



NUNZIO CASSARA

April 30, 1964 - January 18, 2023

IN LIEU OF FLOWERS, PLEASE DONATE IN HIS NAME TO:

SHRINERS HOSPITAL FOR CHILDREN

www.shrinerschildrens.org

OR TO:

BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF AMERICA

www.bgca.org

MEMORIAL VISITATION:

SATURDAY, JANUARY 28, 2023

1PM TO 3PM

STICKLE-SOLTESZ FUNERAL HOME

PRAYER SERVICE:

SATURDAY, JANUARY 28, 2023

3PM

STICKLE-SOLTESZ FUNERAL HOME

Nunzio Cassara, 58, of Oak Ridge, New Jersey, passed away on January 18, 2023.

Nunzio was born in Gela, Sicily to Cristoforo and Natalina Cassara. He immigrated to the United States with his family at the age of 9, settling in Brooklyn, NY.

He met Alice Conti at the age of 12 and shortly thereafter declared - with his typical confidence - that he would marry her. On July 21, 1989 in Brooklyn, NY, he proved prescient, promising to spend the rest of his life's ups and downs with Alice Cassara.

After graduating from the New York Restaurant School (now the Art Institute) in 1987, Nunzio began his professional career at the Plaza Hotel, an iconic New York destination. Throughout his career, Nunzio worked for a number of restaurants and hotels, rising to become an Executive Chef. In 2016, Nunzio pursued his lifelong dream of opening his own restaurant, Nunzio's Dolce Vita. Italian for sweet life, dolce vita alludes to the only way he knew how to live: with joy. Everyone who cooked in Nunzio's kitchen or ate in his dining room felt his love and passion. Though he made many meals throughout his career, the most important were celebrating with his family.

In his free time, Nunzio loved sports, cards, watching movies with his wife, whom he cherished, and teasing his son, who he was so proud of. He played recreational ice hockey for the Gitler's Gorillas into adulthood, and remained a devoted Yankees and Giants fan until his passing. One of his life's great joys was coaching his son's youth baseball team, the Patriots, where he blended patient teaching with ill-fated attempts at humor. Nunzio treasured Friday card nights with his friends, and was renowned for his fierce (some might say brutal) tactics in Monopoly. Movie night with Alice was a staple, though Nunzio often displayed his enthusiasm via snores.

Nunzio is predeceased by his father Cristoforo Cassara.

He is survived by his loving wife Alice of 33 years, his son Daniel, his mother Natalina Cassara, his parents-in-law Sally and Ray Conti, his siblings, and his nieces and nephews.

Family and friends are invited to his memorial visitation on January 28, 2023 from 1pm to 3pm with a prayer service at 3pm at the at Stickle-Soltesz Funeral Home, 187 La Rue Road, Newfoundland, NJ 07435.

In lieu of flowers, please donate in his name to Shriners Hospitals for Children; www.shrinerschildrens.org or to Boys & Girls Club of America; www.bgca.org

On line condolences and directions: www.sticklesolteszfuneralhome.com.

Previous Events

Memorial Visitation

JAN 28. 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

Stickle-Soltesz Funeral Home
187 La Rue Road
(Parallel to Route 23 North between Clinton Road and Union Valley Road)
Newfoundland, NJ 07435
(973) 697-6700
info@sticklesolteszfuneralhome.com
<https://www.sticklesolteszfuneralhome.com>

Prayer Service

JAN 28. 3:00 PM - 3:30 PM (ET)

Stickle-Soltesz Funeral Home
187 La Rue Road
(Parallel to Route 23 North between Clinton Road and Union Valley Road)
Newfoundland, NJ 07435
(973) 697-6700
info@sticklesolteszfuneralhome.com
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Tribute Wall

JE

“ I met Nunzio at his restaurant where my company was having our holiday party. He was gracious, welcoming, and funny! We often went back for lunch and other parties. He had a great attitude when I took one of the table arrangements which I did return! I was so sorry to hear of his passing. May you all live in the memory of him.

Jen - November 01, 2023 at 04:36 PM

JE

“ Jen lit a candle in memory of NUNZIO CASSARA



Jen - November 01, 2023 at 04:31 PM

LT

“ Lauren Territola lit a candle in memory of NUNZIO CASSARA



Lauren Territola - May 26, 2023 at 04:51 AM

JE

“ Julia Eckert lit a candle in memory of NUNZIO CASSARA



Julia Eckert - January 28, 2023 at 03:28 PM

FS

“ Dear Alice & Dan, We are so sorry for your loss and lift you up for comfort & healing as you move forward. Much love, Fay, Tony & Matt Servedio



Fay Servedio - January 28, 2023 at 10:58 AM

BB

“ I met the Cassara family when I was a teenager. Uncle Nunzio, Aunt Al, and Dan made me feel like family right away. I remember Nunzio at several get togethers. usually busting someone’s chops and cooking something delicious. I’ll always remember the good times, and meals devoured at Nunzio’s Dolce Vida. I used to love it when I’d get to wait on the family when they’d stop at our hometown restaurant for a meal.
I can’t believe such a great man is gone too soon. My deepest condolences and love goes out to his whole family.

