



**Frank Anthony Bersani, Sr.**  
**MD**

JUL 30, 1927 - MAR 17, 2013



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



## **Frank Anthony Bersani, Sr. MD**

JUL 30, 1927 - MAR 17, 2013

**F**rank A Bersani, Sr. MD, passed away peacefully at home surrounded by his family on March 17th, 2013. Frank's was a life of service to others. He was born in St. Joseph's Hospital on July 30, 1927 and graduated from Our Lady of Pompei and Christian Brothers Academy. At CBA he was a member of the boxing and football teams and wrote for the school newspaper. His work ethic was shaped by many hours as a waiter at Bersani's Family Restaurant.

Inspired by his good friend Frank Caliva, he chose a career in medicine. Frank completed his entire pre medical and medical studies at Syracuse University in just 5 years and became an MD at age 21. He served in the Navy during the Korean War as a Medical Officer and was discharged with the rank of Lieutenant. He then completed his Orthopedic Surgery residency at Colombia Presbyterian Hospital in NYC.

Frank had a private practice of Orthopedic Surgery in Syracuse, NY from 1957 to 1993. He served as head of the orthopedic section of St. Joseph's Hospital for many of those years. Frank was a clinical professor of orthopedic surgery at Upstate Medical University and participated in the training of many residents and published clinical research. In his later years he was employed as a consultant at the Medical Liability Mutual Insurance Company and Pomco.

Frank held many offices in various medical societies and associations. He was the President of the New York Society of Orthopedic Surgeons, the president of the Alumni of the Colombia Presbyterian Orthopedic Society and Councilor of the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons. Frank was a fellow of the American College of Surgeons. He was a member of the Orthopedic and Sports Medicine Society and the Orthopedic Foot Society. Frank was a member of the Onondaga County and New York State Medical Societies and the American Medical Association. He served in many capacities in many of these organizations.

Frank was a loyal CBA alumnus. He served on the Board of Trustees for many years and was elected to the CBA Purple and Gold Society in 2005, and his 6 sons all attended there. Frank also



## Obituary

**Frank Anthony Bersani, Sr. MD**

JUL 30, 1927 - MAR 17, 2013

---

served on the Board of Trustees for St. Camillus Health Center.

Frank was the loving husband of Margaret "Peggy" Gleason for 60 years. He enjoyed skiing all around the Northeast and was a member of Skaneateles Country Club. Frank spent many hours enjoying golf and social activity there. The sound of a golf cart with Italian Opera coming from it was a sure sign Frank was on the course!

His zest for life, sense of humor and compassion for friends was well known and will be missed by all. He was especially proud of his six sons, six daughters-in-law and his 17 grandchildren. He is predeceased by Frank, Jr., Esq (Kathleen) of Syracuse, and survived by Michael, Esq (Alejandra) of Geneva, NY, Dr. Thomas (Joan) of Skaneateles, NY, Matthew Esq (Molly) of Hong Kong, Stephen (Jennie) of Auburn, NY and Dr. Christopher (Cynthia) of Westborough, MA.

Frank had five siblings. Three brothers predeceased him, Armand (Rosemary), Judge Leonard (Maria) and Eugene (Rosalyn). Two sisters survive; Sandra Wood and Gilda Falco.

A funeral mass in celebration of Frank's life will be held on Thursday at 10:00 am in Our Lady of Pompei/St. Peter Church, 301 Ash Street, Syracuse. Private burial will be in St. Mary's of the Lake Cemetery, Skaneateles. Family and friends may call at the THOMAS J. PIRRO JR. FUNERAL HOME, 3401 Vickery Rd. (corner of Buckley Rd.) North Syracuse on Wednesday from 4-7pm.

Memorial contributions may be made to Christian Brothers Academy, 6245 Randall Rd, Syracuse, NY 13214.



