



Michael William Bonacci

July 28, 2025

It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of Michael William Bonacci, age 62, from New York, NY, formerly of Englewood Cliffs, NJ, on Monday, July 28, 2025. He was a graduate of Fordham Prep, Bronx, NY and Ithaca College, Ithaca, NY. Michael was a beloved son, brother, uncle, and friend. He is survived by his father, Eugene F. Bonacci, M.D., preceded in death by his mother, Maureen E. Bonacci, in 2024, and his five siblings, Elizabeth Connolly (Joseph), Eugene (Karen), Susan Henderson (Jerry O'Connor), Mark (Angela), and Michele Donatelli (Clark). Also survived by his 13 nieces and nephews Morgan (Dimitry), Alec (Sophia), Anna, John, Zachary (Sofia), Nicole (Jeremy), Eryn, Jessica (Nick), Samantha, Kristina, Jack, Catherine, and Clare, and his great niece Sloane. Michael was an accomplished photographer and when he wasn't behind the camera, he could be found on his motorcycle racing NJ Motosports Park. He will be remembered by his adventurous spirit, his artistic eye, his love for animals, and his deep love for family and friends. The family will receive visitors at Barrett Leber Funeral Home in Tenafly, NJ, on Sunday, August 3, 2024, from 2pm to 6pm, with a mass and burial on Monday, August 4, 2025, at 10am at Saint Cecilia's Church in Englewood, NJ. In lieu of flowers, kindly make donations in honor of his mother to the Alzheimer's Association.

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 3. 2:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Barrett Leber Funeral Home
148 Dean Dr
Tenafly, NJ 07670
(201) 568-8043
<https://www.barrettleberfuneralhome.com/>

Funeral Mass

AUG 4. 10:00 AM (ET)

St Cecilia's Church
55 W Demarest Ave
Englewood, NJ 07631

Interment

AUG 4 (ET)

Mt Carmel Cemetery
10 Serpentine Rd
Tenafly, NJ 07670-2822
(201) 569-8727

Tribute Wall



“ Our family became friendly with Mike at the track; he was a wonderful guy. We enjoyed hanging out with him between sessions. He’ll be sorely missed by his fellow riders.

Chuck Zoeller - August 06, 2025 at 08:21 PM



“ I had the privilege of working with Michael for several months at Delta. He was a truly kind-hearted soul who made everyone feel welcome, seen, and comfortable in the Studio. After hearing the news, all I could think about was how genuinely good he was— always warm, always thoughtful. I believe he’s in a better place now, but Michael, please know you made work infinitely better just by being you. Thank you for everything.

A - August 04, 2025 at 04:54 PM

MC

“Michael was more than just a coworker to me. Before meeting him, my life in New York wasn’t the best. But after I arrived at Delta, he gave me a chance in his photo studio—where I not only learned a lot, but also received invaluable life lessons from him. He truly made my days in New York so much better.

I’ll always remember our gossip sessions about politics, motorcycles, his lovely family, and his endless music playlist—either filled with '90s hits or classical music when he wanted a quieter vibe. I remember one time we had a long, funny debate about the lyrics to one of his most-played songs, “Oh Baby, Music Sounds Better with You,” and we kept mumbling it, wondering what the writers had meant.

It’s ironic that he hated being photographed, considering what he did for a living. But when it was time for me to leave, he kindly agreed to let me take a few pictures—with the promise that I’d never post them. I told him it was just my way of remembering him.

These pictures are my way of remembering you, Michael. I hope your family will see them here. I couldn’t be there in your final days, but I want to share my deepest condolences with your loved ones. You spoke about them with such love and told the most beautiful stories.

Rest in peace Michael, I will miss you dearly.



melissa cagua - August 04, 2025 at 09:13 AM

MI

Thank you for sharing these Melissa. It made me smile , Love , Michele (Michael's younger sister)

Michele - August 07, 2025 at 07:00 AM

RC

“ I had the privilege of working closely with Michael at my previous company, where he not only captured our products beautifully but also became a friend. Our conversations often drifted from work to life, family, and his weekend adventures—whether it was taking his bike to the track or visiting loved ones. Michael was a consummate professional, yet always warm, friendly, and approachable. We valued each other’s opinions and enjoyed sharing our unique perspectives. I will deeply miss those meaningful conversations and the connection we shared. I’ll always remember how supportive he was when my niece was sick. Rest easy, Michael. May his memory be a blessing to all who had the honor of knowing him.

Raul C - August 01, 2025 at 12:50 AM

JL

“ For the past five years, I shared a paddock, storage garage, many dinners, and an infinite number of laughs and kind words of encouragement. Mike had a contagious smile that lifted your spirits and placed you at ease. He was always surrounded by many friends who valued his presence, including the night before his passing. His affable spirit and character mirrored his riding performance. He was smooth, controlled, non-reactive, patient, respectful, tolerant, and humble. If the culmination of our laps on earth is monitored, I know Mike is tiered in the fastest group. Peace and blessings.