Brandy Burrafato - January 27, 2023 at 06:40 PM

LF

“ Luis Fornis lit a candle in memory of NUNZIO CASSARA



Luis Fornis - January 27, 2023 at 01:53 PM

SH

“ Deepest sympathy to you, Alice, Dan, and the rest of the family on the loss of your dearest Nunzio. Such a very sad time for all of you.

Susan T Headley - January 27, 2023 at 12:36 PM

SV

“ Our deepest deepest condolences to Alice / Dan and family. What a shock What a lose. We are numb. I go back many years with Nunz to our BROOKLYN hood growing up. Many steps together. Eating everything in site at his parents pizzeria - teaching him roller and then ice hockey and then having the extreme honor of being teammates. Nunz never minced words you had to love his verbal honesty. he wore his heart on his sleeve and was ALWAYS there for you. Extremely generous with an enormous sense of humor loved by all. Nunz always had your back. He will be greatly missed by all. RIP MY FRIEND !!! STEVE/ CATHY and KARA VINGELLI

Steve Vingelli - January 27, 2023 at 11:50 AM

JC

“ Joe Crimmins lit a candle in memory of NUNZIO CASSARA



Joe Crimmins - January 27, 2023 at 09:10 AM

WC

“ With Love, Fran & Tommy Capraun purchased the Blue Caribbean Bouquet for the family of NUNZIO CASSARA.



With Love, Fran & Tommy Capraun - January 27, 2023 at 08:38 AM

DR

“ Memories of Nunzio go back to the 70's on Manhattan beach. He would argue about everything and of course he was never wrong! All the time he would argue it was always with a devilish smile and love in his heart. You have left us too soon. Continue to watch over your loving family and friends. God Bless You!

Dom Roca - January 26, 2023 at 10:16 PM



“ Condolences to The Cassara Family. I met Nunzio in my very early years of coaching mra sports.



Walter Endlicher - January 26, 2023 at 01:47 PM

LD

“ It is with shock and sorrow that I share my condolences. There are no words. Lucille & Dave



Lucille A DeHart - January 25, 2023 at 04:56 PM

CA

“ Dear Alice & Family so sorry for your loss my thoughts and prayers are with you. Catherine & Tom



Catherine - January 24, 2023 at 06:39 PM

DM

“ *Donna McKenna lit a candle in memory of NUNZIO CASSARA*



Donna McKenna - January 24, 2023 at 02:26 PM

SD

“ *So sorry to here of Nunzio's passing. Many good times spent with him on the baseball field. God bless my prayers go out to him and his family. Stosh.*

Stosh Depko - January 23, 2023 at 11:23 AM



“ *Dear Alice & Family - I'm truly so sorry to learn of Nunzio's passing. Please know my prayers are with you and may he Rest in Eternal Peace.*



Judy Grancio - January 23, 2023 at 10:42 AM

JG

“ *Dear Alice & Family - I am so sorry to hear of Nunzio's passing. My thoughts and prayers are with you. Rest in Peace Nunzio*



judy grancio - January 23, 2023 at 10:32 AM

EB

“ Goodness, there are no words to describe the depth of our sadness at the passing of my Uncle Nunzio. My entire life has been filled with memories of family, holidays, movie nights, dinners together .. just being together! Aunt Alice and Uncle Nunzio were more than just aunts and uncles, they were my second parents.



Omari joined this family nearly two years ago and had the privilege to meet and love Uncle Nunzio for himself. We will miss him so much. His sense of humor, his cooking, his passion behind his cooking! His stories. His love for his family. We will miss him so deeply.

To Aunt Alice and Dan, we love you both so much. As Aunt Al always says, we maybe a small family, but we are a mighty family. We will be here for you now and forever.

Emily Bennett - January 21, 2023 at 10:50 PM

EB

“ Goodness, there are no words to truly encompass the depth of sadness we feel losing Uncle Nunzio. My life is full of memories of my family - from early age, teenage years, up until now, Aunt Alice and Uncle Nunzio have been my second set of parents. There's too many memories to count ... family dinners, holidays, the restaurant, movie nights, Uncle Nono (my attempt at Nunzio as a little girl) was a huge part of my life. Omari joined this family two years ago and had the privilege to meet and love Uncle Nunzio for himself. We will miss his sense of humor, his food and passion for culinary perfection, his stories ... so so much. He is and was a staple in this family and his memory will live in our hearts forever. To Aunt Alice and Dan, we love you both so much. We will be here for you now and forever. Love, Emily & Omari



Emily Bennett - January 21, 2023 at 10:35 PM

RB

“ Nunzio said to me one time Rich Rich in order to be the best you must play with the best. I guess that's why I loved playing and working with him because he was the best. He always played the supporting cast to my crazy ideas but down deep he was the backbone for my inspiration. He had a smile that could light up a room even after working the breakfast shift and doing 100 covers by himself. A fierce competitor he would argue his point but always gave you the time of day. The Nunz or Lou like I called him was one of the best partners in crime I ever had. I love you always brother thank you for being you. My heart goes out to Alice, Daniel and the rest of the Cassara family. Rest in peace Paisan