## Events


**Frank Anthony Bersani, Sr. MD**

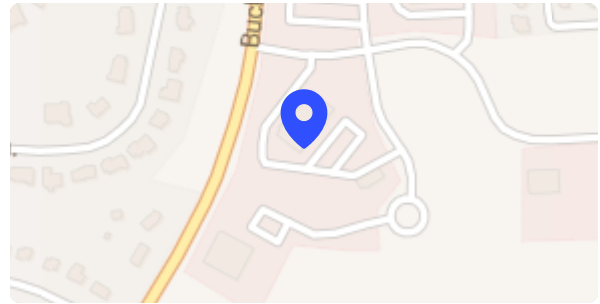
JUL 30, 1927 - MAR 17, 2013

### Visitation

 **Wednesday**, March 20, 2013

 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM ET


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

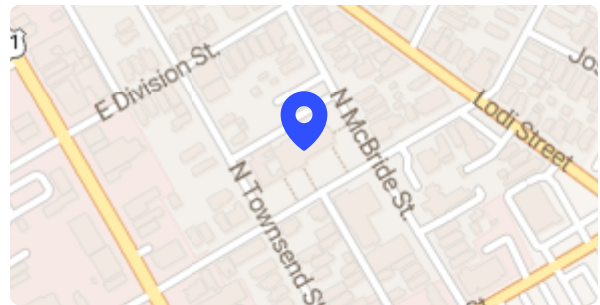


### Funeral Mass

 **Thursday**, March 21, 2013

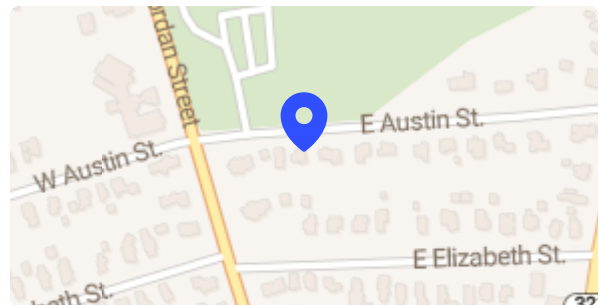
 10:00 AM ET

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



### Cemetery Details

 **St. Mary of the Lake Cemetery**  
10 West Austin Street, Skaneateles NY 13152





## Tribute Wall

**Frank Anthony Bersani, Sr. MD**

JUL 30, 1927 - MAR 17, 2013



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



March 16 at 8:00 PM



**Mark Matthews** posted:

Dear Bersani family, my name is Mark Matthews, in November 1970 I was taken to St. Joseph's hospital with a gun shot wound through my ankle. I spent 2 months in the hospital and Dr. Bersani performed several surgeries, I spent several months at home in bed and a year and a half in a cast, and he saved my foot. I was a patient until 1975. I moved to California and never saw him again. I now live in a Detroit suburb. I have thought of him often over the years, I did a search tonight and saw that he had passed. I said thank you to him way back then and I had always wanted to tell him I have never seen another doctor or had any problems. I always wanted to say thank you again, I will tonight in my prayer.

April 10 at 6:22 PM



**Wendy (Horner) Boice** posted:

Dear Mrs. Bersani and family, I just learned of the passing of Dr. Bersani. My deepest sympathy and prayers go out to all of you. What a wonderful man. His family was his life. I was so lucky to have been able to work for him and I could not have asked for a better boss. What a blessing to have known him and all of you. I am a better person for having Dr. Bersani and all of you in my life. I am so sorry for your great loss. I always referred to Dr. Bersani as my "Top Dog" and he always will be!  
Love Wendy (Horner) Boice

April 4 at 3:32 PM



**Tom Bersani** posted:

March 25 at 4:07 AM



## Tribute Wall

**Frank Anthony Bersani, Sr. MD**

JUL 30, 1927 - MAR 17, 2013

PR

**Patricia A. Randall, Md** posted:

Dear Bersani Family, My husband and I are currently in Florida, so just received the news of Frank's passing. I knew him best as a caring and helpful friend in the Onondaga Medical Society. My fondest memory of him is a lobbying trip to Washington, DC with Frank and Gerry Hoffman, OCMS EVP. I "dragged" the guys onto the Metro to get to the Capitol (instead of taking a taxi). Frank loved the experience and reminded me of this adventure every time we met subsequently. Most recently, we have enjoyed seeing him at the retired MD luncheon sponsored by OCMS. Frank was a GREAT guy and will be solely missed. Love and prayers, Patricia A. Randall, MD Stanley P. Meltzer, MD

