



William Pellegrino "Bill" Salomone

JUN 3, 1935 - OCT 2, 2025



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William Pellegrino "Bill" Salomone

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Syracuse has lost one of its brightest lights - a true hometown legend. William Pellegrino "Bill" Salomone, 90, of Venice, Florida, passed away peacefully on October 2, 2025. He will be sorely missed as the patriarch of our family, our cornerstone of Italian traditions, a devoted husband, a loving father, and Papa. His laughter, his voice, and service in the community made him more than just a familiar face in Syracuse—he was truly cherished by many who knew him. He was well known as an entertainer whose booming baritone voice and boundless energy made every stage come alive

Bill was born in Syracuse to Alberto and Elena (Saudella) Salomone, proud immigrants from Naples, Italy. Bill was the second of three children, along with his beloved siblings, Susan (Vincent) Cogliandro and Alberto. He married his sweetheart Patricia (Garden) Salomone in 1966.

Bill graduated from North High School in 1953, and Lemoyne College, earning a BA in Sociology in 1957. His career began as a caseworker for Onondaga County Social Services. In 1960, Bill joined the Central New York Muscular Dystrophy Association as District Director. During his tenure, he established the first Jerry Lewis Camp in New York for children with muscular dystrophy. This endeavor required him to recruit and train over 100 volunteers. The Camp is a vital legacy that continues to run successfully in the community today. In 1969 he went on to serve as Executive Director of the American Heart Association of Upstate New York, where he remained until his retirement in 2000. His charismatic personality contributed to overseeing countless successful fundraising events. Over three decades, he became a pillar of the local chapter, organizing the annual Heart Ball and spearheading walkathons and countless other fundraising events. He was also part of developing a mobile Emergency Coronary Care Unit with improved lifesaving equipment to replace an aged ambulance unit. Some described him as, "the best boss I ever had", and some said, "He made work so much fun!"



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Bill brought joy to sold-out audiences through his love of the theater, sharing his remarkable singing voice and captivating stage presence. For many years, he took on leading roles and mentored younger actors with the Pompeian Players, performing under the dedicated direction of his close friend, Monsignor Charles Borgognoni. He made lifelong friendships, and met the love of his life, his wife Patricia, who frequently performed beside him. From *The Music Man* to *South Pacific*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Oliver*, *Carousel*, *Guys and Dolls*, *Annie* and many more. Upon retirement, he and Patricia moved to Venice, Florida. Here he spread his passion for theatre by volunteering as an usher at the Venice Performing Arts Center with Patricia. He also nurtured his Italian heritage when he was welcomed by a second Italian family while working at Angelo's Italian Market and restaurant, his second home. Affectionately known as Mr. P, he was adored by both staff and patrons. Every Friday and Saturday, you could find him at Angelo's taking orders, welcoming customers, and often singing during dinner. The owners, Emilio and Loredana Rossitto, with their entire family and staff, embraced Bill and Patricia as their own, forming deep and lasting friendships. As a proud Italian American, Bill also successfully launched the first Festa Italiana downtown Syracuse which continues to be a local annual tradition.

Bill was devoted to the Catholic faith and was a parishioner of Our Lady of Pompei church in Syracuse and Our Lady of Lourds in Venice. He was a lifelong passionate fan of the New York Yankees, and Frank Sinatra. He was also a proud member of the Holy Name Society, the Knights of Columbus, and choirs in Syracuse and Venice.

Bill is survived by his wife of 58 years, Patricia J. Salomone, and their four children: William A. Salomone (Maria), Maria S. Salomone (Michael Fruscello), Charles J. Salomone (Amber Martinez), and Laura Wilbur (Chuck). He also leaves behind his cherished grandchildren: Gabrielle, Adriana, Michael, Nicholas, Elena, Charles, Alex, Benjamin, and Arelia, and in-laws: Jim and Anne DiStefano, James and Libby Garden, and Nancy Nemeti. He is also survived by a number of cousins from as near as Connecticut and as far as Italy, London and Scotland. He has multiple nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his parents and siblings.

If you are one of many who knew Bill - one day when you randomly start whistling one of his beloved show tunes or Frank Sinatra songs - you will know that he has filled heaven with his beautiful voice.

We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to the exceptional staff at Solaris Health Care in Port Charlotte Florida for their unwavering kindness, compassionate care for our father, and



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steadfast support for our family.

