



## Ernest P. Cermola

April 8, 2021

Ernest P. Cermola “Pop Pop”, 88, of West Hartford, husband of the late Kathleen “Kathy” (O’Connor) Cermola, died Thursday, April 8, 2021 at St. Francis Hospital. Born in Hartford, son of the late Carmine and Letizia (Adamo) Cermola, he was a graduate of Bulkeley High School Class of 1951. While at Bulkeley he excelled in football and basketball. Ernie graduated from the University of Connecticut in 1955, served in the US Army during the Korean War, and received his Master’s Plus degree in education from the University of Hartford in 1961. His career in education began at the elementary school level as a teacher and reading consultant in Hartford area schools and Adult Education. Ernie spent many summers teaching summer school for Hartford High students at The Hotchkiss School in Lakeville. His last 25 years were spent as the Principal of Dr. James H. Naylor School. He received a citation from the State of Connecticut in recognition of his retirement after 35 years in the Hartford Public School system. “Mr. Cermola exemplifies professionalism in education. He has guided and supported the teachers, encouraged and stimulated the students, and created a hospitable environment for parents. June 18, 1992”. He built a school community based on love and respect that became a second family. He started a tradition on Flag Day of having a parade down Franklin Ave. He was an avid supporter of UCONN Women’s’ basketball games. Family was the center of his world. He attended all of his children’s and grandchildren’s sporting events and activities. Including Alicia’s Big Band Bash. Known as Uncle Ernie, he not only

attended family gatherings but recorded them and often played his kazoo. He continued playing the kazoo throughout his life and played with the band at the Elmwood Community Center. All reunions, holidays and dinners were captured by his camcorder. He loved traveling to Virginia to visit John and Belinda and looked forward to their special fieldtrips. He loved playing Santa Claus not only for his family but the neighborhood families for over 50 years. A devout Catholic, he was a parishioner at St. Brigid Church. Ernie is survived by his three children; Kathleen Cermola and her partner Karen Mancuso, Mary Beth Kennedy and her husband Philip of Burlington, and John Cermola and his wife Belinda of Sterling, Va.; his 6 grandchildren Alicia, Kaitlyn and her husband Kevin, Connor and his fiancé Serena, Collin, Austin, and Jordan; his sisters; Terry Blackstone, Ann Schmidt, Jeanne Galinsky, as well as many nieces, nephews, great nieces and great nephews. He was predeceased by his siblings Dominic, Luke, Mary, Rose and Joseph. The family would like to thank Dr. Galle, Dr Walsh, Dr. Knoll for their excellent medical care. In addition, a special thank you to the staff at Middlewoods, the Glenbrook Road families and Nutmeg Care Service for their loving support. Funeral services will be held Wednesday beginning with a walk-through visitation at 9:00 am at the Molloy Funeral Home, 906 Farmington Ave., West Hartford. A Mass of Christian Burial will at 11:00 a.m. in St. Thomas the Apostle., 872 Farmington Ave., West Hartford. Burial with military honors will be in Fairview Cemetery. Due to Covid-19 seating capacity is limited. Masks and social distancing will be required. Donations in his memory may be made to Middlewoods of Farmington, 509 Middle Rd., Farmington, CT 06032.

# Cemetery Details

## Fairview Cemetery

200 Whitman Ave.  
West Hartford, CT

# Previous Events

## Calling Hours

APR 14. 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM (ET)

Molloy Funeral Home  
906 Farmington Ave  
West Hartford, CT 06119  
(860) 232-1322

## Mass of Christian Burial

APR 14. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Thomas the Apostle  
872 Farmington Ave.  
West Hartford, CT  
(860) 233-8269

# Tribute Wall



“ *Molloy Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of Ernest P. Cermola*



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**Molloy Funeral Home** - April 14, 2021 at 06:58 AM

TL

“ *I am so sorry to hear of the passing of Uncle Ernie.*

*I remember my mother, Janet, taking me to Allegro's restaurant on Franklin Ave in Hartford. She told me that my Uncle Ernie will be coming in and I'll be able to meet him. Much to my amazement, he walked towards me and I said to him "you look so much like my father, Carmine Cermola". I felt a connection with him. Wished we could have continued to stay in touch. Life changes every day.*

*My thoughts and prayers are with family, and friends.*

*I know that he will be missed.*

*With love,*

*Tracy Cermola Levy and daughters,  
Danielle Levy  
Sierra Levy*



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**Tracy Cermola Levy** - April 14, 2021 at 12:58 AM

ES

“ I am truly saddened to hear of the passing Mr. Cermola . My first teaching assignment out of college was at Naylor School under his leadership. He was a delight to work with and for. I loved his passion for the students and community. I will never forget the way he read poetry to the kids at lunch , the traditions he created for the school , his love for Andes Mints and of a good laugh. I was truly blessed to start my career with him as a boss and to run into him in West Hartford through the years.

He always spoke fondly of his family and grands as long as I knew him. My thoughts and prayers are with your family.

*Elka Spencer*

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**Elka Spencer** - April 12, 2021 at 07:22 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Ernest P. Cermola.



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April 12, 2021 at 01:58 PM

SD

“ *Kathy, MaryBeth and John and family,  
Our hearts and thoughts are with you on the passing of your beloved father. He and your mom created a wonderful family with the three of you and were filled with pride for all three of you. He was a wonderful human being, a great father and husband, and an exemplary educator! I feel fortunate to have shared time with him, whether interacting with him at your games/meets or meeting him on the street for a quick chat while we were both walking. He always brought a smile to my face. What a kind, thoughtful and loving person....carry on his legacy.*

*With deepest sympathy,  
Suzi and Frank D'Annolfo*

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**Suzi D'Annolfo** - April 12, 2021 at 01:26 PM

PD

“ *Kathy, Marybeth & John:  
Our prayers and deepest condolences to you and your families on the passing of your Dad. We have wonderful memories of both your Mom and Dad from Glenbrook Road. We shared many good times together. They were special people.*

*Patsy & Kathryn DelMastro*

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**Patsy & Kathryn DelMastro** - April 11, 2021 at 06:59 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Ernest P. Cermola.*



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April 11, 2021 at 06:39 PM

SZ

“ *Kathy, Marybeth and John,*

*So sad to hear of your dads passing.... I remember both of your parents and what awesome people they were... Warm, funny, loving, and embracing. My thoughts are with each of you and your families... Warm Regards Shelley*

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**shelley zola** - April 11, 2021 at 02:31 PM



“ *Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of Ernest P. Cermola.*



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April 11, 2021 at 12:32 PM

CO

“ *Kathy, Marybeth and John- I'm so sorry for the loss of your dad. May you rest easy knowing your parents are reunited. I will ALWAYS remember your dad treating me as though I just brightened his day every time he saw me. I remember when I hadn't told my parents that I went for a walk with Kim and Mrs. Andrews and he frantically drove with my father as far as the center without his shirt on because he had been mowing the lawn. What a GUY! How blessed you all called him dad. I was lucky enough to call him Uncle Ernie. Thinking of you all, Catherine Byrne*

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**Catherine O'Brien** - April 11, 2021 at 09:56 AM