March 23 at 11:53 AM

AL

**Angela & Francis Lombardi** posted:

Dear Peggy and Family, we were saddened to hear of Frank's passing. Frank always had time to talk with friends and share some deep, heartfelt words of comfort and understanding. Frank will be remembered as a very special person that we had the privilege of knowing. Our deepest sympathies to you. Angela and Francis Lombardi

March 23 at 10:05 AM

DD

**Daniel L. Dombroski, Md** posted:

My deep sympathy to the Bersani family. Frank was a friend and colleague for many years. He was especially kind to me my early years in practice. Our friendship continued not only in our medical work but also medical society, hospital and CBA alumni activities. He was a great person and will be missed. Daniel L. Dombroski, MD

March 22 at 6:13 PM

JF

**Jonathan Fugo** posted:

Tab, Joan and family, Our sincerest condolences for your loss. A life well lived and a legacy left behind is more than any one man can hope for. It would seem that your father accomplished both. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. Jonathan, Christy, Luca and Enzo

March 21 at 3:54 PM



## Tribute Wall

**Frank Anthony Bersani, Sr. MD**

JUL 30, 1927 - MAR 17, 2013

TH

**Tammy Hines** posted:

Bersani Family, My thoughts & prayers are with you at this time of loss. I worked with Dr. Bersani for many years and had the greatest respect for him. He was a kind and wonderful man and he will be missed. Sincerely, Tammy Hines

March 21 at 7:34 AM

ME

**Mark Edwards** posted:

Dear TAB, Joan and Family, I'm so sorry to hear of Frank's passing. The times I met him he was as fun and young-hearted as us "kids" were. Reading the other messages on this board speaks volumes to the good he did when he walked this earth. Rest easy knowing he loved you.

March 21 at 7:29 AM

MM

**Marcus Malley** posted:

Thanks Doc, for fixing my broken color bone with out surgery when I was young. Have not had any trouble or pain in 35 years. When ever I tell the story of how you found it and fixed it, I talk about you and smile. Thanks again Doc Marcus Malley

March 21 at 7:17 AM

JV

**Jeff Virgo** posted:

To the entire Bersani Family, I am so sorry for your loss. I worked with Dr. Bersani for many years at SOS, he was my mentor and a great man. I will miss him very much. Jeff Virgo, OTC, OT-SC, OPA-C

March 21 at 6:52 AM

RB

**Roslyn Bersani** posted:

Peg, Michael, Tab, Steve and Chris- There are not enough words to describe how much I appreciate all the love and help you have given me and the boys since Eugene has been gone. And I will be there for you whenever you need me. Love, Ros

March 21 at 4:19 AM



## Tribute Wall

**Frank Anthony Bersani, Sr. MD**

JUL 30, 1927 - MAR 17, 2013

JS

**Jay Sacco, Md** posted:

Frank: You always took great care of me as an athlete at CBA and you were a fantastic mentor to me as a medical student and young physician. To a great man and doctor - my heartfelt sympathy -- Jay Sacco, MD

March 21 at 3:19 AM

JB

**Jamie Bersani** posted:

Uncle Frank, You were the best - a devoted family man, class act, genuine and caring person with fierce loyalty, integrity and compassion. My father (Gene) adored you as his big brother. I adored you as my dearest uncle. You always took genuine interest in what I was doing. I can't thank you and Aunt Peggy enough for all the compassion you have shown my mom, especially after my dad passed away. You and Aunt Peggy produced 6 great sons, with whom I have always felt a special bond as cousins and friends. I'm sure your sons were the greatest pride in your life, notwithstanding all your numerous accomplishments. Thank you for setting a great example for me, as I parent my own two sons. Aunt Peggy, Michael, Tab, Matthew, Steve and Chris - My heart aches for your loss. Take comfort in the wonderful memories and laughs you all shared. You were all blessed by a one in a million guy...the Bersani who set the standard. Love you all, Jamie

