



## Michael F. Romano

June 28, 1959 - March 18, 2009

Michael Francis Romano, 49, of West Hartford, died Wednesday March 18, 2009 after a courageous battle with cancer. He was born on June 28, 1959. Michael was a life long resident of West Hartford where he excelled in many sports. He was a proud graduate of Northwest Catholic High School. He was captain of the football team and earned All Conference and All State Honors. Michael was recruited by Colby College where he became captain of the football team. After graduating he played flag football for the town of East Hartford. He was an accomplished Martial Artist and founded the Center School of Martial Arts in West Hartford. There he was an inspiration and mentor to hundreds of students and their families. His passion for sports continued through his children's involvement in soccer, lacrosse, gymnastics and football. There was no place Michael would rather be than watching and supporting his children from the sidelines. Michael was an accomplished insurance executive at NEIS in Cheshire, CT for the past 10 years. He was the son of Ann Cosgrove Romano and the late Carmelo Romano and the grandson of the late Martin and Margaret Cosgrove and Rosario and Nina Romano. He was the beloved husband of Leslie D'Orsi Romano and the father of Stephanie 19, Kelly 15, Lauren 13 and DJ 5. He leaves behind his sister Patti McMahon and her husband the Hon. Kevin McMahon of Niantic, his loving mother-in-law Josephine and the late Lawrence D'Orsi who loved Michael as their own son. Michael is also survived by his loving in-laws Lawrence and Alicia D'Orsi, Gregory D'Orsi and Stephen and Denise

Woodruff and his loving Uncle Francis and Aunt Marilyn Cosgrove whom he deeply cherished. Michael also leaves behind his nieces and nephews Bradley and Allison Woodruff and Matthew and Alexandra D'Orsi and numerous aunts, uncles and cousins. Leslie wishes to thank their many friends for all of their loving support and especially Michael's life long friend Seth Epstein. Funeral services will be Monday, March 23rd at 9:00am from the Molloy Funeral Home, 906 Farmington Ave, West Hartford, followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at 10:00 a.m. at The Church of St. Timothy, 1116 North Main St, West Hartford. Burial will follow at Fairview Cemetery in West Hartford. Calling hours will be Sunday, March 22nd from 4-7pm at Molloy Funeral Home. Memorial donations may be made to the Michael F. Romano Scholarship Fund c/o The Advancement Dept., Northwest Catholic High School, 29 Wampanoag Drive, West Hartford, CT 06117. Online expressions of sympathy may be made at [www.molloyfuneralhome.com](http://www.molloyfuneralhome.com)

# Tribute Wall



“ *Dear Leslie and Family,*

*I was shocked and deeply saddened to learn about Michael's passing. Please know that you and your family are in our thoughts and prayers. With Love and Prayers.##imported-begin##Holly O'Brien Stauber##imported-end##*

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March 30, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ *Leslie and Family,*

*I was so very sorry to hear about your husband. You and your family will stay in my thoughts and prayers. May each new day bring a little more peace to your life.*

*Love,*

*Laura DeFusco-Couty##imported-begin##Laura DeFusco-Couty##imported-end##*

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March 30, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ *Mike, You are missed and will be missed. Through all the years of training together in the Martial Arts you were an inspiration to me and to all that have known you. I know our time here is short but you made the best of it and your family should be very proud of you and your accomplishments. Thank you for your friendship and being one of my training partners. So long man!##imported-begin##mike blasko##imported-end##*

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March 29, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Mrs. Romano and Patti, The Bilodeau family from Milford St. send our condolences on your loss of Mike. You are part of our childhood memories and we want to let you know you are in our thoughts and prayers. May you find the strength and grace to cope with your great loss. Our deepest sympathy, Mrs. Nancy Bilodeau, Diane, Fred, Manny###imported-begin###Diane Bilodeau Stoddard###imported-end##

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March 23, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ I haven't seen Michael in many years but I do have fond memories of the time he spent in our Avon home during his high school years. I too will miss #42###imported-begin###Rohe Winchell###imported-end##

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March 23, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Leslie: Lisa and I just heard the tragic news today. We both want to extend our deepest sympathy to you and your kids on your loss. Michael will always live on in your memories and the memories of those he touched. God bless all of you in this hour of need.

Love, Luigi and Lisa Peluso###imported-begin###Luigi Peluso###imported-end##

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March 23, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ You will live on through your children Michael. You are in a good place now.