Calling hours will be held on Thursday, October 16, 2025, from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at THOMAS J. PIRRO JR. FUNERAL HOME, 3401 Vickery Rd. (corner of Buckley Rd.) North Syracuse, NY. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Friday, October 17, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. at Our Lady of Pompei/St. Peter Church, followed by entombment in Woodlawn Cemetery Mausoleum.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Bill's memory may be made to the American Heart Association.



Events

William Pellegrino "Bill" Salomone

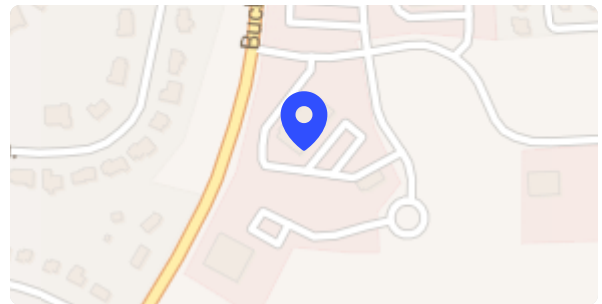
JUN 3, 1935 - OCT 2, 2025

Visitation

Thursday, October 16, 2025

4:00 PM - 6:00 PM ET

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

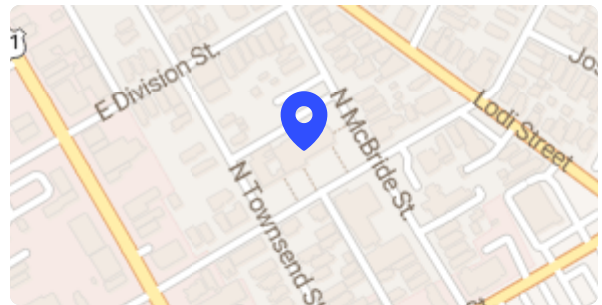


Mass of Christian Burial

Friday, October 17, 2025

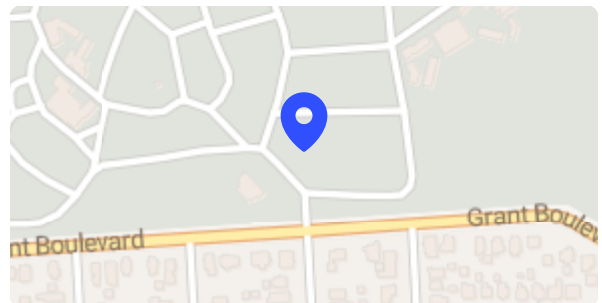
10:00 AM ET

Our Lady of Pompei - St. Peter Church
301 Ash St., Syracuse NY 13208



Cemetery Details

Woodlawn Mausoleum
800 Grant Blvd, Syracuse NY 13203





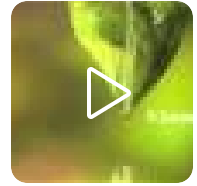
Tribute Wall

William Pellegrino "Bill" Salomone

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



October 14 at 11:38 AM



Lemoyne College Office Of Alumni posted:

Please accept the most heartfelt sympathies of Le Moyne College. We hope the love and memories that you will forever hold in your heart bring you peace and comfort during this difficult time.

November 17 at 12:31 PM



Steve Laws posted:

I was so sorry to hear of Bill's passing; I first met Bill when i was involved as one of the co-chairs of the Heart Run for the American Heart Association. He was someone who immediately left an impact on you as well as everyone he met, with his warm and welcoming personality. He was a delight to be around and his dedication to his community was unwavering. I view myself as one of the lucky ones who got to know and work with him. My heart and prayers are with Bill's family and with all those who Bill loved and who loved Bill. He defined and set the standard for us all with a life well lived. RIP Bill

November 17 at 3:44 AM



Annette Putnam posted:

Patty & Marie - I am so sorry for your loss. Although you don't know me, I am Michael Spinoso's sister Annette and I wanted to offer my sympathies on Michael's behalf. What an amazing piece that was written about your husband/dad. May your beautiful memories of a remarkable life lived comfort you.