March 20 at 4:27 PM

CV

**Cathleen Varno** posted:

We are very sorry to hear about Dr. Bersani's passing. He was one of our Father's favorite people. I remember after my Dad's heart surgery, he was the first person to call the I.C.U. waiting room and ask how things went. Although I didn't know him well, I always remember his sense of humor. May he rest now. The Canny Children

March 20 at 1:15 PM

CP

**Chuck Paquette** posted:

To the family of Dr. Betas I, My mother was a nurse at St. Joe's for over 30 years, retiring in 1993. She spent many years caring for his patients. She always spoke highly of Dr. Bersani. After reading others' posts on their interaction with the good doctor, I am reminded of how important it is to have trust and faith in those in whom we put our health and well-being. I'm very sorry for your loss. Please accept our thanks for Dr. Bersani's service for so many years. RIP.

March 20 at 12:47 PM



## Tribute Wall

**Frank Anthony Bersani, Sr. MD**

JUL 30, 1927 - MAR 17, 2013

DT

**Deborah Bersani-Tambasco** lit a candle in honor of Frank.

Aunt Peggy, Michael, Tab, Matt, Stephen, and Chris: I am so saddened to hear about Uncle Frank's passing this past Sunday. He was, as all the Bersani men, a very compassionate, caring, man. His love for family was grand. His love for his profession was grand, as his love of life. I am and always have been honored to be a Bersani; such a great family. After my Dad died at 60 years old, my world was forever changed. Having my uncles in Syr. was very comforting. My heart was broken when Frankie Jr. died last year, so young, and unexpected. I am saddened I cannot come to say farewell to my Uncle today; and to express my sympathy to all of you. I am sick and shouldn't be around everyone right now. Just know I am with all of you in my thoughts. I will miss Uncle Frank. God be with all of you. Love to all, Debbie Bersani-Tambasco & daughter, Mia.



March 20 at 9:31 AM

JA

**John A. D'addario Md** posted:

To the entire surviving Bersani clan- all i can do is express my deepest sympathy for your extreme loss with frank's passing. my first interaction with frank was as a patient with "severe congenital bilateral pes planis with bilateral hallux valgus" or more commonly known "as really bad flat feet from birth"- i had a very low draft number who was a make love not war, chicken-hearted cornell u. student and research DNA molecular chemist who didn't want to go to war in viet nam- frank took one look at my feet, laughed, wrote a one sentence letter, which i immediately questioned as being enough to keep me out- he said don't worry, just don't lose the letter- as always he was correct and off to medical school i went undrafted in 1972. later as a surgical intern, anesthesiology resident, and anesthesiology attending at st. joe's it was always an honor and pleasure to work with frank- he contrasted well with dr nick ricciardi sort of like a toned-down OR version of abbot and costello! frank was always cool, calm and collected- level-headed, even-keeled, extremely informative and a great teacher with a wonderful "italian" sense of humor- but i always knew when i was in for it because nick would bring books to the OR and the LENGTH OF THE PROCEDURE WAS DIRECTLY PROPORTIOANAL TO THE NUMBER OF BOOKS NICK BROUGHT! also the draping procedure before skin incision for total hips and total knees sometimes would take an hour! nick was kind of picky- frank and i would tell each other stories/jokes to pass the time and i would tell nick that the bacteria-killing effect of the skin prep was gone by the time he made the skin incision- nick would tell me to be quiet and just "pass the gas" through the anesthesia machine not through my mouth! frank and i would chuckle but our patients as a whole did really well because we all were dedicated- i don't have to tell you that frank was a st joe's OR icon- just like vercillo, defuria, and wetherell- he was a great humanitarian, who truly cared deeply for his patients' well being, a great surgeon and a great colleague- i will truly miss him. i cannot attend calling hours because of a conflict, but i will always be thankful for having the opportunity to have been first his scared patient and then his colleague during my career in medicine. JOHN A. D'ADDARIO MD

March 18 at 11:06 AM



## Tribute Wall

**Frank Anthony Bersani, Sr. MD**

JUL 30, 1927 - MAR 17, 2013

RM

**Rick Morris** posted:

To Peggy, Tom and the whole Bersani family, so sorry to learn of Frank's passing. He was such a great person and I enjoyed getting to know him during the work on Tom's Skaneateles home.

