



John "Coach" Castellani

August 23, 1926 - May 11, 2021

John Louis Castellani passed away May 11, 2021 at the age of 94. Born in New Britain August 23, 1926, he was the only son of Louis and Sarah Hurley Castellani. He was predeceased by his sister Dorothy DiPietro, Nephew David & Diane Frederick and Sally Ann DiPietro Zyjewski .

John lived a full life. If he did have a bucket list I would say it was empty! He graduated from New Britain High School class of 1944. He played tennis, baseball, football, golf, basketball and was an avid sports fan! In 1944 he joined the Navy and was stationed on a PT boat in the Philippines. He graduated from the University of Notre Dame in 1951. While a student at Notre Dame he was a substitute teacher in an elementary school, Notre Dame's assistant basketball coach, head scout, physical education teacher, and had his own radio show on WNDU. From 1956-1959 John was head Basketball Coach and Athletic Director at Seattle University where he took the Chieftain's to the 1958 NCAA final game, which they lost by 12 points. He loved telling us all about the game and his star player Elgin Baylor. In 1959 he became Head Coach of the Minneapolis Lakers. He's a member of the Seattle University Hall of Fame, CIAC Hall of Fame and New Britain Sports Hall of Fame. John received his law degree from Marquette Law School in 1963. John practiced law in Milwaukee from 1963- 2018. He moved back to Connecticut in 2018. He traveled to so many places and met so many people and had so many friends.

He leaves behind his sister Elizabeth Castellani Frederick, many nieces and

nephews who he was always so proud of. Mark and Kathleen Frederick of Kensington, Gail and Peter Steele, Mary Beth Frederick, Laurie and Bob Laramie all of New Britain. Maryjane DiPietro, Linda and Bill Jordan, Paul and Robin DiPietro of West Hartford. Steven and Natalie DiPietro of Berlin, Kevin DiPietro of Floyd, VA; many great grandnieces and great grandnephews; and many good friends from the Sports World and Milwaukee that he loved sharing his life with.

John's family would like to extend a special thank you to Aziza & Lona for taking care of John's needs over the last year. He has left a big hole in many hearts. Rest In Peace. We will all miss you dearly.

Funeral services for John will be held Monday (May 17, 2021) 8:30 AM at Carlson Funeral Home, 45 Franklin Square followed by a Mass of Christian Burial 10 AM at St. Katherine Drexel Parish at St. Maurice Church, 100 Wightman Rd, New Britain. Burial with military honors will follow in St. Mary Cemetery. Carlson Funeral Home, New Britain is assisting the family with arrangements. Please share a memory or note of sympathy at www.carlsonfuneralhome.com

Cemetery Details

St. Mary Cemetery

1141 Stanley Street
New Britain, CT 06053

Previous Events

Calling Hours

MAY 17. 8:30 AM - 9:30 AM (ET)

Carlson Funeral Home
45 Franklin Square
New Britain, CT 06051
(860) 225-6361
carlsonfh@aol.com
<https://www.carlsonfuneralhome.com/>

Mass of Christian Burial

MAY 17. 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Maurice Church
100 Wightman Rd.
New Britain, CT

Tribute Wall

AZ

“ Dear John, I am very sad 😞
During the last 7 months that I was by your side you became part of my life. It was pleasure for me to take care of you. I know how bad you must have felt in recent few days and I have sincerely tried to ease your pain a little. 😞 Unfortunately... 😞
You are the best person I have ever known. I'm sure you're in the best place. You will always be in thoughts and prayers . Rest and peace 🙏

Aziza Shirin, Connecticut 😞

Aziza - May 16, 2021 at 07:25 PM

PC

“ Farewell, my friend. John and I spent many a Thursday evening discussing life and sport at his beloved Elsa's on the Park Bistro in Milwaukee. A truly interesting man. RIP

Phil Caruso
Milwaukee

Phil Caruso - May 15, 2021 at 03:39 PM

DB

Rest In Peace good friend. Good memories of a wonderful man. Dick Baker

Dick Baker - July 04, 2022 at 05:41 PM

TW

“ *His was a life they could have made a movie about. John was one of my best friends. And always will be.*

-Tim Van Wagoner from The Regency

Tim Van Wagoner - May 13, 2021 at 11:10 PM

MS

RIP Coach as you were larger than life. Our sympathies to family and friends from your Marquette University and Milwaukee friends! All the best! Michael Seramur

Michael Seramur - May 14, 2021 at 09:44 AM

MS

Full of fun and a good friend! Rest in Peace, John.

Mike Smith, Milwaukee

Mike Smith - May 14, 2021 at 07:58 PM

TK

John was a friend as he pursued his second career as a lawyer and bankruptcy trustee. He was the first of the panel trustees to welcome me after my appointment. He was always helpful when the UST needed a trustee appointment. He was always respectful to the debtors and attorneys who appeared before him. He had a long wonderful life. May he rest in peace at the end of this long journey.

Tom King, Oshkosh

Tom King - May 15, 2021 at 08:46 AM

JL

*John,
Was a outstanding person, over the years while he was in town we would run into each other and he always would like to know how my life was progressing. He was a class act and it was a honor to be in his company.*

Joe Lombardo

Joe Lombardo - May 17, 2021 at 05:40 PM



RIP John from your Milwaukee family, The Richards--Danny and Marlene

Dan and Marlene Richards - May 17, 2021 at 05:52 PM