



Robert M. Lucarelli

May 20, 1931 - June 29, 2014

Robert M. Lucarelli, “Bob”, age 83, passed away peacefully on June 29, 2014, surrounded by his loving family. He was born in Toledo, Ohio on May 20, 1931 to Albert and Louise (Polito) Lucarelli. Bob graduated in the Class of '49 from Central Catholic High School and received a Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree from Ohio State University. He remained a life-long Buckeye Fan of OSU, never missing a game. He was in the ROTC in college and became 1st Lieutenant in the US Army-Signal Corp, where he was directly involved with the testing of the atomic hydrogen bombs in the 50's in the Nevada Desert. He later was recalled in 1961 during the Cuban Missile Crisis.

Bob was the president of Al's Upholstery Inc, founded by his father Al in 1930. He raised the bar - giving the shop a reputation of artistic design, calling it “Originals by Lucarelli”. The shop continues to operate as a close family business today. Bob was a real winner, successful in everything he did. An extremely gifted artist and craftsman, he designed furniture and buildings, including his parent's apartment above the business. As early as his high school years, his talent was noted where he was acknowledged in the Pictorial Section of the Toledo Blade for his design of the family home on Summit St., referred to as the “North End Home of Splendor”.

In 1957, Bob married the love of his life, Claire. They did everything together through the years and shared the same interests such as traveling, theatre, wine-tasting, decorating and raising 6 children. Bob was thought of as an extremely loving husband and father who considered family to the most

important blessing in life. He was incredibly proud of his Italian heritage and was very sentimental reflecting on his family's past. He was generous and kind, always thinking of others first. His work ethic was greatly admired. He was an avid gardener and his favorite pastime was working outdoors, landscaping, wood working, and photography. He also enjoyed making his own wine.

Bob had a charismatic smile and was the life of every gathering, always telling funny stories and making everyone feel good to be around him. He was well loved and respected by family, friends, employees and customers. His childhood friends from St. Francis de Sales Elementary became lifelong friends forming a "Poker Club" that lasted over 50 years. Bob was a member of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, the Alba Club, Italian-American Sports Hall of Fame, and a Life Member of the Toledo Animal Shelter.

He is survived by his wife Claire, of 57 years, who has been his loving and compassionate caregiver, keeping him home through his long illness; his sons Robert Lucarelli, Jr. Michael Lucarelli, Steve (Carmel) Lucarelli and Frank (Stacee) Lucarelli; daughters LouAnn (Tom) Johnoff and Angie (John) Lavergne; grandchildren Amanda, Heidi, Maria, Erin, Mia, Sophie, Jack, Marisa, Vincent, Angelo and Isabella Lucarelli, Shane and Morgan Johnoff, Elise, Christina and John "Luke" Lavergne. Also surviving are his sisters Edie O'Brien, and Rita Peters; brothers Victor (Shirley) Lucarelli, Albert "Sonny" (Georgia) Lucarelli and Tony (Ginny) Lucarelli. Bob will also be missed by numerous nieces, nephews and cousins. The family would like to express their gratitude for the help and support provided by his care givers Nate and Mary Lou and the staff at Spring Meadows Senior Community. Friends may visit at the Coyle Funeral Home, 1770 S. Reynolds Rd. on Friday July 4, 2014 from 2-8 p.m. with a Scripture Service at 7. Funeral services will begin in the mortuary at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, July 5th followed by a mass of Christian burial at 10, at Our Lady of Lourdes Church. Entombment will be at Toledo Memorial Park. The family suggests contributions can be made to the Alzheimer's Association. Please view Bob's tribute video and share a memory

at CoyleFuneralHome.com.

Cemetery Details

Toledo Memorial Park

6382 Monroe St
Sylvania, OH 43560

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 4. 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Coyle Funeral and Cremation Services
1770 S. Reynolds Road
Toledo, OH 43614
(419) 865-1295
<https://www.coylefuneralhome.com>

Tribute Wall

EG

“ I am so sorry for your lost. Robert was always so nice to me and all my family. He will be missed. I will never forget when we were both very young , his showing me his crystal radio he built. He was a good man and loving husband,father and brother.
Edward Gliatti

Edward Gliatti - July 04, 2014 at 06:59 PM

CK

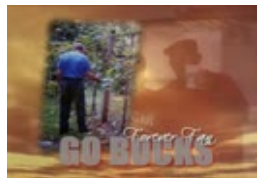
“ *Carla Kinkopf purchased the Secret Garden Basket for the family of Robert M. Lucarelli.*