Jamie###imported-begin###James Troy###imported-end##

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March 23, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Cousin Leslie, we want to send you our deepest sympathy to you and your whole family. I feel your loss and I am unable to verbalize the sadness I feel in my heart for you and the children. I am sorry that I live so far away but please remember that I am always here for you via email or phone and if you ever need time away please come out to Chicago. Please know that we are thinking of you during this most difficult time and we love you so much! Please take one day at a time and live your life to the fullest!  
Love always,  
Suzanne, Thomas & Madison##imported-begin##Suzanne & Thomas Bartek##imported-end##

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March 22, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Lauren and Family,  
  
I am very sorry to hear about your loss.##imported-begin##Trystan Galiatsatos##imported-end##

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March 22, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Romano Family,Patti & Kevin  
Our deepest sympathy to you and your family.  
Our thoughts and prayers are with you at this time.  
Take Care,  
Roy Family##imported-begin##Norman & Laure Ann Roy##imported-end##

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March 22, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ *What I remember most about Mike includes his sparkling eyes, his caring ways, his loyalty to his friends, his devotion to his family, his love of sports, his excellence at football, his bright smile, his love for black olives?*”

*My deepest sympathy and prayers go out to Leslie, Mike's children, Mrs. Romano and Patti. I can not imagine what you are going through. I know that all of us from the NWC Class of '77 who knew and loved Mike are grieving and finding our own ways to celebrate his life and reflect on all the joy he brought to us.*

*We will miss you #42...*

*Love,  
Nancie##imported-begin##Nancie Winchell Fernandez##imported-end##*

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March 21, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ *Dear Leslie and Children,  
We were saddened to hear of Mike's illness and more saddened to hear he passed away.  
We will keep you in our prayers, and may your children know their earthly father is now with our Heavenly Father.##imported-begin##Dolly and Nunzio Chelli##imported-end##*

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March 21, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ You are all in my thoughts & prayers during this time. It is unbelievable to me, as I'm sure it is to you as well. Mike leaves a beautiful, loving family that will honor his memory for many years to come. Hopefully you are able to take some comfort in that.

*I am truly saddened.*

*My deepest sympathies,*

*Lisa##imported-begin##Lisa Romano##imported-end##*

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March 20, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Leslie and Family,  
It doesn't seem like it was that long ago when we were at your wedding, what a fun and happy occasion that was. I particularly remember how filled with happiness Mike was to be starting your lives together. I can't begin to imagine how you and your family are coming to terms with this devastating loss. I hope as you go through this difficult time that being surrounded by friends and family help you find some peace.

*Love,*

*Sue Rowse##imported-begin##Sue Rowse##imported-end##*

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March 20, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ I trained under Michael for eight years at the Center School, and he had a profound and positive influence on me. Martial arts is far more than physical conditioning and the occasionally spectacular moment of triumph in belt testing. It is mind, body and spirit - and has an unmistakable moral basis.

*I had always wanted to learn karate, and took up tae kwon do in my early 40's. I feel so blessed to have learned under Mike's inspirational leadership.*

*He was an amazing martial artist - I believe he had earned a 7th degree black belt in Hapkido and a 5th degree black belt in Tae Kwon Do. To achieve either of those feats is astonishing - to have achieved them both is almost beyond belief.*

*But Mike was far more than that. He was kind, happy, fun, respectful, and deeply aware of the example he set - in his own training, in his attitude, in his humility. In hundreds of hours of training I never saw him lose his temper - he was so amazingly mature - and his character inspired me as much as anything else. I wanted to "grow up and be like him" - and he was more than five years younger than me.*

*As one of Mike's students, I took pride not only in developing my skills, but in trying the best I could to have a good attitude, a learning attitude, a strong attitude. I wanted to give leadership when I could to those younger in the arts than me.*

*Testing for the black belt was one of the highlights of my adult life. It meant that I had sustained an effort over a period of eight years, and overcome injuries, setbacks, disappointments, and my own self-limitations. When the test results came and Mike tied the belt around me, I looked him in the eye with profound gratitude and respect - a real highlight moment in my adult life.*

*I have not trained formally for the past several years, but the*

*qualities of character and the lessons learned in the dojo resonate with me today - and, I hope, forever. I was blessed to co-author a business book with another martial artist which came out in 2007 - and I deeply regret never having given Mike a copy of that book -as I thanked him in the Acknowledgements section for his leadership and how he had positively shaped my life.*

*I am just one of hundreds who were touched by Mike - he lives in the lives and the fiber of character of all of those who were fortunate enough to train under him. My heart reaches out to his wife, children, family and loved ones. I cannot imagine what they are feeling now.*

*When I heard the news last night before I drove home from a meeting, I was stunned, even though I knew of his illness. And as I drove home, I had a very very distinct feeling - the world was a little bit less of a place because of Mike's passing. What a man, what a human being. God bless you and those who love you, Mike. May God touch their hearts, and help them find peace during this prolonged time of grieving.*

*John K. Brubaker##imported-begin##John K. Brubaker##imported-end##*

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March 20, 2009 at 12:00 AM



*“ Leslie, We were so sad to hear the news about Mike. Our thoughts are with you and your family. Stay strong and keep your wonderful memories close to your heart. They will live there forever. Please let us know if we can do anything to help.*

*All our Love,*

*Randi, Sean, Samantha and Maddie##imported-begin##Randi and Sean Bechard##imported-end##*

