



Thomas Calello

September 5, 1937 - March 11, 2021

Thomas “Tom” Calello, age 83, was surrounded by his family when he passed peacefully on Thursday, March 11, 2021. Tom was born on September 5, 1937, and was the son of the late Sam (Serafino) Calello and Mary (Mariannina Purita) Calello. The Calello family immigrated from Spilinga in the region of Calabria, Italy, to Newark, New Jersey, around 1936 with their daughter, Josephine, making Tom the first in his family to be born on US soil.

After graduating Salutatorian in 1955 from East Side High School in Newark, NJ, where he served as Student Council President, Tom attended Rutgers University on academic scholarship and received his Bachelor’s degree in History and Economics in 1959. His athletic career began as an award winning bowler and baseball player in high school, and continued throughout college, the army, and beyond. He was an ardent patriot who served in the US Army from 1959 to 1965, stationed in Germany during the Berlin Crisis. His interest in sports continued as a semi-pro bowler for many years, even making headlines. Tom held a 35-year career on Wall Street in New York City as a Sales Executive for the Trans-Lux Corporation, and he retired in 2002 shortly after relocating to North Carolina.

He was a man of many talents, underscored by humility and steady confidence. Friend to the CEO, the broker, the doorman, and the bagel shop owner alike, he truly esteemed relationships. He was devoted to helping others realize a relationship with Jesus Christ and discover how much they were valued. He demonstrated a missionary’s heart, whether serving in prison ministry, opening his home for fellowships, or finding time to share the Gospel to whomever would listen.

He loved to spend quality time with his children and grandchildren, sharing his faith and love of Jesus, watching football, especially the Clemson Tigers and the Appalachian State Mountaineers, and listening to Elvis Presley music. Tom was a generous man who was loved and adored by many. It was an honor to walk alongside him in life. His endearing warmth and humor will surely be missed.

He is survived by his loving wife of 51 years, Virginia “Jeanie” (Bolin) Calello; three children: Marc Thomas (Monica) Calello of Todd, NC; Amy Calello (Jeremy) Chapman of Matthews, NC; and Steven Thomas (Misty) Calello of Marvin, NC; and a foster son, Christopher James Dettloff. In addition to his wife and children, he leaves to cherish his memories, eight grandchildren: Ava Grace Calello, Thomas Earl Calello, Marc Oliver Calello, Emeth Kai Calello; Hannah Lee Chapman, Noah Richard Chapman; Brycen Elise Calello, and Raelyn Noelle Calello.

Tom is also survived by his beloved sister, Josephine Calello (Thomas) Conlon of Cedarburg, WI, and many dear siblings in-law, nieces and nephews.

A virtual memorial service will be held on Sunday, March 21, starting at 4:00 PM Eastern Time. To access the live-stream or recorded service, email rsvp@calellos.com.

In lieu of flowers the family requests that donations be made in memory of Tom Calello to your choice of the following charities: Hospice and Palliative Care of Charlotte, Union County Team, located at 7845 Little Ave, Charlotte, NC 28226, or The Refinery Church (<http://www.refinerychurchclt.com>, 11231 Lawyers Rd, Mint Hill, NC 28227).

Comments



“ Uncle Tommy was wonderful and no one can say enough good things about him. He had such a presence about him that he could fill the whole house and was always so warm and welcoming. I remember one summer we came to visit Aunt Jeannie and the Calellos, I think it may have been for Marc and Monica's wedding, we had a great visit and were sad to go home. I don't remember how the subject came up but Uncle Tommy heard me mention that I had never had a mango before, he thought it was crazy. He made sure to pack us a special snack bag for the drive home, which had a mango and a papaya in it. Both were delicious but mangos became my favorite fruit ever since! I wish we could have spent more time together.

Katherine Hamann - March 21 at 06:17 PM