



Michael F. Balistreri

April 11, 1967 - February 21, 2024

Michael F. Balistreri passed away peacefully on Wednesday, February 21, 2024 at Samaritan Hospice in Voorhees, NJ with his siblings by his side. Although he had many health challenges, Michael maintained a positive attitude and was always cheerful. In recent days, many family members have shared memories displaying Michael's humor, kind heartedness and willingness to help others. Born in Oceanside, NY to Martin J. and Marguerite M. Balistreri, Michael was 56 years old. He attended Oceanside High School and was the youngest of a large family.

Michael was predeceased by his brother Robert Balistreri.

Surviving are his brothers and sisters; Margaret Mary (Richard) Mansfield, Rita (Mark) O'Dea, Joleen (Rick) Nicosia, Suzanne (Franco) Dossena, Nancy (Chris) Meghri, Donna (Tony) DeMonte and Stephen (Kim) Balistreri. Also surviving are many nieces and nephews. He will be greatly missed by all.

The family will be gathering for a celebration of Michael's life at a later date.

Tribute Wall

TW

“ My heartfelt condolences to the Balistreri family. Mikey was an honorary older brother to me for many years. For those that know the Lofrese house, you know there was an open door policy over on Bayside. I am a prime example, I was 4 when I arrived. Over the years we had friends of all kinds in and out and some stayed awhile. Michael did just that and he is was an invaluable part of my childhood. He could wipe the mug right off the face of an awkward teenager simply with his personality-always happy ,always light ,always made you feel good when you walked into a room. He was legendary with one liners and was hilarious to watch basic tv with. He always let Kelly Bundy know she was "Smokin" or Screech that he was a "loser". Those are some of my favorite memories with him, simply watching TV and laughing the day away. One time there was absolutely nothing on and we settled on a 70's B movie called " The Andromeda Strain". I think the movie was supposed to be serious..it was about scientists trying to contain an extraterrestrial microscopic organism . Frankly Michaels remarks to the characters were endless and we were in tears. Even years later we referenced it and would be bawling. He loved laughs, funny phrases, inside jokes, nicknames. Looking back now it's a toss up whether he or my brother Chris coined me " TandiAndi". I am pretty sure it was Michael.

I can hear my Mom in my ear here saying "mention all he did for me." It reminds me of part of an Emerson quote-"To know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived. This is to have succeeded."

Michael absolutely made my Moms life easier. Whatever/whenever asked- Mikey would pop right up to help, run an errand, push a wheelchair- you name it. And of course with a smile. Now thinking on it there wasn't anything he couldn't do- he drove a truck delivering airfreight, he helped Chris with plumbing and when he got into catering -he was great! He wore many hats well!

To sum up my many thoughts- I am forever grateful to have had Michael in my life all those years. The times when there weren't 50

plus craft beers on tap, no cells, no streaming service. Life was simpler and Mikey was simply a good egg. A golden egg. (teasing here but that is exactly something silly that we would find funny!) I keep the memories close. Again - sending love and light to your family and passing on the same from my brother Ricky. -Tandi



Tandi Lonergan Walters - February 27, 2024 at 08:22 PM

SD

Tandi, this is Michael's sister Suzanne. Michael always spoke so highly of you. He loved you ❤️ Thank you for sharing such beautiful memories. 🙏

Suzanne Dossena - February 27, 2024 at 10:23 PM

TA

Thanks Suzanne sending hugs I loved him too!

Tandi - February 28, 2024 at 05:40 PM

SD



Suzanne Dossena - February 28, 2024 at 05:45 PM

SB

Tandi, Mikey loved you so much. He always how much he cared for you

Stephen Balistreri - March 11, 2024 at 07:30 PM

SD

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Suzanne Dossena - February 26, 2024 at 04:47 PM