November 15 at 5:47 AM



Rosemarie Bartolo posted:

Dear Patti, I just read this in today's paper. I did not know. I am so sorry for your loss. You two were quite the pair. My thoughts and prayers are with you with this most difficult time. Ro (Sabatino) Bartolo

November 14 at 12:43 PM



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Dan Bassano posted:

Around 1964 Bill crushed the lead role in "Bye Bye Birdie ". It was the time when Fr. Charles integrated the SU community into the Players. May their memories live on.

November 14 at 11:17 AM



Bill Young posted:

I worked with Bill with the AHA from 1984 to 1996. I always loved working with him - always interested in the updated technology we were implementing at the state level. Always had an interest in how I was doing. Bill Young

November 14 at 8:14 AM



Daniel Hershkowitz posted:

Oh boy. Did we all love Bill (and you mom too). Thank you for sharing him with us. He will be missed by so many. He led several worthwhile and full lives. His obituary could easily be divided in parts and shared among several. And the comments would be the same - "what a worthwhile and full life."

October 17 at 10:33 AM



Patricia Nappi sent a virtual gift in honor of William.

To Patty so very sorry for your great loss May He Billy Rest in Peace and god help you to find peace and comfort and god be there to help you such a nice man sorry I could not come to service but I am praying and thinking of you and your family hoo bless Patricia Nappi /Dery family 🙏❤️🎁



October 16 at 3:08 PM



Tribute Wall

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Meg Brennan Sullivan posted:

I met Bill in 1982 when we moved back home to Syracuse from Saratoga. I had been working for the American Heart Association in Saratoga County on a part time basis and when the position of Fundraising Director opened up Bill took a chance on me (my degree was in Elementary Education and I did not have much experience in revenue generation). Soon I was assisting Bill with various fundraisers. From bikeathons, golf tournaments, creating the Heart Walk & Run in Syracuse, weekly Bingo games, and our favorite, the gala "Heart Ball", we pretty much did everything to raise money to fight heart disease and stroke. From the beginning Bill was an incredible mentor to me, teaching me with enthusiasm not only fundraising but volunteer recruitment and training. While driving his small staff to out of town meetings Bill would entertain us telling stories, sharing jokes, and always breaking into sing-a-longs, with of course, Frank Sinatra songs. His rich baritone filled the van with joy and fun-filled adventures. This was one of his greatest talents; in my 18 years of working with Bill, until his retirement in 2000, there was never a day I didn't enjoy going to work. His passion for people and joy of living made the often difficult challenges of raising money much easier. I was privileged to become friends with his exceptional wife Patty and get to know his four wonderful children. Bill was a family man above all else and a faith-filled devout Catholic. And his magical performances in the Pompeiian Players' theater productions will be long remembered. Bill gave me the greatest honor when I remarried. He was the soloist at our wedding Mass and also performed at the dinner reception. I count my friend "Billy Boy" as one of the greatest blessings of my life, and will miss him forever. Meg Brennan Sullivan

October 16 at 9:06 AM



Lou Anne Colaneri posted:

Bill, Patty, Billyjr., Maria, Chaz, Laura, and grands, impossible to fully describe this amazing man, huge talent to, not only, entertain , but just be there wherever needed for friends, family, everyone and anyone. What an enormous heart has gone back to his Creator and Saviour!! Rest in peace, dear friends!!

October 16 at 8:52 AM



With Love From - Cassie, Denise & Nikki sent a Dreams From the Heart Bouquet to the Salomone family.



October 16 at 5:56 AM



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Joan Cincotta posted:

My dear friend!! I am so sorry to hear of Bill's death. Please know that our deepest sympathy goes out to Patty and her family. Bill was a friend, a mentor and a role model to me in my early days of volunteering. He taught me what it meant to be kind, generous and compassionate to my fellow man/to my community. His great smile, his hearty laugh and his always congenial personality were without match. He was a beautiful man through to his very soul. He will be sorely missed by so many. May he rest in the peace of Our Lord. And may his family be consoled in the weeks ahead as they cope with this great loss. God bless you, my friend. Joan Cincotta, Armand and Andy

October 15 at 10:34 AM



Marty Nave posted:

The passing of my beloved cousin Billy Salomone is a loss in our family. We shared many dinners known as Rosana ,the Romano, Salomone and Nave families . Billy passed on October 2nd the anniversary of the death of his Grandmother's cousin and my Grandfather Carmine Nave in 1963. It was also the birth of our cousin Daniel Romano. I wish your voice reigns as you sing the Ava Maria in the Heavens as you did for the funeral of your late beloved brother Alberto Salomone. May perpetual light shine upon your soul and may the Angels and Saints welcome you in glory. Cousin Marino 'Marty ' Nave.

