



James L. "Jimmy" Casale

October 22, 1940 - July 3, 2023

James L Casale (fondly known as Jimmy) passed away on July 3rd, 2023 in Naples, Florida, surrounded by his family. Jimmy was known for his love and devotion to his family, his Catholic faith, his patriotism, his passion for his career in education, and his infectious smile and sense of humor.

Jimmy was born in New York City on October 22nd, 1940. When he was 8 years old his family relocated to Harrison, NY. Jimmy graduated from Harrison High School in 1957, where he participated in both varsity football and baseball. He then attended and graduated from Providence College. During the summers he worked as a youth camp counselor and discovered his passion for teaching, which would spark a highly successful 50 year career in education .

Jimmy served in the United States Marine Corps Reserves and was honorably discharged in 1964. He was very proud of his service and maintained a close friendship with several of his fellow Marines throughout his entire life.

Jimmy began his education career as a teacher in New York. While visiting Florida in the Summer of 1968, he fell in love with the Sunshine State and moved with his wife Catherine and two young children (James and Karen) to the small, beautiful (but growing) city of Naples.

Jimmy taught 4th and 5th grade at Avalon Elementary School. He was consistently lauded for his teaching excellence including the development of individualized learning programs for his students. In 1974, Jimmy was named Florida Teacher of the Year, the first male teacher to attain this honor. His experience included being personally awarded by Governor Reubin Askew and speaking before the Florida Senate. Jimmy was active in the Naples community, coaching youth sports and organizing The 'Grapefruit League,' a youth baseball program in East Naples.

Jimmy continued his career pursuits by attaining a Ph.D. in Education Administration from Texas A&M University. He eventually relocated back to New York, where he served as a School Principal and Assistant Superintendent of Schools. While principal of Purchase Elementary School, the school was recognized as a National School of Excellence by the Department of Education.

Upon retirement, Jimmy stayed active in educational consulting and wrote two well reviewed books on childhood education and development. He valued his time with his family and stayed active with exercise, travel and his pursuit of life-long learning.

Jimmy is survived by his children: his son James Casale and his daughter Karen Casale-Masliah and husband David; his sister Stephanie Carnavalla and husband Jim; his sister Francesca DeAngelo and husband Gabriel; his grandchildren Olivia, Christian, Luca, Caroline, Jack and Nicholas; his former wife Catherine; and many beloved cousins, nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his wife of 27 years, Janet; his parents - Frank and Carmelina Casale; and his brother Joseph and wife Doris Casale.

When it came to his approach to life, to paraphrase one of his idols - Frank Sinatra: Jim did it 'His Way.' He had a positive and meaningful impact on so

many people that will far outlast his life. He will be deeply missed and lovingly and fondly remembered by his family and many friends.

A mass service and celebration of life will be held on Thursday, August 3rd, 11am at St. Gregory's Catholic Church in Harrison, NY.

Arrangements are being handled by Shikany's Bonita Funeral Home, Family Owned Since 1978.

Previous Events

Mass of Christian Burial

AUG 3. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Gregory's Catholic Church
215 Halstead Avenue
Harrison, NY 10528

Tribute Wall



“ James L. "Jimmy" Casale

October 09, 2023 at 03:40 AM



“ Ocean Breeze Spray was purchased for the family of James L. "Jimmy" Casale.



July 17, 2023 at 10:07 PM



“ I was Dr. Casales secretary at Preston School in Harrison, New York. He was a pleasure to work for. We shared a passion for Frank Sinatra and the NY Yankees. We remained friends after he moved to Florida and he always sent me a birthday card. I will never forget you and all the laughs while working. You will be missed. Good bye old friend. I hope you have "Abeets" in heaven. Your friend, Gilda Buglione q

Gilda Buglione - July 09, 2023 at 11:42 PM



“ Will miss you Jim, I remember our semi-pro baseball team, THE HARRISON CONTINENTALS...your brother Joe Casale was our manger, back in the 60's...yes we had fun. Thank You for your friendship for many years.

Thomas J Stroh - July 09, 2023 at 03:22 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of James L. "Jimmy" Casale.

July 09, 2023 at 02:53 PM



“ Dreams From the Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of James L. "Jimmy" Casale.