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March 20, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Leslie, Romano Children, Patti and Auntie Ann: I wish that there was something that I could do to wipe away the pain that you are going through. Michael was a wonderful husband, father, son, brother, friend and dear cousin. Fond memories of growing up with him will keep him so very much alive in my heart. Please take comfort in knowing that so many people loved him and that he is now in God's loving care. Love, Cousin Karen & Steve##imported-begin##Karen Romano Sztaba##imported-end##

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March 20, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ "There is no pain so great as the memory of joy in present grief."##imported-begin##Paul Grace##imported-end##

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March 20, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Leslie & family,  
Though it's been quite some time since we've been in each other's lives, I wanted to reach out to you after reading of your loss. I can't begin to express how sorry I am, and I sincerely hope that the outpouring of concern and support comfort you and your family during this most difficult time.  
Please know you're all in my thoughts and in my heart...  
X  
Leslie##imported-begin##Leslie Falkin Fialkievicz##imported-end##

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March 20, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ I cannot begin to image your heartache and grief. Michael was wonderful friend and a terrific human being. For so many of us, Mike was an enormous part of the truly happy years spent NWC. You are all in my thoughts and prayers. God bless.

Maura##imported-begin##Maura Andrus Page##imported-end##

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March 20, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Dearest Leslie, Stephanie, Kelly, Lauren & DJ -

We love you all dearly & continue to lift you all up in prayer & love. Mike is watching over you all in heaven. We will all miss him dearly. He was loved by many, though I am certain not as dearly as he was loved by all of you.

Here for you all in anything that you may need. May God wrap you all in His loving, healing, merciful and comforting arms.

Love and sympathy,  
Erica G. and children##imported-begin##Erica  
Giovanniello##imported-end##

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March 20, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Stephanie,

*I am so sorry to hear about your loss. I want you to know that I am thinking of you and your family during this difficult time. Please let me know if there is anything I can do for you.*

*With my deepest sympathy,*

*Kayla##imported-begin##Kayla Schneider##imported-end##*

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March 20, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Leslie,

*Our deepest sympathies to you and your family. There just isn't enough good you can say about the person Mike was and the good he did for so many people. As a member of the martial arts community, he was an amazing example of what we all strive to become. Definately the cream of the crop.*

*A good man was taken from us much too soon. The world is a poorer place without him.*

*All our love,*

*Joel & Elaine##imported-begin##Joel Waldron##imported-end##*

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March 20, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Leslie,

*It's been so long since we last saw each other, but my mom always keeps in touch with yours' and I just found out about your husband. I am so very sorry to hear about your loss. Though I didn't know him personally I'm sure he was a very special individual. The obituary was such a special tribute to him. Though he will be missed I'm certain that wonderful memories of him will live on forever.*

*Please know that I'm thinking about you during this difficult time.*

*With my deepest sympathy.*

*Cathy Shechtman Kirschner###imported-begin###cathy shechtman kirschner###imported-end###*

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March 20, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Leslie and Family, thinking of you all during this sad time. I will always have fond memories of Mike and the many Psuedo's we spent together. What a great guy, taken much too soon. My heart goes out to you all. Love, Chuck###imported-begin###Chuck Giovanniello###imported-end###

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March 20, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Such a shock to hear the news. I was friends of friends of Mike and spent a lot of time with them years ago. Mike always struck me as one of the nicest people on earth, and when thoughts of the happiest times and most fun I've had come to mind, Mike and Leslie are always part of those memories, and so are their friends including Seth and LJ. There is no good explanation as to why these things happen; except as reminders of the what we should cherish most and value above all else. Mike and Leslie and their extended families and friends are examples of those things, and my memories of the times I've spent with them will always be a reminder of those things for me. Mike's children should know that their father left lasting impressions on many people and I don't mean just when he was practicing tae kwon do and he was what many would consider a great man. They should take immense pride in having known him as a person and for having him as their father.##imported-begin##Friend##imported-end##

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March 20, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ The Katz Family is deeply saddened by your loss of Mike. Years ago he inspired and motivated our Michael, and recently his courageous fight has reaffirmed what a special person he was....to Leslie and the kids we hope his memory will always inspire you and be strong in your hearts... Bobby and Debbie##imported-begin##bob and debbie katz##imported-end##

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March 20, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Leslie, you and Mike have touched our lives with your genuineness, generosity, friendship, and love. Mike will be missed by this family in a way that words could never convey. Love to you, Steph, Kelly, Lauren, and DJ. Always, Kelly, John, Annie, Erin, Ireland###imported-begin##Kelly Williams###imported-end##

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March 20, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Mike , we would laugh and talk about his games. He will be missed by all your friend and classmate. Paul Williams###imported-begin##paul williams###imported-end##

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March 19, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Leslie and kids, what can we say, we love you and we loved Mike. You guys always brought fun where ever we were. You hosted the best "Thunder parties" and those memories will be cherished as part of what is best about childrens' sports, the friendships made along the way. You and your family will remain in our hearts and our prayers. Love The Kycia's###imported-begin##Mary and Ed Kycia###imported-end##

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March 19, 2009 at 12:00 AM