Richard Biondo - January 21, 2023 at 08:44 PM

VL

“ Vito Lepore lit a candle in memory of NUNZIO CASSARA



Vito Lepore - January 21, 2023 at 04:51 PM

HS

“ Heather Savage lit a candle in memory of NUNZIO CASSARA



Heather Savage - January 21, 2023 at 03:26 PM

KC

“ *Kathleen Chumer lit a candle in memory of NUNZIO CASSARA*



Kathleen Chumer - January 21, 2023 at 08:44 AM

NJ

“ *Thanks for all the laughs, advice and your listening ear. My Heartfelt Condolences go out to the Family.*



Nate Johnson - January 20, 2023 at 10:54 PM

NJ

“ *Nate Johnson lit a candle in memory of NUNZIO CASSARA*



Nate Johnson - January 20, 2023 at 10:15 PM

KA

“ *Ken Arnone lit a candle in memory of NUNZIO CASSARA*



Ken Arnone - January 20, 2023 at 05:18 PM

ES

“ *Incredibly bummed by Nunzio's passing. So many great memories playing with him. Always a smile when he came in the locker room. Condolences to Alice, Daniel & everyone else who will have hole in their life without Nunzio.*



Ed Shendell - January 20, 2023 at 02:27 PM

VL

So sad to hear the news. Condolences to all family members. Nunzio was well loved by all!!

Vincent Longo - January 20, 2023 at 06:09 PM

AW

“ *Amy Wickenheisser lit a candle in memory of NUNZIO CASSARA*



Amy Wickenheisser - January 20, 2023 at 01:41 PM

MW

“ *Martine Washko purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of NUNZIO CASSARA.*



Martine Washko - January 20, 2023 at 11:47 AM

CC

“ *A big hug from your italian family. Love,
Concetta Cassarà*



Concetta Cassarà - January 20, 2023 at 06:20 AM

PG

“ *Patricia Galfo lit a candle in memory of
NUNZIO CASSARA*



Patricia Galfo - January 19, 2023 at 10:32 PM

JP

“ *Joann Pizzaia lit a candle in memory of
NUNZIO CASSARA*



Joann Pizzaia - January 19, 2023 at 08:31 PM

MC

“ *Millie Cassara lit a candle in memory of
NUNZIO CASSARA*



Millie Cassara - January 19, 2023 at 07:45 PM

Joe Gioia

“ *Joe Gioia lit a candle in memory of NUNZIO CASSARA*



Joe Gioia - January 19, 2023 at 07:19 PM

GB

“ *Gene Battiloro lit a candle in memory of NUNZIO CASSARA*



Gene Battiloro - January 19, 2023 at 06:49 PM

KR

“ *Yesterday was a sad day for us all. Finding out that my Buddy Nunzio had left us, and will no longer be around to speak with, or visit in the future was an unexpected blow that brought many tears to my eyes. Hands down Nunzio was one of the nicest guys that I have ever had the pleasure to be friends with. He loved everything! His family, his career, his hockey, and his friends. My heart goes out to Alice, Daniel, His Mother and siblings at this time. Rest in Peace Nunz, Jesus Loves You, and so do I.*

Kevin Roscoe - January 19, 2023 at 06:14 PM

KR

“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



Kevin Roscoe - January 19, 2023 at 05:56 PM

GB

“ *Passionate and Love are the words that describe Nunzio. He was passionate about many things cooking, baseball, friendships and he loved his family. I'm saddened by the loss of not only a good friend but great all around person that brought smiles to our faces. RIP my friend you will be dearly missed. My condolences to Alice, Dan and family*

Gene Battiloro - January 19, 2023 at 04:51 PM

DF

“ *Diana Furze lit a candle in memory of
NUNZIO CASSARA*



Diana Furze - January 19, 2023 at 03:22 PM

LE

“ MY DEAR FRIEND ALICE AND FAMILY - MY HEART IS BROKEN FOR YOUR LOSS . JUST KNOW NUNZIO ADORED YOU , LOVED YOU AND WILL ALWAYS BE IN YOUR HEART. NUNZIO WAS A VERY GENTAL KIND MAN WHO WOULD DO ANYTHING FOR YOU . HIS LOVE FOR OPENING HIS OWN RESTAURANT CAME TRUE AND YOU CAN SEE HOW MUCH HE ENJOYED COOKING AND MAKING PEOPLE FEEL SPECIAL. I WILL REMEMBER ALL THE GOOD TIMES WE SHARED AT OUR BASEBALL GAMES AND DINNERS OR JUST HANGING OUT TOGETHER FOR FUN . YOU WILL BE SADLEY MISSED AND KNOW THAT MY PRAYERS ARE ALWAYS WITH YOU . LOVE LINDA

LINDA ENGELMANN - January 19, 2023 at 01:59 PM

LE

“ *LINDA ENGELMANN lit a candle in memory of NUNZIO CASSARA*



LINDA ENGELMANN - January 19, 2023 at 01:36 PM

BP

“ *Bernie Prosperi lit a candle in memory of NUNZIO CASSARA*



Bernie Prosperi - January 19, 2023 at 10:06 AM