



Dr Salvatore Matthew Laraia

July 27, 2021

LARAIA, Salvatore Matthew, M.D., age 93, passed away peacefully at his home in Florida, where his wife of 18 years, Ann, provided him with daily support and loving care.

Sal was born in Brooklyn, New York to Vito and Anna Laraia. With his brother Carmine, he was educated in the New York City School System and attended pre-med at NYU before serving in the US Army. A talented musician, Sal helped finance his education playing clarinet, alongside his father and brother, during the Big Band Era. Married in 1951 to Mary DiBenedetto, they lived in Italy where Sal attended the University of Bologna School of Medicine, graduating in 1956. He, his wife Mary, and their 5 daughters moved to Englewood Cliffs in 1962, where he then started his practice in Fort Lee.

He joined Holy Name Medical Center Staff in 1962 and served on the Board of Trustees as well as Board Chairman. He served as Chief of the Outpatient Department, Chief of Medicine and Chairman of the Intensive Care Committee.

For almost 50 years, he was a member of the American Medical Association, the New Jersey Medical Society, and the Bergen County Medical Society. Sal served on numerous other Boards and Committees. He was named UNICO Man of the Year, honored by the Bergen Chapter of the American Heart Association and received the Spirit of Healing Award from Holy Name Medical Center.

Sal is now in a better place and in the loving arms of our Lord and in the arms

of his beloved wife Mary, who predeceased him in 1998. He is survived by his five daughters, Carol Ann Bendana, Laura (Patrick Orbe) Janice (Peter Colao) Helene (John Ciccarelli) and Susan (Richard Viapiano); his 13 grandchildren Lauren, Krista, Emily, Maria, Joseph, Tiana, Lucas, AJ, Vanessa, Cassandra, Sara, Hannah, Graham and 7 “great-grands”.

Visitation will be on Sunday, August 1st, at Barrett Leber Funeral Home Tenafly, New Jersey 2PM-6PM. A Funeral Mass will be held on Monday, August 2, at Holy Trinity R.C. Church, Fort Lee at 10 AM. Interment at Madonna Cemetery, Fort Lee.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the Holy Name Medical Foundation.

The family is sympathetic to the concerns with the on-going health crisis. They respect personal choices regarding large gatherings. Your prayers are greatly appreciated. If unvaccinated, please wear a mask.

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 1. 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 2. 10:00 AM (ET)

Holy Trinity Church
2367 Lemoine Ave
Fort Lee, NJ 07024

Interment

AUG 2 (ET)

Madonna Cemetery
2070 Hoefleys Lane
Fort Lee, NJ 07024

Tribute Wall

VA

“ I knew Salvatore as Teddy. We grew up on the same street in Brooklyn, a long time ago.
I am saddened to learn of his passing. My deepest condolences to his family.
Joe Targia

valerie - September 25, 2021 at 05:11 PM

NA

“ My mother Harriette Biehoff adored Dr. Laraia.
She had heart issues and Dr. Laraia was in the ER that day. I was a little girl and scared out of my mind. He took amazing care of my Mom.
She was his patient right until his retirement. And what really sticks out the most was he had given up doing hospital rounds, my mom had been admitted, when he found out he made a special trip to Holy name to visit her.
He was a great man and he would joke around with me during my mother's visits cause he knew she was very sick and he tried to lighten the mood.

Nancy, Ken and Daniel Metsch
Harriette Biehoff's family

Nancy - August 28, 2021 at 03:59 PM

JZ

“ *Condolences and prayers to the entire Laraia family.*

Dr. Laraia was an exceptional physician. He was knowledgeable, thorough, current and spot-on with his diagnoses. He was kind and patient enough to answer any questions we frightened patients asked. He inquired about our personal lives and thereby treated an entire person, not just a body. We had confidence in his judgment and treatments for us.

Years back my mother, who had complicated medical issues, used to tell him that he was not allowed to retire until she had passed away.

Even when he did not see her in person he continued to monitor her chart.

