



# Nicholas J. Colaneri

FEB 17, 1930 - AUG 27, 2012



Scan to Visit



# Table of Contents

<b>Obituary</b> .....	Page 3
<b>Events</b> .....	Page 5
<b>Tribute Wall</b> .....	Page 6
<b>Media</b> .....	Page 16



## Nicholas J. Colaneri

FEB 17, 1930 - AUG 27, 2012

**N**icholas J. Colaneri, 82, passed away Monday, August 27 surrounded by his loving family after a brief illness. Nick wanted to be remembered as a devoted husband, father and grandfather, even though he was well known for his performances with the Pompeian Players for 35 years. He also co-directed high school productions at Saint Cecilia's in Solvay and Bishop Ludden High School for many years. In 1979 he and his musical director, Mario De Santis, were honored by the Solvay Rotary for their years of work with the youth of the community. A 1949 graduate of North High School, Nick attended Morrisville State College for two years before graduating from Le Moyne College in 1955 with a Bachelor's degree in Industrial Relations. After a 35 year career with General Motors (GM) he spent two additional years consulting with GM offshore plant operations including one year in Montreal, six months in Korea, and six months in Turin, Italy. For the last 14 years he and his wife have spent winters on Singer Island in Florida sharpening his golf game, enjoying the arts in all its forms, and rooting for the Yankees and the Green Bay Packers. Nick will be missed by many friends, all his children, their spouses, his grandchildren and most especially by his "beloved", Lou Anne. He is predeceased by his son, Thomas in 2003 and his sister, Connie Mazella in 2012. Survived by his wife of 56 years, Lou Anne (Pedrosa), six children, Nicholas of Santa Barbara, CA; Paul (Jacqueline) of Dublin, NH; Michael (Mike Copani) of San Francisco; Mary Lou (Thomas) Higgins of Liverpool, John of San Francisco and Mark (Erin) of Camillus; seven grandchildren, several nieces, nephews and cousins and the countless youth that he mentored and inspired throughout his life in Syracuse.

Funeral services will be held on Friday at 10:45 am in the THOMAS J. PIRRO JR. FUNERAL HOME and 12:00 pm in St. Cecilia's Church, Solvay. Family and friends may call at the THOMAS J. PIRRO JR. FUNERAL HOME, 3401 Vickery Rd. (corner of Buckley Rd.) North Syracuse on Thursday from 4:00 to 7:00 pm.



## Obituary

**Nicholas J. Colaneri**

FEB 17, 1930 - AUG 27, 2012

---

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Hospice of Central New York or to the Fund in honor of Tommy D. Colaneri with Feed The Children.