March 20 at 6:03 AM

ST

**Sharon Topp** posted:

Dear Mrs. Bersani, sons, and family, My heart is sad at the news of Dr. Bersani's death. He was such a loving and special person and welcomed me so warmly whenever he saw me. My thoughts and prayers are with you especially during this week. Love, Sharon Topp

March 20 at 5:44 AM



**Anonymous** sent a Sacred Garden Spray to the Bersani, Sr. family.



March 20 at 5:11 AM

MD

**Mary Dadey** posted:

Peggy and family, Thinking of you. Frank was a great husband, father, Physician and friend. He will be missed by all. Truly a Gentle Man! Mary Dadey

March 20 at 2:57 AM

LG

**Linda Manicone Groff** posted:

I have the fondest childhood memories of Uncle Frank and his larger than life personality. Peggy and family our sincerest condolences to your family. May you find comfort in how many lives Frank touched. Linda (Manicone), Marcus and Sofia Groff

March 19 at 5:47 PM



## Tribute Wall

**Frank Anthony Bersani, Sr. MD**

JUL 30, 1927 - MAR 17, 2013

TS

**Ted Stafford** posted:

Dear Peggy & family, I am so sorry to read about your loss of Frank. I feel privileged to have known you both and had you as a customer. Frank always had concern for everyone. Ted Stafford Leesburg, FL

March 19 at 12:34 PM

EB

**Ennia Bono** posted:

Our deepest sympathy to Peggy and family for the loss of a wonderful man like Frank. I will never forget the times spent together during his trips to Italy. May God guide you through this difficult moment. Maria Manicone Bono and family

March 19 at 10:10 AM

MP

**Mario Peri** posted:

Le nostre più sentite condoglianze, vi siamo vicini in questo momento di dolore. Un abbraccio forte a tutti voi. Famiglia Pieri Gennarino Sonnino (LT), Italy

March 19 at 9:03 AM

FP

**Fulgenzio Pieri** posted:

The news made us very sad and we send our deepest condolences. The family Manicone Alessandra; Fulgenzio and family; Gennarino and family, Sonnino, Italy.

March 19 at 8:25 AM

CS

**Cinzia Manicone Saccoccio** posted:

Dearest Peggy and family. We wish to express our most deep sympathies to all of you for the loss of Frank, loving husband, father and grandfather. The entire family will miss him. Our thoughts and prayers are with you. Cinzia, Massimo, Cristina, Giovanna and Elena (Massimo's mother) Saccoccio, Como, Italy

March 19 at 8:00 AM



# Tribute Wall

**Frank Anthony Bersani, Sr. MD**

JUL 30, 1927 - MAR 17, 2013



**Rctraver** posted:

I was the first orthopedic resident to rotate through St. Joes in July, 1970. That is where I first got to know Frank. He impressed me with his practical approach to orthopedics, including quick and efficient surgical techniques. There were several events that endeared me to him that I would like to share. The first was after a round of golf at the SCC. He asked me to stay for dinner. Apparently he was kept on a diet at home so he said that he had to have dinner at the club's restaurant before going home. That way he would appear to be tolerating the limited but healthy fare at home. The second memory I want to share was when he play golf one hole behind my foursome at the SCC. After watching me for several holes and then observing me tee off while we were stacked up on a hole, he couldn't stand it anymore and came up to me and suggested I take up another sport. I took his advice and have had many stress-free years ever since. Debbie and I know that his family takes comfort in the fact that he touched many lives in a positive way and that his life should be celebrated. Ray Traver  
The Villages, Fl.

March 19 at 6:39 AM



**Anonymous** sent a Basket of Memories to the Bersani, Sr. family.



March 19 at 6:14 AM



**Ed & Betty Ferrante** posted:

To the Bersani Family: Please accept our sincere sympathy and condolences for your loss of Dr. Frank. We have spent many enjoyable moments together with the Bersani Family. Our thoughts and prayers are with you at this time. Ed & Betty Ferrante Naples, Fl.