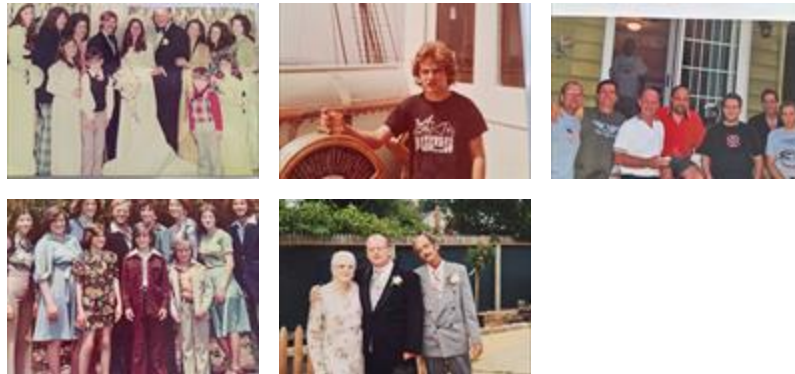
FD

“ Remembering "Square Business"

Franco Dossena - February 26, 2024 at 04:34 PM

SD

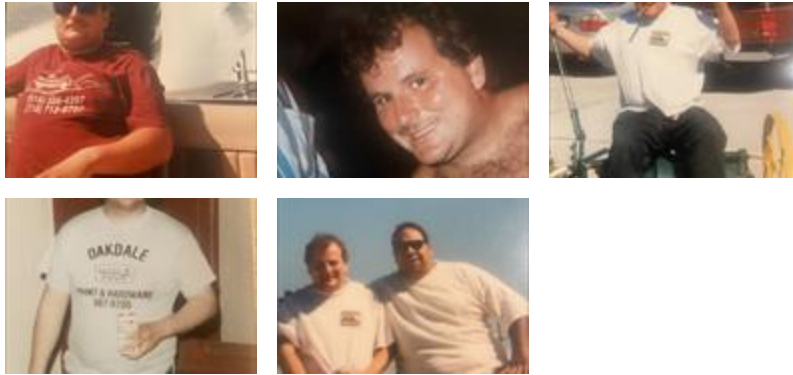
“ In loving memory...



Suzanne Dossena - February 26, 2024 at 04:32 PM

MM

“ I met Mike in junior high shop class but I didn't become good friends with him until after high school. seemed like we were always together either drinking beers by lofts lake or driving around aimlessly all day or out on the boat.whatever we were doing we would be laughing and and having a great time.as long as Mikey had his Marlboro reds and cold Budweisers life was good. We would go to short beach and bbq or just cruise around on the boat but always a good time. Mikes quick Witt and infectious smile is something I will never forget.even after he had gotten sick me a couple friends, Richie and Kenny brown went to see him and we had a great time and he had us laughing all day. I will miss you my friend



matt monfiletto - February 25, 2024 at 06:58 PM

SB

Thank you Mike foe sharing these memories. Michael always spoke so highly of you. He loved you and your friendship ❤️

Suzanne Balistreri - February 25, 2024 at 08:13 PM

SB

Great photos Matt!! You were always of Mikey's "boys"

Stephen Balistreri - February 27, 2024 at 05:42 PM

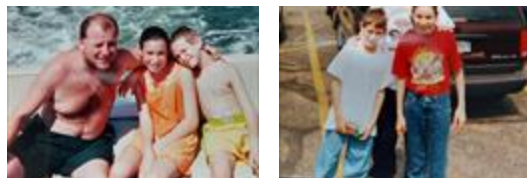


He was always laughing and smiling. Thanks for posting these

Jim Whittle - February 28, 2024 at 08:37 AM

SB

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Stephen Balistreri - February 25, 2024 at 01:19 PM

TO

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Tony - February 24, 2024 at 05:44 PM

DO

“ *Losing a sibling is like losing a part of your past. No one knows you quite like your siblings do, they are the only people who have known you your entire life. There is a link now forever missing in the family chain.*

Birth order defined myself, Stephen & Micheal as the three youngest children of a large family. We spent many of our formative years together. Those shared experiences of being in elementary school at the same time help to form everlasting bonds.

For a time when we were younger the three of us shared a bedroom. The boys in a set of bunk beds & me on a twin bed on the other side of the room. A lot of shenanigans took place in that room! Fun times!