She died around the time Dr. retired. When he learned of her passing, Dr. Laraia sent a mass card for her.

That kindness was most appreciated and continues to be remembered by me and my family.

My prayer is that he is at peace and in the loving arms of his loved ones and the Lord.

Joanne Schults Zachary



Joanne Schults Zachary - August 01, 2021 at 11:07 AM

SH

“ *My condolences and prayers to the Laraia family.*

Sherry - July 31, 2021 at 07:07 PM

GR

“ My condolences to the Laria family. Thank you for taking care of my parents all those years ago.

Ginny Read

Ginny Read - July 31, 2021 at 02:44 PM

MC

“ I want to extend my deepest sympathy to the Laraia family. Doctor Laraia was a very special physician who truly cared about his patients. He was the police physician for several years and impacted many lives. Sal was not only a talented doctor but an amazing human being, he will be greatly missed.

Michael Cioffi - July 30, 2021 at 05:33 PM

RB

“ My deepest condolences to Dr. Laraia's family. Dr. Laraia was always a the gentleman when I would see him at Holy Name. One time I remember like it was yesterday I was with my family walking through Animal Kingdom at Walt Disney World and heard my name being called out. To my surprise it was Dr.Laraia. I would joke with him that who would have thought a well respected doctor such as him would yell out your name in the middle of Animal Kingdom. This shows you just how much of gentleman he was.
Rest in peace Doc.

*Richard Bartlett,
Holy Name Radiology Department*

Richard Bartlett - July 30, 2021 at 01:45 PM

CH

“ *What a great man Dr Laraia was. He was dedicated to his patients and to Holy Name. I am grateful to have known him. He will be missed by many. My deepest sympathies to his family and friends.*

Carol Knorr (x-ray hnmc) - July 30, 2021 at 01:10 PM

EN

“ *I thank God for the life of Dr. Laraya who saved my husband's life many years ago. Only 7 years ago, August 1st, did the Good Lord call him home. May God comfort Dr. Laraya's family and give them peace. Eternal rest grant him, O Lord.*

Elvira High, Whiting, NJ - July 30, 2021 at 11:26 AM

TB

“ *Where to begin? Let me start by offering my sincere and heartfelt condolences to the entire LaRaia family, who I hold dear to my heart. Now speaking of the man....A true gentleman!! A wonderful physician who didn't mind my calls and questions anytime I had them. I seem to remember him laughing and shaking his head in amazement every time I left his office after our consultations after my physicals... I always wondered why??? Not really....it had to be me trying to get through his professional persona with some off color joke. Don't worry girls it wasn't me revealing any secrets about you guys. 😊 I will always remember him commenting about me when we all use to hang out at the LaRaia house..."Tommy is a nice guy but you have to put a bomb under his ass to get hlm to leave". 😊 Gonna miss you. Luv ya! RIP DOC.*

Tom Bauernschmidt - July 29, 2021 at 09:50 PM

BM

“ *Sal was the greatest example of a kind, compassionate, knowledgeable physician. He was a pleasure to work with as we tried to model our bedside manner and concern for patients after him. He was a great teacher. The standard of great care at Holy Name Hospital was set by Sal. He showed us how to care for our patients and our families. We all owe so much to Sal. Our greatest Condolences to his wife and family. Sal Laraia was Holy Name.*

Brian Bauer MD - July 29, 2021 at 04:23 PM

VP

*My relationship with Dr. Laraia began as An extension of his family care of my parents 40 years ago. As a result I unknowingly bonded with not only one professional doctor but a very concerned up to date physician who doubled as a friend for life. Our family learned to lean on his guidance for maintaining our health for life. Always accessible calming confident and aware of the proper treatment to advise. His loss was felt very heavily by our family and wish that he joins all the angels above which is his proper place. Our deepest condolences to the entire Laraia family and thank you for sharing such a great individual. RIP.
ThePitrelli Family*

vincent Pitrelli - August 06, 2021 at 09:15 PM