# Events


**Nicholas J. Colaneri**

FEB 17, 1930 - AUG 27, 2012

## Visitation


 **Thursday**, August 30, 2012


 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM ET

 **Thomas J. Pirro Jr. Funeral Home**  
3401 Vickery Rd, Syracuse NY 13212



## Service


 **Friday**, August 31, 2012


 10:45 AM ET

 **Thomas J. Pirro Jr. Funeral Home**  
3401 Vickery Rd, Syracuse NY 13212

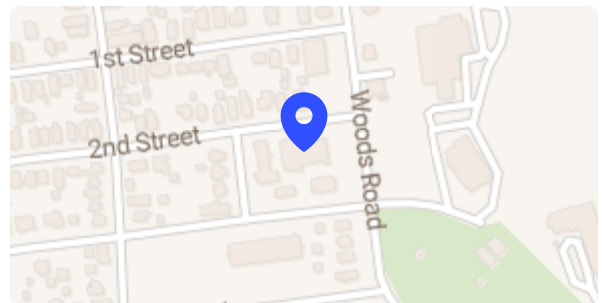


## Funeral Mass

 **Friday**, August 31, 2012

 12:00 PM ET

 **St. Cecilia**  
1001 Woods Road, Solvay NY 13209-1590





## Tribute Wall

**Nicholas J. Colaneri**

FEB 17, 1930 - AUG 27, 2012



**Thomas J. Pirro Jr. Funeral Home** shared a **Tribute Video**.



August 26 at 8:00 PM



**Donna Crissan Winters** posted:

I was so sorry to hear of Nick Colaneri's death. Since I've been away from Syracuse for several decades, a good mutual friend sent me the news. Growing up in Syracuse, I always enjoyed seeing Nick acting/directing the Pompeian Players productions, but only got to know him for a short time, when he directed several musicals at Bishop Ludden High School, during my Junior and Senior years. What a talented and fun director---what a wonderfully sweet man! As another writer put it, "to know him, is to know joy." I can still see him jumping around the stage demonstrating what he wanted us to do, and how he wanted a scene to look,.... and that hat! He poured his whole heart into working with us little teeny-boppers, and we all learned so much from his direction, his acting and his example. Nick and Mario were the best team at creating a great musical theatre experience, that blessed me with some of my fondest memories of high school, and led to a theatre major in college. There aren't enough words to describe the beautiful impact that Nick had on so many lives. I am privileged and blessed to be among them. My sympathies and prayers to all his family and friends. Know you are missing him very much. With hope we look forward to the day, when we see him again. Donna Crissan Winters Bishop Ludden '72

January 31 at 9:53 AM



**Barbara Barnell** posted:

Lou Anne and Family, My sincerest condolences to all for your loss. My thoughts and prayers are with you. Barbara Barnell

September 3 at 10:35 AM



**Robert "Tank" Steingraber** posted:

Dear Lou Anne and family!, I was so sorry to hear of Nick's passing! Unfortunately I didn't hear until I got back into town on Friday. Nick was a wonderful guy and I am so priveleged to have worked with him several times over the 40+ years in local theatre! I still have fond memories of "Harvey" and the good and fun times connected to it! It was always fun to run into you both when we chanced to like recently, of course, at the theatre! My thoughts are with you at this time. KNow that he's still with you enjoying everything as usual! Be well, Lovey! Robert "Tank" Steingraber

September 1 at 8:41 PM



## Tribute Wall

**Nicholas J. Colaneri**

FEB 17, 1930 - AUG 27, 2012

ME

**Marie Esposito** posted:

To know Nick Colaneri is to know joy. I imagine he is already directing a celestial musical, walking across some heavenly stage snapping his fingers to get the pacing right, twinkle in his eyes, Sinatra hat angled just so, and making everyone laugh, believe, strive, create. His love and kindness are imprinted in my heart, and there are hundreds of us, thousands of us out there. His legacy is far-reaching, deeply felt and an extraordinary gift to the world. My heart goes out to the Colaneri family. I remember you all with great fondness from our days at Bishop Ludden. May your memories and the love of family and friends carry you through this terrible loss. Recently, I took my 16-year-old daughter to see "How to Succeed" on Broadway and sitting in that audience all I could think about was Nick and Mario. Every word, every song came right back to me. Was it over 35 years ago I was wearing that horrid pink dress and pumps along with all the other girls on Ludden's stage? Impossible. It seems like yesterday. I am so grateful to have known Nick Colaneri. He made me "proud to be, in that fraternity, that great big brotherhood of man." Marie Esposito Bishop Ludden '75

September 1 at 2:46 PM

MS

**Mary Anne Sacco** posted:

TP The Colaneri family - Our deepest sympathies for the passing of Nick. There is so much good to say about Nick that it would take volumes of books. I never knew any one who did not say a kind word about him. He always recognized me no matter how long it had been since our last meeting. He made everyone smile and had such an impact on so many lives. Our prayers are with all of you at this time. Your friends in Arizona. Mary Anne & Lou Sacco

September 1 at 12:10 PM

RC

**Ron Cocciole** posted:

To the Colaneri Family-Many of the Pompeian Players, and especially Nick, were an inspiration to me when I was in high school--many years ago. They were sound community members who enjoyed life, their families while giving of themselves.