Years later when he became ill & I would visit with him & bring him a bag of Snickers, Michael would always first offer to share some with his roommate Jim. He would think of his roommate before himself. He was so kind in that regard. He always remained upbeat and positive. His face would light up when I walked into the room. He kept his sense of humor and he was never bitter, which was remarkable in the face of his many health challenges.

I will miss Michael terribly, especially when I travel to NJ and can no longer stop in to spend some time with him.

Rest in peace Michael, until we meet again.

Love

Donna

Donna - February 24, 2024 at 05:31 PM

DS

I am so sorry for the Balistreri family. I grew up with this family on Montgomery Ave in Oceanside. Me , Freddie and Jimmy had the best times with them. Our block was the best. Loved u all and I will keep u all in my thoughts and prayers!

Debi Robinson Schadecker - February 25, 2024 at 12:04 AM

SB

*Thank you Debi. Yes great memories together ❤️ The best block.
Thank you for your thoughts and prayers 🙏*

Suzanne Balistreri - February 25, 2024 at 08:18 PM

DT

“ 7 files added to the tribute wall



Donna & Tony - February 24, 2024 at 03:09 PM

NM

“ Blast from the past! ❤️



Nancy Meghri - February 23, 2024 at 01:43 PM

NM

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Nancy Meghri - February 23, 2024 at 01:39 PM

SD

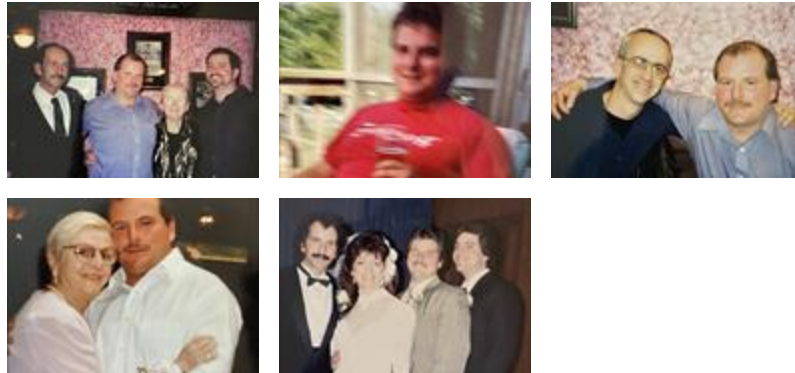
“ *Suzanne Dossena lit a candle in memory of Michael F. Balistreri*



Suzanne Dossena - February 23, 2024 at 01:35 PM

NM

“ *A couple more photos*



Nancy Meghri - February 23, 2024 at 01:34 PM

SB

“ While I was very close with both my brothers, my relationship with my older brother Bert (Robert) really developed more as I approached becoming a teenager due to the 10-year age difference between us. The early years were all about me and Mikey. Mikey was 2 1/2 years younger than me and we shared a room for a decade and a half. We truly grew up together, early on we did everything together, from racing Big Wheels, digging on the "hill" in the backyard, climbing trees to playing with all the neighborhood kids, Jimmy Robinson, the Metzger boys, the Pollacks and eventually the Lofreses. When we were with our cousins, the boys always hung together, Joe & Chris and Tommy, Kevin & Brian. There was lots of mischief and shenanigans which shall remain undetailed as previously agreed to, but always a lot of laughs. As the years went on and I moved out, Mikey was always a fixture in my home, he lived with me and my family on a couple of occasions and I also threw him out more than once. All good friendships have their bumps in the road, but we always made up. When Kim & I moved to Jersey if more than a month had passed, and Mikey hadn't spent at least 1 weekend with us it was a lot and he never turned down an invite LOL. We would invite him for the weekend and he would often arrive on Thursday and not leave until Tuesday LOL. I will miss you deeply my brother. I hope you are with Bert, Terry, Rielly and others having a few beers, Cheers my Bro. Rest in Peace