March 19 at 5:48 AM



**D. Falco** posted:

My deepest sympathy and condolences the the Bersani family. Dr. Bersani was one of the most compassionate physicians I've ever known. He touched my life at an early age following a skiing accident. I'm forever grateful for the wonderful care I received and for having had the honor of knowing him. May he rest in peace, God Bless. Debbie Falco

March 19 at 5:15 AM



## Tribute Wall

**Frank Anthony Bersani, Sr. MD**

JUL 30, 1927 - MAR 17, 2013

LF

**Laurie Hamel Ford** posted:

Dr. Bersani was a wonderful father figure to me 40 years ago when I worked for him in his orthopedic practice. He always had a wonderful smile and every time I smell cherry smoke from a pipe, I turn to see if Dr. Bersani was near. My heart pains at the thought of his death and my best wishes to Peggy and sons. Laurie Hamel Ford

March 19 at 4:53 AM

PL

**Patricia Mazzye Lando** posted:

TO THE BERSANI FAMILY, Peggy and family, I am so sorry to see that Frank Passed and I will never forget him and all he did for me. I am sorry that I am not able to be there for you and yours. I did not know that Frankie was in failing health and all I am able to do now is Pray for him. I truly am sorry for your loss and please remember that he is now at Peace. Time heals all and this loss will truly take time. Sincerely, Pat Mazzye Lando

March 19 at 4:49 AM

NC

**Nancy Christy** posted:

You're with the angels now, Frank. While my heart is heavy at your passing, my soul rejoices that you are now reunited with Frank, Jr. Our deepest sympathies to Peggy, Mike, Toddy, Matt, Worm and Boo. Love, Nancy Christy and family

March 19 at 4:14 AM

SS

**Sandra Schmidt** posted:

Our deepest sympathies to all the Bersani Family, husband, father and grandfather such a nice man. Sincerely, Sandra and Richard Schmidt, Skaneateles

March 19 at 3:41 AM

SF

**Sue Falco** posted:

What a wonderful man, a gentle soul, a kind heart. Prayers to your family in this time of sorrow. God Bless.

March 19 at 3:02 AM



## Tribute Wall

**Frank Anthony Bersani, Sr. MD**

JUL 30, 1927 - MAR 17, 2013

JF

**Jim Falco** posted:

Rest in peace, my "Great" Uncle Frank. I will never forget our ski trips to Vermont, summertime fun at the lake and your favorite line when us kids came to you when we were hurt. "Does it hurt when you do this" "Yes" "Well then don't do that"!

March 18 at 8:05 PM

CB

**Colleen Mcfalls Belge** posted:

Dr. Bersani was heaven sent to me ... his wonderful care, compassion and his honesty made him one of my finest doctor's. He has always had a special place in my heart and he always will. I was blessed to have been under his care... Colleen McFalls Belge

March 18 at 5:21 PM

DR

**Dan Rabuzzi Md** posted:

Frank led a full life, and shared much of his happy nature with all of us who were privileged to know him. What a splendid, gentle man.

March 18 at 4:05 PM

RV

**Robbiewells/Vegas** lit a candle in honor of Frank.

Bersani Family, My sincere condolences go out to all of you during this tough time. Doc was a Great Friend as was Leonard to my family. He was not only a friend but my Dr for a few things during my sports days. He will be missed by a lot of us that I no. Rest in Peace Doc and may God Bless You and your family too.



March 18 at 2:53 PM

LM

**Luca Manicone** posted:

Un ricordo per il caro Frank, siamo vicini al vostro dolore. Sentite condoglianze. Franca Bersani Giorgio e Luca Manicone

March 18 at 11:06 AM

EH

**Ernest Hamm** March 19 at 1:21 AM

I have mentioned Dr. Bersani to many people over the years as I always felt god put him on earth to save souls such as mine. Former auto accident Patient - Sept. 1966



**Media**

**Frank Anthony Bersani, Sr. MD**

JUL 30, 1927 - MAR 17, 2013




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

March 16 at 8:00 PM

TRIBUTE VIDEO

A JOURNEY  
*of*  
REMEMBRANCE



SCAN TO WATCH



# Memories only last if you share them

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



Scan to Visit

