



Anthony E. Petrarca Ph.D

July 24, 1929 - February 2, 2024

Anthony "Tony" Petrarca 94, of Columbus, Ohio passed away peacefully on February 2, 2024. He was born in 1929 in Providence, Rhode Island to the late Giovanni and Serafina Petrarca. He is reunited in heaven with his wife of 63 years, Elizabeth "Betty" Petrarca who preceded him in 2018. Dad was proud of the large Italian family from which he came. He was preceded in death by his brothers Ferdinando, Raphael, Mario, Felice, Leonardo, and Eli; and sisters Filomena and Anna. Surviving him are his daughter, Martina and her children Matthew and Theresa; daughter Aurelie; daughter Clare and her children Samantha and George (Nan); daughter Barbara (Matthew) and their children Geoffrey, Charles (Sarah), and Thomas (Courtney); Son Charles; Son Richard (Patricia) and their son A. J.; 2 great-grandchildren Beckett and Sophia; daughter-in-law Lisa Krick; his youngest sister Carmela along with many cousins, nieces and nephews.

He was awarded his Doctorate Degree from the University of New Hampshire in Chemistry and moved to New Jersey where he taught Chemistry at Seton Hall.

In 1964 he brought his family to Ohio to work at Chemical Abstracts and was instrumental in the development of the Computer Information Sciences Department at The Ohio State University where he retired from in 1992 as an Assistant Professor. He was acting chair of the department 1984 and 1985, he established an annual student scholarship with his personal funds under the name of ACM scholarship, most award recipients believed the scholarship

directly came from ACM headquarters.

He was a member of St. Michael's Parish attending the first mass in the church, June 10, 1964. He was an active steward in The St. Vincent de Paul Society, The Knights of Columbus as a 4th degree knight, Parish Festivals which he helped start back in 1977, Fish Fries, singing in the choir, assisting in the eucharistic ministry to name a few. He was proud of providing service to the aid of others and his legacy will remain in the memories of all who knew him. We will miss you dad, aka grandpa, aka Tony.

In lieu of flowers please make a donation to The St Vincent de Paul Society via St Michael Parish Worthington Ohio.

The family will receive condolences Saturday morning February 10, 2024 9:00am at St. Michael's Church, Worthington Ohio, in Marion Hall. A celebratory mass to follow at 10:00am.

Cemetery Details

Resurrection Cemetery

9571 North High Street
Lewis Center, OH 43035

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 10. 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Michael Catholic Church
5750 N. High St.
Worthington, OH 43085

Funeral Service

FEB 10. 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Michael Catholic Church
5750 N. High St.
Worthington, OH 43085

Tribute Wall

JH

“ *Mr. Tony was our good friend at church. Our son Will just loved saying hi to him and Clare. We moved to Texas last summer and unfortunately only now heard of his passing away. Rest easy, Mr. Tony.*

Jeff, Laura & William Holmes - March 17, 2024 at 08:22 PM

CL

“ *We would often see Tony on our evening walks up at the park. Usually with his harmonica. He was always happy to chat with us. We will miss him.*



Connie LaMorte - February 08, 2024 at 11:17 PM

FY

“ *I was a student in one of Tony's Computer Science classes at OSU. He changed the course of my life, not only as a professor, but also as the person who made me aware that a local company called Chemical Abstracts Service (where Tony also worked) was "hiring" in their "expanding" computer science departments. I worked there for 35 wonderful years, thanks to Tony's recommendation.*

Fred Yaeger - February 08, 2024 at 11:30 AM

MK

“ I remember bringing Holy Communion to Jim Favrett on a pastoral visit and Tony arrived at the same time and asked if he could play his harmonica for Jim. I will always remember how beautiful and calming his songs were. Thank you Tony for sharing your gift of music....Mary Ann Koncal

Mary Ann Koncal - February 07, 2024 at 06:12 PM

PJ

I met Dr Petrarca a year or so ago at the McConnell Center. True to character he was working out in the gym. I learned that he was a graduate of LaSalle HS in Providence and in fact a classmate of my late father, a Brown/MIT grad and himself an engineer. We had a wonderful chat until his trainer admonished me for interrupting the workout. RIP sweet Dr Tony

Paul Hess, Jr. - March 08, 2024 at 09:19 PM

LL

“ The Petrarca household, three generations in a Providence, Rhode Island triple decker, was one of the joys of my childhood. Tony's niece Sharon (daughter of Mario and Vivian) was my childhood friend, and birthdays parties were a special treat, with Tony and his siblings joining in. Eh Cumpari at top volume was a staple.

Lois Loontjens - February 07, 2024 at 04:43 PM

DB

“ I knew Tony through OSU, Cursillo, and the K of C. I remember his beautiful singing voice. May you have many wonderful memories to cherish forever!

Deacon Anthony C. bonacci - February 07, 2024 at 10:29 AM

RJ

“ Reen, Devon, Blair & Jess planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Anthony E. Petrarca Ph.D.

Reen, Devon, Blair & Jess - February 07, 2024 at 10:26 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Anthony E. Petrarca Ph.D.



February 07, 2024 at 10:26 AM

BE

“ Tony will certainly be missed by the St. Michael's Live Wires. The whole Petrarca Family is in our thoughts and prayers at this sad time.

REST IN PEACE, DEAR FRIEND.

Barbara Edwards/St. Michael's Srs.-Live Wires

Barbara Edwards - February 06, 2024 at 08:47 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Anthony E. Petrarca Ph.D.



February 05, 2024 at 06:15 PM

AJ

“ Tony and Betty were always so good to me. They helped me make my Cum Christo weekend and then would pick me up from home and take me to the Ultraya meetings. I sang with Tony in the choir, rode with him on several trips to McArthur, Ohio when delivering clothes for the St. Vincent DePaul Society, learned the art of being the Festival Entertainment Chairman when Tony handed the reins over to me back in the 1980's. I always loved seeing him introduce the festival entertainment groups wearing his white styrofoam hat. We sang in several Festival choir performances, and enjoyed being brothers in St. Michael's Knights of Columbus Council 11445, helping him put up signs for the annual Fish Fry and more. I have so many good memories we shared together, but not enough room here to list them all. Tony my good friend and brother Knight, you will be missed by many of us. It won't be the same not to see you at church and say hello and ask you how you are doing. May your soul Rest In Peace.

Alex Jamieson

Alex Jamieson - February 04, 2024 at 04:54 PM