suffered so much the past few years, I choose not to remember him that way. I choose to remember him in our youth, when we shared playing the sport of the season. And of course he was The Best on whatever field, always giving his all and encouraging others to do the same. Mike led by example whether at work, play or socializing. God bless you, Mike and thank you for being part of my life.

With Love and Respect,
Vito

Vito Amitrano - December 09 at 07:38 PM



“ Some of my fondest memories of my childhood are around Christmas time.

Decorating the house after everything is brought down from the attic, and getting the Christmas tree. One of my responsibilities would be the shelf under the mirror by the landing. After we had the tree, Dad would say we had to let it sit for a day to let the branches settle. Then he'd put on the lights and we'd help with the ornaments. One of us would set up the nativity and hide baby Jesus behind the stable. Then Dad would finish with the garland and the angel on top. It always looked beautiful.

Christmas morning was always the best. Dad would get annoyed when he had too many gifts to open. He didn't want us wasting our money but it was ok that we had piles of presents under the tree. As we opened our presents we had to throw the used wrapping paper in the garbage that Dad got from under the sink - and give the bows to Mom to save for next year. At the time, as kids, Mike and I probably rolled our eyes. But now I think back on these memories, and all the others, and smile. I wouldn't change a thing. Love you, Dad.



Frank Giardino - December 07 at 05:35 PM



“ I have learned more from Mike and Juliet (than my own family) about raising my children and what family is supposed to mean. I always admired Mike's work ethic and his ability to always be there for his family. I can only hope that one day I will be as strong as Mike and instill the values that he has shared with me. He will forever be a strong influence in my life. Thank you Mike, you will never be forgotten! Steve C.

Steve Cagnassola - December 07 at 05:23 PM



“ Thank you Steve, that was beautiful

Juliet - December 07 at 05:28 PM



“ An external video has been added.



Oliverie Funeral Home - December 07 at 04:55 PM



“ Beautiful memories we will miss that smile

Bernice Castoral - December 08 at 04:10 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Michael Giardino.



December 07 at 10:35 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Michael Giardino.



December 07 at 07:34 AM



“ Thought I would add my two cents to the lovely tributes and testimonials given to my friend of 60 years.
The theme of good friend, family man, character, athlete are well deserved..but there are other things that made Mike Mike...
He was opinionated and was not shy about letting you know his thoughts on a given subject.
If he was interested in something you could be sure he would be well versed. He enjoyed having, and actually encouraged, discussions/debates.
The subjects could be sports or politics and everything in between.
There was never any vitriol or arguments just a bunch of guys kicking things around..we all benefited. I will miss that.
Another thing Mike liked was the old movies..
He and Juliet were big fans of TCM (my self included).
We would often talk about the old movies and movie stars like Cagney, Tracy, Bogart and many others.
I will also miss that.
Time to cut this short..but I will say Mike was truly the brother I never had. With his passing I am less.
God bless Mike and God bless the Giardino family...
Artie

Art Agostini - December 06 at 08:15 PM



“ Thank you Artie.

Frank - December 07 at 05:07 PM



“ Thank you Artie, that was beautiful

Juliet - December 07 at 05:25 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Michael Giardino.



December 06 at 07:48 AM



“ Love John and Kara purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Michael Giardino.



John Giardino - December 05 at 08:23 PM



“ 5 files added to the album Mike and the gang



Bernice Castoral - December 05 at 02:24 PM



“ John and Kara purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Michael Giardino.



John and Kara - December 05 at 12:29 PM



“ Mikey has been a brother to me for 51 years. I do not remember a time when he wasn't there to crack a joke, offer encouragement, share advice, lend a hand. I miss him.

Penny DeStefano sister by marriage





“ Heaven receives one of God's finest. Mike with his loving heart, friendly smile, and good sense of humor will brighten life of the hereafter. However we'll miss him very much here on earth. Someday we'll meet again.
Joanie & Ralph Di Lemme

Joan Di Lemme - December 04 at 01:35 PM



“ Today I lost the greatest uncle and Lincoln High School lost the greatest quarterback they ever had.
Love your nephew Chris

chris haber - December 03 at 06:20 PM



“ Only knowing Mike and Juliet for 6 years it felt like it was forever. He always had a smile. We will miss you at the Boccie courts giving advice to anyone who would listen, to the many parties we shared with the various clubs. To always being there to help people in need. You embraced me into your family when I was alone and it meant the world to me. When your granddaughters were born the look of pride and love was all over you. When you attended my wedding in April of this year, besides myself and Walter, you and Juliet were so happy for us.
I will miss you friend and never forget all the kindness you gave to me and then to Walter

We will take good care of Juliet and your family.

Bernice (Bailine) and Walter Castoral

Bernice Castoral - December 03 at 04:58 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Art Agostini - December 03 at 04:37 PM



“ To my friend who was like a brother. I will miss you Mike.
My God comfort your family and welcome you with open arms
Rest my friend
Love you

Tony Cogliano

Anthony Cogliano - December 03 at 03:41 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Art Agostini - December 03 at 02:57 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Michael Henniecke - December 03 at 01:05 PM



“ Michael I am so so sorry to hear of your passing, I will always remember our trivia game.
Rest in peace. You will be greatly missed. Love you

Marie DeBiase - December 04 at 09:41 AM



“ Mike I am so sorry to hear of your passing. I will always remember your common sense approach to business at TeleResources and Rolm. Rmember when we went to Sparks for dinner and you put the \$900 bill on your own credit card and then you we not sure if Rolm was going to reimburse you!! They did!! Such good times and wonderful memories.

Barbara Giusto Rigaud

Barbara Giusto Rigaud - December 04 at 10:38 AM



“ Well Mike, you finally did it. From our first encounter at TR, throughout our 40 year friendship you have come close, but never succeeded. Through your intimidation (only during my first week of work) and throughout all the years to follow where you displayed enormous acts of , kindness, humility, integrity, leadership, friendship, courage and an impeccable work ethic, it never happened. When you took me under your wings and

mentored me, became a Brother, Uncle and Father, depending on the moment, it never happened. When you preached to me on a regular basis that I was smart and talented but belonged home, barefoot and pregnant, along with all the other woman in the office, it never happened. When we were all stumbling through the streets of Manhattan, from bar to bar, sometimes in the freezing cold, after being continually kicked out, it never happened. After you introduced me to Juliette , and your sons, Michael and Frankie and I saw the true greatness of the man you were, and how you always put family first, it never happened. Even when I continually witnessed your enormous heart and contagious laughter and some hard times for both of us during the years, it never happened. Until now. You finally made me cry.

I love you my dearest friend. And I will miss you terribly.

Juliette, Michael, and Frankie - thank you for sharing.

Lynne Kornhauser - December 05 at 12:44 PM