October 14 at 6:28 PM



Antoinette Pallotta lit a candle in honor of William.

Patty & Family, So so for the loss of a Beautiful & Loving Man,He was so Great to me & your Family too, I had lots of fun with him & you all, May God Bless Bill & you all,My Memories will be with me Always,R.I.P, You are flying with the Angels, Love Antoinette ❤️🙏



October 12 at 3:05 AM



Terpe & Nicholas Mecca posted:

Bill ... truly a man of grace, family and character. Reading through the accolades, his achievements, his caring for and love of others is like defining life as it ought to be. He is a man for the ages. Bill's kindness and charisma will remain in the lives of all those whom he has touched. Remember his courage, kindness, love of family, his warm smile and never ending generosity.God bless Bill, Patty and their remarkable family.Terpe, Nick & family.

October 11 at 8:55 AM



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Jim Hoppe posted:

In honor of my wonderful friend Bill. He was such a ray of sunshine whenever he entered a room. His Pompeian Players performances were stellar!! Whenever I watch any of those classic movie musicals, I always think of him performing them!! But beyond that, he was an inspiration for my Catholic faith. He and Patty truly brought me closer to God. Heaven just got better!! My prayers of love, sympathy and friendship to Patty and all of Bill's beautiful family.

October 11 at 6:40 AM



John And Robin Chiang sent a Dreams From the Heart Bouquet to the Salomone family.



October 10 at 6:28 PM



Eric Wood posted:

Baccalà, say it isn't so. You made our memories vivid and enjoyable, and I'm thankful to have had a role model in life with such charisma and goodheartedness.

October 10 at 3:26 PM



Victor Ianno posted:

To the Salomone's, Bill meant a lot to all of us; he wasn't just a friend — he was a companion who always had a smile, a kind, funny word, or a comment to lift your spirits. He excelled in his career, but his true calling was helping and entertaining others with his golden voice, kindness, and sense of humor. He was a true friend. As kids, we had the privilege of being part of the Pompeian Players, led by Fr. Charles, who guided Bill to become the leading man in the shows. His enthusiasm, leadership, and golden voice brought immense joy to thousands of show patrons each year. The leadership core of the Players now resides entirely in paradise: Fr. Charles, Mario, Armand, Nick, Marie, and the cast members of over thirty years of shows. Hey guys, put on a show, start the band, and enjoy entertaining the souls in Paradise! Personally, he and I grew close to Fr. Charles in his old age. We cared for him with love and respect because of the many life lessons he taught us. There are many ways to show how much you love and respect a friendship, but it all boils down to just five words: "Thanks for being my Friend." Godspeed, Billy. Enjoy paradise; you have earned it. Victor Ianno and family.

October 10 at 12:21 PM



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Carmella Destefano posted:

My cousin Bill is beyond a treasure. A man of countless accomplishments with a tremendous love for family and friends. I carry so many beautiful memories of Bill in my heart but the ones I most loved were those of him and I planning our family reunions - La Familia was so important to him. HE WAS THE BEST !!!

October 10 at 12:16 PM



Catherine Bernardi Ryan November 5 at 5:07 PM

To the Salomone Family: I am so sorry for your loss. I knew Bill through the Pompeian Players. We often sang and acted together, thanks to Father Charles. He was a wonderful and gifted person. Catherine Bernardi-Ryan



Media

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October 14 at 11:38 AM



David Clarke October 20 at 5:21 AM

Dear Patty, You have my deepest condolences and sympathy for your loss. You are in my prayers. You were so so wonderful to my parents and me. Love you very much!!! Many Blessings to you, Love, David



Bernard & Rosalie Leblanc October 16 at 2:05 PM

I have never seen a more beautiful life than what was just posted for our friend Bill. The warmth and closeness is something you find in most Italian families. Bill and Patty we were so glad to be a friend to you and your boys. Have not met daughter as yet. God bless the beautiful years you had together. Those photos showed so much love. Thanks for sharing. Tiny & Bernie



Memories only last if you share them

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



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