September 1 at 3:00 AM

JM

**John Militi** posted:

Rest in peace...sincere condolences. John J Militi

August 31 at 9:39 AM



## Tribute Wall

**Nicholas J. Colaneri**

FEB 17, 1930 - AUG 27, 2012

ML

**Margaret Lucido** lit a candle in honor of Nicholas .



August 31 at 8:14 AM

ML

**Margaret Lucido** August 31 at 8:25 AM

Dear Lou Anne and Family, It is with much sadness that I send my deepest condolences on the loss of your dear Nick, husband, father and grandfather. I have so many wonderful memories from babysitting while you "double -dated" with the Mario & Anita, to our unforgettable times with the musicals at St. Cecilia's. Nick was able to give each and every one of us a chance to shine in our own way, even if you could not carry a tune, like me! No doubt, all of you will miss him greatly. He certainly was an exceptional example of using one's God-given talents to make others smile, bring people together, and share his gifts. I have a special place in my heart for the Colaneri family. I have thought about you often. Much love, my thoughts and prayers for you all. Marge Kulak Lucido

NP

**Noelle Pudney** posted:

I am so sorry to hear of Mr. Colaneri's passing. He is remembered as a very kind man. My thoughts and prayers are with Mrs. Colaneri and the whole family during this time. Noelle (Bishop) Pudney and Family

August 31 at 6:57 AM

MO

**Mary Osborne** lit a candle in honor of Nicholas .

Dear Lou Anne, I am sorry to hear of the death of Nick and sorry I cannot offer my condolences in person. I am in Pennsylvania visiting my daughter, My prayers are with you and your family. May He Rest in Peace. Much love, Mary Osborne



August 30 at 7:20 PM



## Tribute Wall

**Nicholas J. Colaneri**

FEB 17, 1930 - AUG 27, 2012

KC

**Kevin E. Cary** lit a candle in honor of Nicholas .

To the Colaneri Family, I will never forget Nick. He and Mario were my earliest mentors. I've spent 30+ years in the arts largely because of them. Nick was the first director to cast me in a leading role; he saw something in me even I didn't see. I've thought about him many times over the years and I regret now not seeking him out to tell him how much he influenced my life. May God hold you in His hand. Sing with the Angels now dear friend! Kevin E. Cary Columbus, Ohio



August 30 at 5:52 PM

AR

**Ann Downey Rakowski** posted:

To the Colaneri family, My deepest sympathy to you all. I have such fond memories of Mr Colaneri and the Bishop Ludden musicals. You are such a wonderful family and I'm sure he is so proud of each of you. My prayers are with you at this difficult time. Ann (Downey) Rakowski

August 30 at 4:48 PM

TD

**Trish Coman Dunn** posted:

Dear Lou Anne, Mary Lou and all the Colaneri boys: I was so sad to hear of Nick's illness and then read of his passing. He was such a good man, and I have always enjoyed seeing him (and you) when you visited Dick at Ramona Beach. I hope you find comfort by sharing memories and just being together during the days ahead. Please know that you are in my thoughts and prayers. Trish Coman Dunn

August 30 at 10:32 AM



**Anonymous** sent a Vivid Recollections to the Colaneri family.

August 30 at 8:30 AM



MF

**Missy Carr Fitz** posted:

Mary Lou, My deepest sympathies to you and your family on the passing of your father. I remember him very fondly from our days at Ludden. You will all be in my prayers. Missy Carr Fitz

August 30 at 8:20 AM



## Tribute Wall

**Nicholas J. Colaneri**

FEB 17, 1930 - AUG 27, 2012

DM

**David And Kim Morton** posted:

Nick and Family, Our thoughts and sympathies are with you. David and Kim Morton

August 30 at 7:52 AM

SB

**Stacie Bouffard** posted:

Larry and I are grateful for the opportunities we had to share a bit of our lives and our selves with Nick and Lou Anne. It was always a special treat when they came to town. We will miss these visits and we will miss Nick. Our hearts and thoughts are with you Lou Anne and the entire Colaneri family. With love. Larry & Stacie Bouffard

August 30 at 7:29 AM

BS

**Brad Stratton** posted:

Nick was a great mentor and friend to the Stratton Family through our years at Bishop Ludden both on stage and off. He will always be remembered with great fondness and love. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Colaneri family. Brad Stratton

August 30 at 6:55 AM

JS

**Joey Simao** posted:

Mr Colaneri, Thanks for making me laugh all those years and teaching a kid with two left feet how to dance. To Mrs. Colaneri and family my prayers are with you. Joey Simao

August 30 at 4:33 AM

ML

**Michael D. Locaputo** posted:

We had great times growing up with the Colaneri family. Great memories last forever. Uncle Nick was always the center of love & joy. Thanks for sharing your great memories of you, dad, and the rest of the North High gang.