July 09, 2023 at 02:53 PM



“ Sending deepest condolences to all in the Casale family. I will always remember Jimmy as the big brother of my best friend Stephanie. When we were teenagers, all Stephanie's girlfriends had a crush on Jimmy at one time or another as he was so much older (3 years!) I never would have met my husband of 49 years , Mike Fraioli, if it wasn't for Jim and Stephanie.
Will miss you "Jimmy Casale, what a guy".

Betty Ann Marccone Fraioli Thress - July 09, 2023 at 02:43 PM

DA

“ My sincere sympathy to all of Jim's family.
Someone very special is no longer with us.

To use Jim's own words.....WHAT A GUY !!!
He surely did it his way.

After college Jim found himself back in Harrison. He noticed an emptiness in the summer recreation program. Elementary kids had summer camp at their respective schools. Jim noticed that there was no such program for middle schoolers...the ones who go through difficult times and without working papers. Jim went to the recreation department seeking money and the use of the high school for such a day camp. He won. I was proud to be Jim's assistant at his newly formed "camp". WHAT A GUY !!!

I lost track of Jim for many years what with him in Florida. While serving on the Harrison Board of Education in the early 80's we were needing to replace a retiring principal at Purchase Elementary. The executive search committee presented a book of finalists. You could have knocked me, as well as fellow board members Tony Carpiniello and Mike Bisceglia over with just a single feather when we saw Jim's name.

Could this be the same Jim Casale we knew growing up?
Sure enough it was.

During the interview Superintendent Dr. Carbone asked Jim where in saw himself in 5 years. Jim pointed down the length of the long conference table and said "I want your job". WHAT A GUY !!!

On Jim's first day as principal Dr. Carbone felt he should take a ride to see how things were going with his new principal. Much to his surprise he found a motorcycle parked in the "Reserved for Principal" spot not knowing who the owner was.

Dr. Carbone then went to the Principal's office looking for Jim. He was told Dr Casale is out on the playground with the students...it was recess.

Sure enough Jim was out there in shorts and sneakers playing

soccer.

Jim had also set up a gumball machine in his office. If a student was "caught being good" that student was sent to Jim's office, given a coin and received a gumball in return WHAT A GUY !!!

Finally I will always remember Jim for his patriotism. Wherever Jim was Principal, Memorial Day was used as a learning day. Veterans from all parts of Harrison were brought in as honored guests and the band and chorus performed patriotic songs. WHAT A GUY !!!

Jim...I will miss your broad smile, your infectious laughter and your love of children and their learning.

WHAT A GUY !!! SEMPER FI !!!

Dan Aloisi

Dan Aloisi - July 07, 2023 at 02:32 PM

JW

“ *I only knew James on FB but such a sweet man. I will miss his words of wisdom. He is happily reunited with his wife and other family and his many friends. Godspeed James.*

Janne Wilson - July 06, 2023 at 01:53 PM

LC

“ *Although we only knew Jimmy for a short time Through our cousins Fran and Gabe DeAngelo , we could see Jimmy's love for his family and life whenever we were together. . Reading his obituary he had an amazing life . He touched many and will always be remembered . He was proud of many things but we know he was proud of his Yankee collection . I'm sure he'll have alot to tell the Babe in heaven .. ❤️ liz and John Carella ..*

Liz and John Carella - July 06, 2023 at 01:42 PM

MT

“ To the Family: Jimmy and my brother, Steve Mauro, were best friends. Jimmy was Stevie's daughter Lisa's Godfather. The photo of them posed with Jimmy's 1950 Ford is circa 1957. Condolences to the Casale family from the Mauro Family. ❤️ Monica (Mauro) & Joe Tarantino and Mike & Eileen Mauro

Monica Tarantino - July 06, 2023 at 07:50 AM

MT

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Monica Tarantino - July 06, 2023 at 07:44 AM

FB

“ The very best neighbor I ever had! He will be sadly missed.

Frank Berna - July 05, 2023 at 08:08 PM



“ 3 files added to the album Jimmy Casale



James Casale - July 05, 2023 at 03:04 PM

JC

“ 2 files added to the album Jimmy Casale



James Casale - July 05, 2023 at 02:33 PM

RI

Rest in peace Jimmy C!! You will be missed.....

RICHARD J POTTER II - July 05, 2023 at 03:38 PM

MB

RIP My Dear Jim & Condolences to the Family say hello to MIKE SMICK(Bisceglia)



Mary Lou Bisceglia - July 06, 2023 at 02:21 PM