STEPHEN BALISTRERI - February 22, 2024 at 07:14 PM

NM



Nancy Meghri - February 22, 2024 at 09:37 PM

NM

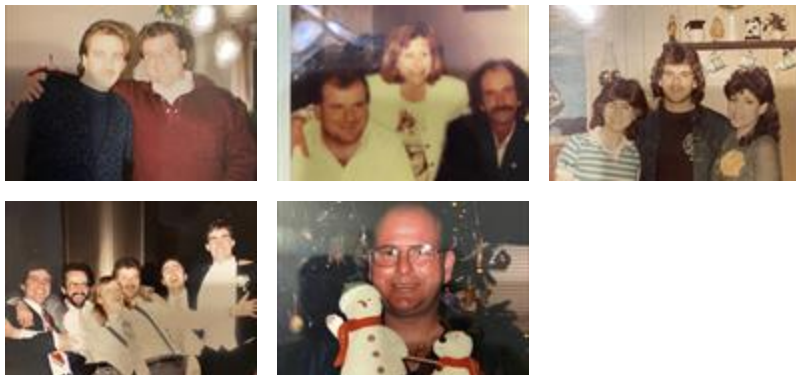
“ 15 files added to the tribute wall



Nancy Meghri - February 22, 2024 at 06:14 PM

NM

“ 16 files added to the tribute wall



Nancy Meghri - February 22, 2024 at 06:05 PM

SB

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Stephen Balistreri - February 22, 2024 at 06:05 PM

NM

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Nancy Meghri - February 22, 2024 at 05:58 PM

SB

“ 13 files added to the tribute wall



Stephen Balistreri - February 22, 2024 at 05:51 PM

KB

“ My brother-in-law Michael had a love for 80s sitcoms...Full House being one of them. Years ago he gave me the nickname "Kimmy Gibbler" which caught on with our family. Since then every time someone calls me Kimmy Gibbler, Gibbler, or just Gib I always smile and think of Mikey. Thank you for that gift brother. I'll always be your little Kimmy Gibbler. Rest in peace my friend.

Kim Balistreri - February 22, 2024 at 05:47 PM

SB

“ When our father had a stroke Stephen (my brother) and I went down to NC to be with him. Then we returned back to NY. Shortly after I took a leave of absence and Michael took time off to drive me back to NC so I could be with my mother. He subsequently drove back to NY on his own. He was always ready to help.

Suzanne Balistreri - February 22, 2024 at 05:17 PM

RO

“ Rita O'Dea
Michael live by Nancy and me for the last 15 years. We saw him often an despite his hardships he always greeted us with a smile and was so good natured. He put things in perspective for me. The staff speaks highly of him also and will miss him too. His light has been extinguished bye he remains in our hearts

Rita O'Dea - February 22, 2024 at 05:08 PM

RM

“ I'll When always feel indebted to Uncle Michael...when I was set to move and my father suddenly fell ill, I was in a bad spot. There was no possible way I could vacate my apartment myself over a weekend. Uncle Michael and Uncle Bertie arrived the day of my move with a big truck to rescue me in my time of need. I'll never forget that kindness he shared. Thank you, Uncle Michael, see you someday again.

Richard Mansfield - February 22, 2024 at 04:53 PM

SB

What a beautiful memory Richard ❤️

Suzanne Balistreri - February 22, 2024 at 04:57 PM

NM

Richard thank you for sharing that memory of Michael.

Nancy Meghri - February 22, 2024 at 04:58 PM

NM

“ *We had many laughs over the years. Michael’s ability to stay so happy and pleasant was inspiring. We will never be able to look at a Snickers and not think of him! Love you Michael and we will miss you. your Bucket of Sunshine*

Nancy Meghri - February 22, 2024 at 04:05 PM

SB

You were always his "Bucket of Sunshine" 🥰

Suzanne Balistreri - February 22, 2024 at 05:00 PM

JN

Michael was always willing to help someone in need. I remember one day when I had car trouble & needed a ride back home as my car needed to be towed. My husband was at work so I called Michael & when I told him of my situation he & his friend offered to come pick me up no hesitation. He had such a kind & gentle spirit. I will never forget your easy smile & how happy you were to see me when I would come to visit you when you lived in NJ. I will never see a bag of Snickers again without thinking of you. We will miss you always. Love Joleen & Rick

Joleen Patrice Nicosia - February 22, 2024 at 09:43 PM