



Michael J. Sullivan Sr.

December 21, 2023

It is with deep sorrow that we announce the passing of Michael J. Sullivan Sr., a beloved husband, father, friend, and leader. Michael passed away peacefully on December 21, 2023, surrounded by his loving family, leaving behind an indelible mark on the theatrical community and a legacy of dedication and service.

Born in Hartford, CT in 1934, Michael's life was one marked by integrity, compassion, and an unwavering commitment to his family and community. He was a beacon of strength and guidance to all who had the privilege of knowing him.

Michael was a devoted husband to his beloved wife Belinda for 51 years, and together they built a life filled with love, laughter, and unwavering support. His children were the pride and joy of his life, and he instilled in them the values of hard work, kindness, and perseverance.

He is survived by his children, Shannon Mary Sullivan-Laros and Curt Laros with grandchildren Helen Baker (Philip Rydzziel) and Grace Sullivan (Nelson Lora), Patrick Sullivan and Ellen Sullivan with granddaughter Sarah Sullivan (Tom Bussell), Lorena Sullivan, Michael Sullivan Jr. and Jennifer Sullivan with grandchildren Declan, Colin, Michael III, and Belinda, Virginia Sullivan-Caron and Richard Caron; Battista Sullivan and Kelly Sullivan, and Elizabeth Sullivan-Israel and Jesse Israel with grandchildren Moses, Victoria, Hunter,

and Logan. Michael's legacy lives on with his most beloved great grandchildren, Jackson, Emerson, and Violette. In his time outside of work, Michael enjoyed spending time with his grandchildren finding solace and joy in the simple pleasures of life. They always brought a smile to face.

Throughout his tenure as Hartford's Business Agent for Local 84 and the International Vice President of the IATSE, Mike Sullivan exemplified unwavering commitment and tireless advocacy for the welfare and rights of the union members. He was a beacon of strength, wisdom, and guidance, navigating through complex negotiations and tirelessly championing the interests of stage employees.

Professionally, Michael's career began when he received his local card in 1952 in the theater industry where his dedication and expertise earned him the respect and admiration of colleagues and peers. He was known for his exceptional leadership, keen intellect, and willingness to mentor those around him. He began working in the theaters in Hartford followed by years in New York City. Mike's passion for the arts and unwavering dedication to ensuring fair wages, safe working conditions, and equitable treatment for all union members were unparalleled. His vision and leadership have left an enduring impact, shaping the landscape of the theatrical and stage industry for generations to come.

A true pillar of the community, both in CT and in NYC, Michael's impact was felt far and wide. His wisdom, warmth, and infectious smile brightened the lives of everyone he encountered. He had an innate ability to make others feel valued and inspired, leaving an indelible mark on all who knew him.

Beyond his professional achievements, Mike was known for his warmth, compassion, and unwavering support for his family and community. He touched the lives of many with his kindness, leaving cherished memories and a profound legacy of camaraderie.

As the Mayor of Warrenton Avenue, Mike's departure leaves a void that will be deeply felt by all who had the privilege of knowing him. He always had time for his neighbors and welcomed great conversations as he sat on his bench keeping an eye out for everyone.

With a heavy heart, we bid farewell to a remarkable soul whose kindness knew no bounds. In honoring Mike's memory, let us carry forward his dedication and commitment to the values he held dear, ensuring that his legacy lives on in the hearts and actions of those he touched. Michael's memory will be our guiding light.

Michael J. Sullivan Sr. will be deeply missed. Though he has departed this world, his spirit will live on in the hearts of family and countless extended family members.

A celebration of Michael's life will be held on January 3, 2024 at Molloy Funeral Home. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the Entertainment Community Fund in honor of his memory.

May his soul rest in eternal peace, and may his legacy continue to inspire goodness in the world.

Funeral arrangements on January 3, 2024, will begin at 11:00-2:00 and 4:00-7:00 at Molloy Funeral Home, 906 Farmington Ave. West Hartford, CT 06119 After the evening performance there will be a celebration of life at Salute, Hartford

Previous Events

Calling Hours

JAN 3. 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM (ET)

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

Calling Hours

JAN 3. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

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

Tribute Wall

GF

“ Gardner Friscia purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Michael J. Sullivan Sr..



Gardner Friscia - January 02, 2024 at 02:49 PM

GF

“ Gardner Friscia planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Michael J. Sullivan Sr..

Gardner Friscia - January 02, 2024 at 02:49 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Michael J. Sullivan Sr..



January 02, 2024 at 11:56 AM

DS

“ Dan Di Tolla and Linda Sinofsky planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Michael J. Sullivan Sr..

Dan Di Tolla and Linda Sinofsky - January 02, 2024 at 11:56 AM

LL

“ The passing of the Patriarch of this Sullivan family has left all his wonderful family with heavy hearts. May they take solace in remembering how much he loved them, the life lessons he taught them and the many laughs they all enjoyed. His was a life well lived and his soul will now rest in peace. Most sincerely, Linda and Hal Laros

Linda and Hal Laros - December 31, 2023 at 10:24 PM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Michael J. Sullivan Sr..



December 30, 2023 at 11:18 AM

RB

“ Richard Beck Sr, Joseph and Richard Beck planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Michael J. Sullivan Sr..

Richard Beck Sr, Joseph and Richard Beck - December 30, 2023 at 11:18 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Michael J. Sullivan Sr..



December 28, 2023 at 08:17 AM

DR

“ Dennis Rudge planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Michael J. Sullivan Sr..

Dennis Rudge - December 28, 2023 at 08:17 AM

SA

“ To The Family & Friends Of Mr. Sullivan, He was a long time customer and always treated our employees with great respect. It was always a pleasure to talk with him. MAY HE REST IN PEACE & MAY PEACE BE WITH YOU ALL. DEEPEST CONDOLENCES FOR YOUR LOSS. SINCERELY SUSAN ADAMS (STATE AWNING CO)



Susan Adams - December 27, 2023 at 07:46 AM

CH

My sincere sympathies for your loss to all of Mike's family. My acquaintance with Mike and his brother, John, go back to Broadway when my Dad, Leo Herbert, was the Property Master for David Merrick and then, as I bravely followed working to pursue a career working backstage, my self as a Union stagehand in the early 1970's. I worked at the Kennedy Center in the bicentennial year and Mike was on the road crew. He told me I was the first woman he ever met who was doing this work. We had a great time that summer with all the big opera and ballet companies from around the world. Thanks to Mike and the other members of the road and house crew it was a fantastic learning experience. We saw each other often in future years as I went on to become a Road prop master, and as an always and still union activist, serving many elected offices and as delegate to conventions since attaining my Union Card. Thanks to all his family for keeping him happy and healthy. I hope my Dad, Leo, is there to greet him on the next stage in heaven.

cheri Herbert - January 02, 2024 at 04:30 PM