August 30 at 4:31 AM



## Tribute Wall

**Nicholas J. Colaneri**

FEB 17, 1930 - AUG 27, 2012

GD

**Grace Downey Davin** posted:

Dear Colaneri Family:I am so sorry to hear about your loss. Nick was a great man, and holds a special place in my heart. I wish I could be there in person to tell you how much he meant to me. As a kid at Bishop Ludden, I took for granted the number of hours and dedication that he and Mario spent with us for so many years of musicals.... Now as an adult - with kids who are in the school plays - I understand the sacrifices he made, and the love of theater that he shared with so many of us. His legacy lives on in the lives of all that he touched. God bless him and his family. My prayers are with you all.Grace (Downey) Davin

August 30 at 4:24 AM

AP

**Antoinette Pallotta** lit a candle in honor of Nicholas .

Colaneri Family, Nick will be missed by many,May He Rest In Peace.God Bless To You All. Love Antoinette Pallotta

August 30 at 3:25 AM



DW

**Dean Woodard** posted:

Nick,You were one incredible guy! Working for and with you at GM was a great experience. You brought your theater experience into the engineering department and each project was put together with the same detail that made you so good at what ever you did. Your enthusiasm rubbed off as did your great example of honesty and desire doing things right. Your knew how to treat people and quickly earned their respect. You were always so proud of your wife and family. You were truly a man who walked the walk. I have missed you since we moved to Michigan but still have so many great memories. I will always consider you a great friend and mentor!Dean Woodard

August 29 at 4:54 PM

CS

**Christina Sada** lit a candle in honor of Nicholas .

I am so sad to hear of Uncle Nick's passing! Whenever I think of him, it's with a great big smile! I always loved watching him in all the Pompeian Players shows when I was a little girl! I'm honored to say he was my godfather....one of the thirteen! Gotta love the ole mafia group!! Aunt louann and family...you are in my thoughts and prayers! He will be missed!Love,Christi ( Ianno) Sada

August 29 at 4:44 PM





## Tribute Wall

**Nicholas J. Colaneri**

FEB 17, 1930 - AUG 27, 2012

VI

**Victor Ianno** posted:

Hey Nick, Just a note to say Thanks for being a lifetime friend, since the Grant school days for the Pompeiann Players in the late 50's. We've had so many great times in so many different ways dinners, parties, picnics, trips, card games and on and on. You were a great guy, always ready to make someone laugh and feel better because of your God given Talent. Because of that, you made us all better people. Remember Fr. Charles ("Herm") in his homily's always taught us that Death is God's last Great Surprise for us. You've experienced that now Nick and I know that you are with Mags and Father getting ready for an opening night!! Our entire family will be praying for you and the well being of LouAnne and the kids. Love ya Nick Cecile, Victor and all the Ianno's

August 29 at 2:43 PM

JF

**Joanna Desantis-Fraleley** posted:

I am so sorry to hear of Uncle Nick's passing, and apologize that I cannot be there for the services, as I am out of town. Whenever I think of Uncle Nick it's always with a smile, from the caricature of him and my dad that hung in our house for all those years, "Pope Zicola" from all those mafia picnics, and perhaps the thing I will never forget and recall frequently was when he made me wear the napkin on my dress at Maria Salomone's wedding because my mother thought the dress was "too revealing!" I still laugh out loud at that! My condolences to the entire Colaneri family. I love you Uncle Nick and will miss you dearly.

