



Gary J. Bellanca

December 15, 2021

Gary Bellanca passed peacefully as angels received him in heaven, with his wife by his side, at their home on Wednesday, December 15, 2021.

He was lovingly cared for by his devoted wife of 23 years. Together, they shared an unbreakable bond, a connection and partnership that brought them amazing joy and love. Always in sync with each other, from running their business to exploring every adventure life brought them, including the remarkable good times as well as the most difficult times ... side by side ... together. The love and commitment they shared for each other was strong and everlasting.

Gary was born in Flushing, NY to the late Salvatore J. Bellanca and Anna R. (Tricarico) Bellanca. He grew up in Long Island, NY. As the oldest of four he willingly became both role model and mentor to his younger siblings. He graduated from Kings Park High School and attended Suffolk Community and Assumption College. Gary was competitive and craved diversity in all aspects of life. He began his career in sales in Manhattan and after starting his family, relocated to Holden, Massachusetts, where he joined Wright Line, LLC in Sales and Marketing. There he spearheaded a sales team, published three books and various trade publication articles, was awarded two United States Patents, and received a Fortune 500 Company Innovators Award. His time in Massachusetts also brought him his second child and another career

opportunity in Pennsylvania at Cole Environments as Vice President of Business Development and Marketing. His desire to be a leader and have an impact on companies drove him to the next level and he took the leap and in 1988 he launched his own marketing consulting agency, Lancaster Marketing Innovations, Inc. (now known as LMI Advertising). Gary spent nearly two decades spearheading business-to-business marketing programs with emphasis on strategic and tactical planning, while overseeing the direction of his firm.

Gary was an avid runner (completing 7 marathons and numerous half marathons and smaller races). He thrived in the outdoors and enjoyed playing golf, hiking locally and on Mount Washington, ice climbing, biking, tennis, and skiing. He was well-read, appreciated all genres of music with a special devotion to The Beatles, liked gardening, socializing, art, and traveling. He also loved to root for his beloved Yankees and Giants.

Most importantly, Gary loved his family. He was a remarkable husband, amazing father of two, and endearing grandfather of five. He was an active participant in their lives from volunteering in classrooms to putting on magic shows and simply offering his full attention to each one of them.

Gary is survived by his wife of 23 years, Tina Bellanca; children, Roxanne Marangos, wife of John of Boca Raton, FL, Derrick Bellanca, husband to-be of Sarah of Lancaster. Grandchildren, Lily Bellanca, Madison Bellanca, Jackson Brahney, John Marangos III, Joseph Marangos. Siblings, Jeffrey Bellanca, husband of Marie, Mastic, NY, Diane Ray, wife of Scott, Kings Park, NY, and Carol Nickerson, wife of Michael, Northport, NY. He is also survived by numerous nieces and nephews.

In 2007, Gary was diagnosed with early on-set dementia and re-diagnosed with frontotemporal dementia. Always supporting causes that were near and

dear to him, Gary and his wife took their love of running to raise awareness and resources of his illness and created, A Race to Remember. To-date, their event has raised over \$542,000 to help fight frontotemporal dementia through vital research and essential support programs and services. Sharing their journey to the community, government officials, and local organizations offered ways to educate on what was often difficult times.

As he and his wife navigated the challenges of this devastating disease, the journey was arduous, educating, and painful to watch as the illness stole his memories, independence, control, before ultimately stealing his life.

The Bellanca family would also like to specially thank Gloria Florry for her care and watchful eye throughout his entire journey at home.

Family and friends are invited to Gary's Funeral Service on Wednesday, December 22, 2021 at 2 p.m. at St. John Neuman Catholic Church, 601 E. Delp Rd, Lancaster PA 17601 with Father Dan Powell officiating. Family will receive friends at the Church from 1 p.m. until the time of service. A Visitation will be held on Tuesday, December 21, 2021 at The Groff Family Funeral Home, 528 W. Orange St., Lancaster from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Alzheimer's Association designated for Frontotemporal research www.alz.org or St. John Neumann Catholic Church at www.sjnlancaster.org

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC **21**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

The Groffs Family Funeral and Cremation Services Inc
528 W Orange St.
Lancaster, PA 17603
(717) 394-5300
admin@thegroffs.com
<https://thegroffs.com/>

