



Daniel Francis Cafarelli

February 20, 1930 - April 7, 2022

Obituary of Daniel Francis Cafarelli

Daniel Francis Cafarelli Sr., 92, also forever remembered as “Coach Caf,” passed peacefully to be reunited with his loving wife and Lord on April 7, 2022. Born on February 20, 1930, to his late parents Rocco and Mary Cafarelli, he grew up and built his sports career in Schenectady, NY, where he graduated from Mont Pleasant High School. After college, he honorably served in the United States Army from 1954-56.

At an early age, Dan knew sports would forever be a part of his life. He continued his education to receive a Bachelor’s (1953) and Master’s (1954) in Physical Education from the University of Notre Dame. Notre Dame holds a special place within the Cafarelli family; from Dan’s wonderful college and athletic experiences at his alma mater, to watching both of his daughters follow in his footsteps, becoming Fighting Irish alumnae themselves. As devoted Notre Dame fans, his family followed all the sports and made countless trips to watch sporting events.

Dan had a remarkable career as a physical education teacher at Schenectady CSD. For more than 40 years, he not only coached countless children and young adults in various sports, but he also mentored these same individuals in the importance of sportsmanship, fair play, and leadership. He was employed for many years at the Mohawk Golf Club as its pool director. Dan worked until the age of 70 as a high school and college referee, developing what would become lifelong friendships with his officiating peers.

Many people will remember “Big Dan” for his “Hall of Fame Life” surrounding sports and leadership. However, his greatest achievement was his family. In 1959, he married the love of his life, the former, Sylvia Fainelli. Together they raised their three children in Woodhaven. Dan also found room in his heart for animals. He will be terribly missed by his little teacup yorkie, Lucy, who he loved dearly.

Early in retirement, Dan and Sylvia enjoyed traveling, especially to beautiful horse racing tracks. Much later in life, he was fortunate to visit family in Italy with his daughter Maria and brother Francis. Throughout his life, Dan stayed active and healthy by swimming and playing golf and tennis.

A devoted Catholic, Dan was a loyal parishioner at the Church of Immaculate Conception in Glenville. His strong faith assures his family that he is again with Sylvia, and they are

back to their heated baseball rivalry. Dan's favorite team was the Boston Red Sox, while his bride was an avid New York Yankee fan.

Dan peacefully left this earth while listening to his Alma Mater, Notre Dame, Our Mother. He proudly leaves behind his children, Bernadette M. Cafarelli, Maria (Joseph) T.C. Notar, and Daniel F. (Carolyn) Cafarelli Jr.; grandchildren, Isabella and Christina Cafarelli, Michelle and Matthew Knezovic; his loving brother, Rev. Francis Cafarelli, C.S.C, and sister-in-law, Shirley Cafarelli, as well as three nieces. He was predeceased by his brother, George Cafarelli.

Calling hours for Daniel will be held at the Church of Immaculate Conception Church, 400 Saratoga Rd. in Glenville on Tuesday, April 12th from 10 to 11 AM. A Mass of Christian Burial will begin at 11 AM, followed by a procession to St. Anthony's Cemetery.

Cemetery Details

St. Anthony's Cemetery

27 Glenridge Rd
Glenville, NY 12302
info@adcemeteries.org

Previous Events

Calling Hour

APR 12. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Church of the Immaculate Conception
400 Saratoga Road (Rte 50)
Glenville, NY 12302

Mass of Christian Burial

APR 12. 11:00 AM (ET)

Immaculate Conception Church
400 Saratoga Road (Rte 50)
Glenville, NY 12302

burial

APR 12. 12:30 PM (ET)

St. Anthony's Cemetery
27 Glenridge Rd
Glenville, NY 12302
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