August 29 at 1:41 PM

AL

**Anne Jakowenko Lavalley** posted:

I am grateful that I was able to see Nick two weeks ago to tell him how much I loved every minute that I spent with him, both on and off the stage. We reminisced about shows like Oliver, where he played a brilliant Fagan; Harvey, and how difficult it was to learn 92 pages of lines, and many other shows that brought so much joy to everyone who was on the stage and in the audience. Nick whispered to me, "It was a great run". He was my mentor, my coach, my director and my inspiration. He was always clear about what he wanted, and assertive as a director; but he taught hundreds of dancers and singers and actors in such a way that everyone wanted to give 100% so that Nick would be proud of us. Off the stage, he taught me by example what it truly meant to be a great parent and friend. His gentleness, humor, and talent go unmatched. Humble, sensitive to others, brilliant in his creativity--I am so blessed to have known him. My heart and prayers are with you, Lou Anne, and all the children as well. Thank you for letting me have a few moments with him. His inspiration will always be with me. Love, Anne Jakowenko LaValle

August 29 at 10:41 AM



## Tribute Wall

**Nicholas J. Colaneri**

FEB 17, 1930 - AUG 27, 2012

DM

**Daniel Money** posted:

R.I.P. NickD\$

August 29 at 8:23 AM

SD

**Sharon Doyle** posted:

Lou Ann -- You were very much in my thoughts this morning as I was thinking about the 9-hole golf league you started for the Corinthian Club, and how much you and Nick enjoyed golf in South Florida. Morgan and I extend sincere condolences on Nick's passing. What a great talent he had for musical comedy. One of Syracuse's real gems. He will be missed. You and your family are in our thoughts and prayers. With deepest sympathy, Sharon Doyle

August 29 at 7:48 AM

RB

**Rick Blasi** posted:

God bless you Nick. Through your brilliance, your incredible talent and your unwavering commitment, you and Lou Anne touched my life, and the lives of so many other young people. We cannot thank you enough for the great joy you brought to us all. Rick Blasi San Antonio, TX

August 29 at 6:22 AM

LA

**Le Moyne College, Office Of Alumni** lit a candle in honor of Nicholas .

Please accept the sympathy of Le Moyne College on the occasion of the death of your husband and father, respectively. Be assured of our prayers for him, for you and for your family.



August 29 at 5:26 AM

MT

**Mary Ellen White Turner** posted:

I am so sorry for your loss. He saved my life with music and comedy at Bishop Ludden and made me want to be the best! What joy he brought to the awkward years of adolescence. His light will shine on through all of those who were fortunate to share in his brilliance. I will remember him always. Sincerely, Mary Ellen White Turner '75

August 29 at 4:18 AM



# Tribute Wall

**Nicholas J. Colaneri**

FEB 17, 1930 - AUG 27, 2012



**Mary Cook** lit a candle in honor of Nicholas .



August 29 at 3:14 AM



**Mary Cook** August 29 at 3:15 AM

So sorry for your loss Colaneri family Love Ted and Mary



**Ken Morrison** lit a candle in honor of Nicholas .



August 28 at 7:27 PM



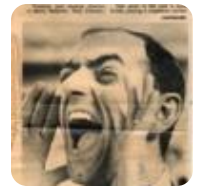
**Ken Morrison** posted:

How I wish I could be there to say this in person. Nick was like a second father to me; I was at your house more than I was at home. I will always cherish his kindness and his support. I think the world of him and the entire family, and his passing affects me deeply. No words can do justice at this time. I will be praying along with you on Friday.

August 28 at 7:25 PM



**David Colelli** shared an album called **New Album Name**.



August 28 at 3:45 PM



**David Colelli** August 28 at 3:57 PM

Nick Colaneri is an incredible man who freely gave his time and talent to many of us when we were kids growing up in Solvay. He directed many of our shows for the Saint Cecilia Players making it possible for all of us to create some of the best memories we have ever had. Nicks talent and sense of humor made it enjoyable to be a part of such a great group of people and help us form lifelong bonds and friendships with others. The good deeds he did both large and small will ripple on for generations to come. Thanks Nick for all of your selfless acts, your kind words and all the joy and laughter you brought to all of us kids. We are deeply grateful to you.