“The key is to keep company only with people who uplift you, whose presence calls forth your best.”

— Epictetus

john lorenzo - July 31, 2025 at 09:26 PM

JV

“ I always looked forward to seeing Mike at the track—he was genuinely one of the good guys. We often ended up in the garage, chatting between sessions. He never failed to ask how my son was doing in school or when he'd be joining us for another track day. Mike's kindness and presence will truly be missed.

Jim Vielee - July 31, 2025 at 02:45 PM

FL

“ I met Michael many years ago through his sister Susan and we became very good friends
We share the passion of fishing and we spend many days on the water
After I open my own hair salon Michael and I did a lots of fashion show together, always a pleasure to spend time with him and his talent as a photographer
RIP Michael 🙏🙏🙏

FEDERICO LUPO - July 31, 2025 at 02:11 PM

SU

Federico, thanks for your kind words. I still take a moment every now and then to read these comments. Michael always enjoyed his time with you. We are all still grieving hard and not accepting his loss. But reading all the thoughtful comments helps to ease the pain a bit. Sending my love to you and your family.

susan - October 17, 2025 at 08:45 AM

JB

“ Not only was Mike a client but he was also a friend. I enjoyed seeing him at New Jersey Motorsports Park and pitting next to him in the adjacent garage. Sunday evening, as I was unpacking my gear in preparation for Monday's event, Mike was there and as usual, he extended his hand and welcomed me. You will be missed dearly brother and I will always give a nod towards your spot anytime I enter the garage. Peace and love.

Jeffrey Bugno - July 31, 2025 at 12:14 PM

JL

“ In these past five years I shared a paddock, storage garage, many dinners and an infinite number of laughs and kind words of encouragement. Mike had and contagious smile that lifted your spirits and placed you at ease. He was always surrounded by many friends who valued his presence including the night prior to his passing. His affable spirit and character mirrored his riding performance. He was smooth, controlled, non-reactive, patient, respectful, tolerant and humble. If the culmination of our laps on earth are monitored, I know Mike is tiered in the fastest group. Peace and blessings.

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John Lorenzo

john lorenzo - July 31, 2025 at 11:01 AM

PM

“ I remember the day I met Michael, at the race track. When I say he was kind, genuine, easy going and always pleasant to be around, it would be nothing new. He was that way around everyone. I also grew to know he was humble. "I do a little photography" he once said to me, little did I know what that really meant. I asked him about riding in the Expert group at the track and his reply? "Oh, I'll never be able to ride that fast"... he was already that good and moved up shortly after. He was open-minded, would stop by my pit to ask a question and was more concerned about being a bother. He never was. I am a better person for knowing him. I will miss seeing Michael under his canopy, quietly enjoying the day and knowing he was smiling under his helmet when we rode together. I pray that Michaels's friends and family find comfort in the memories of knowing him and may he rest in peace.

Paul Miles - July 31, 2025 at 10:24 AM

HL

“ Michael was my neighbor down the hall for 30 years. Our paths would cross infrequently but when they did we would talk about our shared interests. Whether it was football (I a Pats fan - Michael a Giants fan), politics, motorcycle racing or photography. When I had a photographic technical issue I could always contact Micheal to solve it. I literally saw Michael coming off the elevator last week with his broken Trader Joe's bag that he wasn't too happy about and we laughed. Michael was a kind soul and will be missed. R.I.P. Michael
!!💜

Hollister Lowe - July 30, 2025 at 07:51 PM

DL

“ Michael was such a great son, always helping the elderly parents, even my mom. She loved him and we can't tell her this. So shocked and sorry to hear this. Can't imagine how his dad is handling this. Sad for the whole Bonacci family, we all grew up together. 🥹

Diane Lucianna - July 30, 2025 at 06:15 PM

ST

“ I'm one of the newer coaches at NJMP, and I would pit next to Michael sometimes. I'm introverted, as was he, so we were perfect neighbors—we'd just wave at each other and smile lol. After a year or so, we finally chat and he's one of the kindest people I knew at the track. Great rider, loved the sport, and was just happy to be there as much as he could. I asked him about his Subaru once, and why he didn't buy a truck to tow the bike. He told me materialistic things don't matter, and he enjoys the simple things that make life meaningful. I own a Subaru now that I tow with. Good knowing you, Mike. Rest easy, I'll miss seeing you, neighbor.

Steph - July 30, 2025 at 02:16 PM

JP

“ Can't say enough nice things about Mike. He was a gentle and kind person it was always great seeing and talking with him. He will be sorely missed.

JAMES PRAVASILIS - July 30, 2025 at 12:35 PM

TS

“ Going to miss see you at the track.
I am sorry we didn't a chance to do that video review we talked
about, but you were riding well nonetheless.
Rest in Peace #7.

Tony

Tony Strippoli - July 30, 2025 at 12:20 PM