



Armand L Santarelli, Sr.

January 18, 1929 - April 14, 2014

Armand Santarelli, Sr. 85, of Absecon passed away peacefully on April 14, 2014. He was born in 1929 in Philadelphia, and had suffered from Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease, which he bravely battled for many years. He was married to his devoted wife Olga of 64 years, after meeting and playing music in USO shows together. After briefly serving our country in the US Army, Armand pursued his passion as a jazz musician, drum instructor, and writer in Philadelphia and South Jersey for over 50 years. He was admired and respected as a mentor to students from across the country, many of whom still attribute their success not only to his drum instruction, but his deep and thoughtful life teachings. He was born and raised in South Philadelphia and moved to Glendora, NJ in 1962, where the family lived until 1979. The family moved to the Atlantic City area where Armand continued his music career and teaching as long as he was able. He is predeceased by his parents Giacomo and Adeline Santarelli, and his sister Eileen Santarelli of Philadelphia, and has one surviving brother, Oswald. He will be sadly missed by his loving wife Olga (Egizi), three daughters Elisa Keaveney of Flower Mound, Texas, Gina White of Absecon, and Leticia Santarelli of Egg Harbor Township, and three sons Armand Santarelli, Jr., Jack Santarelli, and Joseph Santarelli, all from the Dallas, Texas area. Along with the loving spouses of his children, Armand proudly has 11 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren. Visitation will be Monday April 21st, from 9AM until 11AM at Our Lady of Perpetual Help (Assumption Church), 146 S. Pitney Rd., Galloway, NJ. There will be a mass following at 11AM with burial at Atlantic County Veterans Cemetery in the Atlantic County Park in Estell Manor. Services entrusted to Wimberg Funeral Home in Galloway, NJ (609) 641-0001. For condolences, please visit www.wimbergfuneralhome.com.

Comments



“ I met Armand in Philly in the 70's and studied with him for several years. I will never forget my very first lesson. After studying locally for over 4 years, we started at ground zero, completely changing my technique. His best teachings were not about drumming but life. I will never forget him and feel fortunate to have spent time with him.

Frank Marco - September 18, 2019 at 09:15 PM



“ Great teacher and Great wonderful Man!

Richard Olivastri - September 06, 2019 at 07:16 PM



“ Armand taught me in the mid 70's. I was about 22 yrs. old and he taught me more than just drums. I gave him the first issue of Modern Drummer Magazine. Great influence on me and he had the patience of a Saint.

Bill Metzler - July 08, 2015 at 12:00 AM



“ I first met Armand at the age of 15. Instruction was not just limited to my instrument but also to life. He was always willing to impart some wisdom to guide me in the right direction. Musically, he had one of the most analytical minds when it came to drumming and how the body works with it. "Squeeze and Release" he would always say. His experiences and calibrations with Joe Morello and others were always a highlight. My sincerest condolences to Armand's family. Peace be with you.

John Garry - May 29, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ I studied with Armand in the mid 1980's for several years. He taught me so much more than how to hold a pair of sticks. His philosophies and views on life created such a foundation. He was a warm hearted man with such an open and embracing soul. I am so honored to have met and spent time with him. I wish to offer the Santarelli family my deepest and most sincere condolences and to thank you one more time Armand for everything you gave. Thank You.

Joseph Mullica - May 28, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ My deepest sympathies to the Santarelli family. I had studied drums for years and wanted a more advanced teacher when I heard about Armand and his lessons at Music City in downtown Philadelphia in the late 60's. I thought I was pretty good until my first meeting with Armand who completely changed my hand technique and told me to forget everything I've learned. I was skeptical at first but he was the best teacher I ever had. I still play today at 63 and will always remember Armand as a great influence. He also had a very cool look and manner that was impressive to me as a young kid. My thoughts and prayers to his family and I'll always remember Armand for the influence, inspiration and passion he passed on to me about playing drums.

Pete Tracanna - April 30, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ I'm sorry to hear of Armand's passing , I was a student of his for a year in 1980 . He was a terrific instructor as well as a terrific musician . I used to love our conversations anytime I'd drop by for a lesson in Ventnor . He had great advice , for many of life's situations , many of which I still follow till this day . Heaven's band just got better !

Will Rossi - April 28, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ My deepest sympathy to everyone. Dad will be missed.He always treated me well. Sorry I could not make it to his funeral to pay my respects in person.I put my phone # 856-371-3172 in case anyone would like to call me.....Carl

Carl Rollinghoff - April 20, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ I am so sorry to hear of Armand 's passing. My deepest condolences to the family. He will truly be missed.

Susan Wine Sampson - April 19, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ To Mrs.Olga & Family I would like to extend my sincere condolences at this most difficult time. May God bless and strengthen each one of you. Armand was one of a kind, sweet but strong-stubborn but lovable. I will miss his presence. He always made me smile and was my favorite drummer.I'm sure he has the angels combing his hair in just the right direction...Sleep With The Angels my buddy. God Bless.

Allyssa (Le-Le)Hubbard - April 19, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ So sorry for your loss.

Chuck LaBella - April 18, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ Momma T, Lauren, Brian, and family..Tony and I send our deepest sympathies and thoughts with you and yours.

Jennie Passarelli - April 18, 2014 at 12:00 AM