## Tribute Wall

**Nicholas J. Colaneri**

FEB 17, 1930 - AUG 27, 2012

PC

**Paula Conan** lit a candle in honor of Nicholas .



August 28 at 3:44 PM

PC

**Paula Conan** August 28 at 3:47 PM

My heartfelt sympathies to all of Nick's beautiful family, especially to Lou Ann. He lived a full and satisfying life, and so much of that is thanks to Lou Ann. My deepest condolences, Paula Conan

MS

**Mary K. Sullivan** posted:

To Lou and all the Colaneri kids, my deepest condolences. Thank you for sharing him with the rest of us. God only loans us treasures like Nick. You are all in my prayers. Mary K. Schullivan

August 28 at 3:26 PM

MS

**Mary K. Schullivan** lit a candle in honor of Nicholas .



August 28 at 3:21 PM



## Media

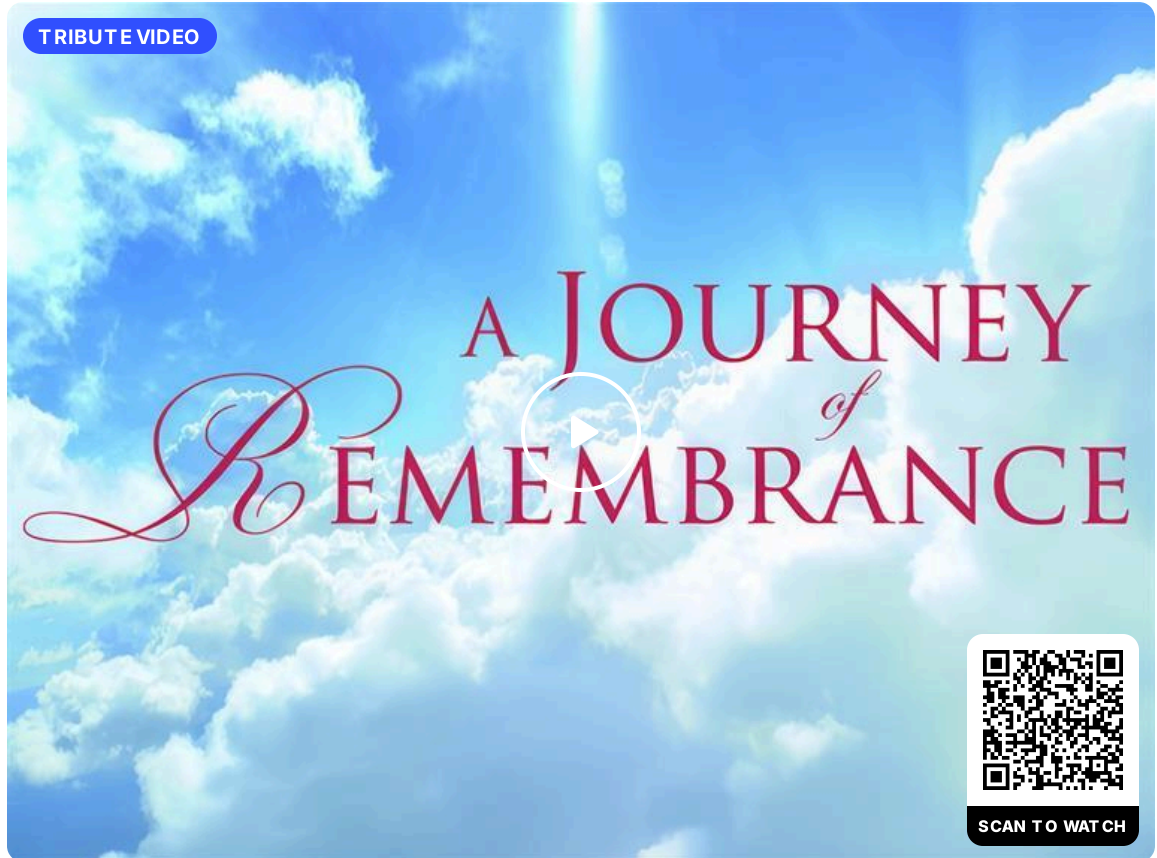
**Nicholas J. Colaneri**

FEB 17, 1930 - AUG 27, 2012



Thomas J. Pirro Jr. Funeral Home shared a **Tribute Video**.

August 26 at 8:00 PM





David Colelli shared a photo to the **New Album Name** album.

August 28 at 3:45 PM



Nick directing "Hi Mac" for St Cecilia's.



## **Memories only last if you share them**

Join us in honoring Nicholas by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



Scan to Visit