Visitation

DEC **22**. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

St. John Neumann Catholic Church
601 East Delp Road
Lancaster, PA 17601

Funeral Service

DEC **22**. 2:00 PM (ET)

St. John Neumann Catholic Church
601 East Delp Road
Lancaster, PA 17601

Tribute Wall



“ *The Groffs Family Funeral and Cremation Services Inc. created a Tribute Video in memory of Gary J. Bellanca*



The Groffs Family Funeral and Cremation Services Inc - December 21, 2021 at 02:54 PM



“ *The Groffs Family Funeral and Cremation Services Inc. created a Tribute Video in memory of Gary J. Bellanca*



The Groffs Family Funeral and Cremation Services Inc - December 21, 2021 at 10:50 AM

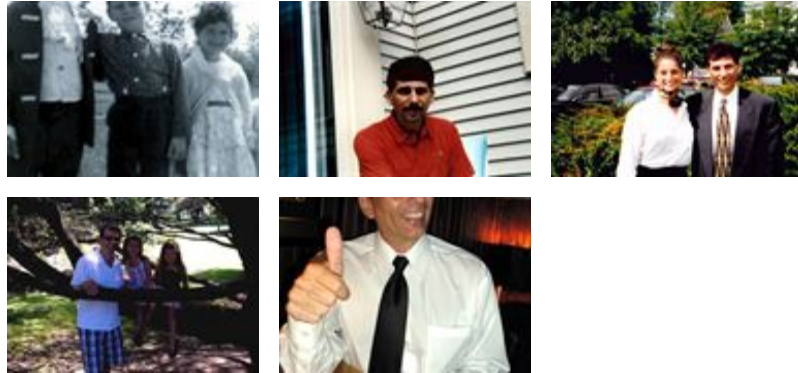


“ *Gary J. Bellanca*

October 22, 2023 at 11:34 PM



“ 163 files added to the album *LifeTributes*



The Groff's Family Funeral and Cremation Services Inc - December 20, 2021 at 04:52 PM



“ *Arrive in Style* was purchased for the family of *Gary J. Bellanca*.



December 20, 2021 at 04:38 PM



“ *Your Light Shines* was purchased for the family of *Gary J. Bellanca*.



December 20, 2021 at 04:15 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket* was purchased for the family of Gary J. Bellanca.



December 20, 2021 at 01:27 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet* was purchased for the family of Gary J. Bellanca.



December 19, 2021 at 10:10 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Gary J. Bellanca.



December 19, 2021 at 08:15 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of Gary J. Bellanca.



December 19, 2021 at 02:42 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Gary J. Bellanca.*



December 19, 2021 at 12:28 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Gary J. Bellanca.*



December 19, 2021 at 08:38 AM

LG

“ Our family will never be the same .Gary's larger than life personality was infectious. He was kind, patient, and always ready to plan an adventure. Mike and I will always remember the times we shared together hiking, boating, running, traveling, and just hanging out. Gary gave joy to our girls through endless games of UNO, magic carpet rides, Halloween costumes and parties, and innumerable adventures to include their first trip on a airplane. His impact on all of our lives will remain within our hearts forever.

Gary's devotion to Tina is one for the storybooks. He loved her tirelessly and she the same. We are grateful to have walked beside them both through the good and difficult times.

I am honored to have provided care to him throughout his journey.

We will miss you Gary but know we will meet again. As promised, we will take care of Tina.

Until we meet again our dear friend.

Mike and Lori

Lori Gerhart - December 19, 2021 at 07:23 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Gary J. Bellanca.



December 18, 2021 at 04:25 PM

RD

“ Rest in peace my old friend. Gary was a high school friend and i was devastated when Tina first told me as I had hoped to reconnect after so many years with him. in retrospect , he was a born leader. As we navigated through high school, after school on some evenings he would come over to my house where he was introduced to ping-pong. We'd play many games with each visit. Gary being Gary, he wanted to master the game. He bought a table and before long, he was unbeatable. We hadn't seen each other since since '72 when I left for CA. When Tina told me of his illness, I wanted to come to visit. Gary was a rock from all that I've heard and read. You will be missed old friend. Condolences to the whole family. Tina, I know you were Gary's rock, too. My heart is heavy as i send you my condolences

Sincerely,

Richard Delin

Class of '70

Richard Delin - December 18, 2021 at 04:18 PM