Carla Kinkopf - July 03, 2014 at 04:34 PM

CV

“ 1 file added to the album VIDEO TRIBUTE



COYLE FUNERAL HOME VIDEOS - July 03, 2014 at 07:41 AM

LK

I remember Mr. Lucarelli looking just like this in the portrait photo. Although I didn't know your family too well, I remember visiting your home on 2 occasions. Once before my aunt Ginny and Tony Lucarelli married, in the kitchen with my sister, Tami and Aunts Julie and Theresa you daughters and younger sons. A second time your family hosted my grandfather's (Pat Doniere's) funeral dinner. Your family was then very warm and friendly to us all. I am sorry to have just learned a few days ago on Mr. Lucarelli's passing. This video is a beautiful tribute to him. May the peace of the Lord be with you all. Lori (Doniere) Kaloger

Lori (Doniere) Kaloger - September 19, 2014 at 10:18 AM

CO

“ (News Article) Robert M. Lucarelli, who grew up with a hammer in his hand, but also showed an early talent for design, and who with his three brothers carried forward the upholstery business their Italian immigrant father founded, died Sunday in the University of Toledo Medical Center, the former Medical College of Ohio Hospital. He was 83. Mr. Lucarelli had Alzheimer's disease and developed pneumonia, his wife, Claire, said. She cared for him in their South Toledo home during his five-year illness. The eldest of his siblings, Mr. Lucarelli had been president of Al's Upholstery on Monroe Street, which his father started on Summit Street in North Toledo in 1930. His father worked nearly until his death at 93 in 1989. Through the years, as Mr. Lucarelli assumed more responsibilities, "he wanted to offer more specialized custom furniture than my grandfather was doing," said his son, Steve, who works at the business. A second line was added to the company name: "Originals by Lucarelli." "He could build whatever the customer wanted, advising them along the way," son Steve said. "We put out one-of-a-kind things." In time, all four of the elder Mr. Lucarelli's sons worked in the business - Victor is now president - and a third generation has been involved for more than 30 years. Mr. Lucarelli was born May 20, 1931, the son of Louise and Albert.

Coyle - July 02, 2014 at 01:38 PM

“We got pictures of him holding a hammer at 3 years old,” his wife said. “He grew up in the business.”

The family had lived above the shop on Summit Street near Ash Street. Mr. Lucarelli showed a knack in his youth for “decorating and constructing, rebuilding and improving,” *The Toledo Blade Pictorial* noted in 1953.

He created a rumpus room that “rivals most night clubs in size and grandeur,” said the magazine, which called the residence a “North Toledo Home of Splendor.”

The building was in the way of I-280, so the family moved to West Toledo in the 1950s. They again lived over the shop, and Mr. Lucarelli designed the space and the furniture.

Mr. Lucarelli was a 1949 graduate of Central Catholic High School and had a bachelor of fine arts degree from Ohio State University, where his major was interior design. He was a first lieutenant in the Army Signal Corps and was assigned to hydrogen bomb tests in Nevada. He was recalled to duty in 1962 for the Cuban Missile Crisis.

Surviving are his wife, Claire, whom he married Aug. 24, 1957; sons, Robert, Jr., Michael, Steve, and Frank Lucarelli; daughters, LouAnn Johnoff and Angie Lavergne; sisters, Edie O’?Brien and Rita Peters; brothers, Victor, Albert “Sonny,” and Tony, and 16 grandchildren.

Visitation will be from 2-8 p.m. Friday in the Coyle Funeral Home, where a Scripture service is scheduled for 7 p.m. Funeral services will be at 10 a.m. Saturday in Our Lady of Lourdes Church, where Mr. Lucarelli was a member.

The family suggests tributes to the Alzheimer’s Association .

Contact Blade Staff Writer Mark Zaborney at: mzaborney@theblade.com or 419-724-6182. .

Published in Toledo Blade on July 2, 2014

DF

“ *Dominic/Sarah Lucarelli & Family, purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Robert M. Lucarelli.*



Dominic/Sarah Lucarelli & Family, - July 02, 2014 at 12:46 PM

CV

“ 1 file added to the album VIDEO TRIBUTE



COYLE FUNERAL HOME VIDEOS - July 02, 2014 at 12:39 PM

JR

“ *Oh,how I remember Luke,as my brother, Jack, called him. I was 5 yrs younger than them,but I always seemed to fit in with that group of friends from St. Francis de Sales. They were so funny,kind and caring to me. Claire and family, my sympathy in your loss. I know he will be greatly missed but know that he always will be watching over all of you with the loving,caring person that he was. God Bless, June (Mansor) Roshak*

June (Mansor) Roshak - July 02, 2014 at 09:00 AM



“ *Heavenly Light was purchased for the family of Robert M. Lucarelli.*



July 01, 2014 at 07:17 PM