



Salvatore Vitale

January 18, 2020

Salvatore Vitale, 70, known to family and friends as Sal, died peacefully at home on Saturday January 18 after a 14 month battle with Leukemia. He was surrounded by family at the time of his passing and was lovingly supported by many friends throughout his illness.

Sal was born in New York City to Peter Vitale, Sr of Cinisi and Rose Palazzolo of Terrasini, Sicily. He is survived by his wife Judith, his stepson CJ Pedores, his daughter Faybra and son-in-law Josh Luke, his brothers Peter, Frank and Joe, and many close cousins and family members.

Sal first came to Tucson in 1971 to head a summer education program on San Carlos reservation. He got degrees in education and devoted the rest of his career to working with and helping special needs children. He was famously generous of his time and talent with his friends and family as well as his students, and his big heart and compassion will be greatly missed by everyone who knew him.

Visitation will be at Evergreen Mortuary on January 26, 2020 from 2:00 PM to 6:00 PM. Funeral Mass is scheduled for 2:00 PM on Monday January 27, 2020 at St. Odilia church. Burial to follow in Evergreen Cemetery.

Events

JAN **Visitation** 02:00PM - 06:00PM

26

Evergreen Mortuary

3015 North Oracle Road, Tucson, AZ, US, 85705

JAN **Mass** 02:00PM

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Saint Odilia Catholic Church

7570 N Paseo Del Norte, Tucson, AZ, US, 85704

Comments



“ Theodore C. purchased the Beautiful Heart Bouquet for the family of Salvatore Vitale.



Theodore C. - January 26, 2020 at 03:52 PM



“ Brian And Toby Laudenbach and family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Salvatore Vitale.



Brian And Toby Laudenbach and family - January 26, 2020 at 10:01 AM



“ Sigird Ekrut and Kris Ekrut purchased the Love Everlasting Bouquet for the family of Salvatore Vitale.



Sigird Ekrut and Kris Ekrut - January 24, 2020 at 05:41 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Salvatore Vitale.



January 23, 2020 at 10:51 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Salvatore Vitale.



January 23, 2020 at 10:42 PM



“ I miss you so much my dear, sweet friend. See you on the other side. I will watch over those you love, as promised. Be happy, fly free with the hawks



Annie Kaufman - January 22, 2020 at 07:49 PM



“ I was blessed to know and work very closely with my brother Sal at Pierson Middle School in the Nogales Public Schools. We were teachers and coaches together and I have many fond memories of this special man. His love and dedication to the students was his greatest gift to our community. Know that he was loved in return, by his students, their parents and those of us who were fortunate to know him and get close to him in our time as teachers at Pierson. Rest in Peace "Paisan", you left a mark in Nogales.

Javier "BJ" Barajas - January 22, 2020 at 02:28 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Salvatore Vitale.



January 22, 2020 at 01:54 PM



“ Sal and I became friends in 1972 and have been close friends ever since. Our career paths are closely parallel. We both attended Pima college then and transferred to the the University of Arizona the next year. In 1976 Sal and I earned our BS degrees in Education majoring in Rehabilitation. Simultaneously we both worked with intellectually and emotionally disabled students at various agencies. In 1987 Sal became a teacher of students with Special needs in the Nogales School District. Several years later Sal taught at Pueblo High School in TUSD. After retirement Sal continued to substitute in TUSD. His lifetime of dedication to advocating and educating those with disabilities is a testament to Sal’s devotion to family, friends and everyone who came in contact with him. Rest In Peace my friend.

Brian Laudenschach - January 21, 2020 at 03:47 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Salvatore Vitale.



January 21, 2020 at 11:37 AM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Salvatore Vitale.



January 21, 2020 at 09:43 AM



“ R.I.P Sal
From your friends in Ireland.



Sean O'Dowd - January 21, 2020 at 09:41 AM



“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Sean O'Dowd - January 21, 2020 at 09:02 AM



“ R.I.P Sal
From all your friends in Ireland.
Thanks for the great memories it was an honour to call you my friend.

Sean O'Dowd - January 21, 2020 at 09:00 AM



“ Well, Sal, now you know what it's all about. Rest in peace my friend and know how much you are loved. You will be missed but with only the fondest of memories. I'll never forget your kindness in taking Tara to NY, their first Communion and as the proud Dad at Faybra's wedding. You gave many the best life. May you rest in peace.
Jane

Jane Dugas - January 20, 2020 at 05:52 PM



“ Sal, I will always remember the kind and thoughtful person that you were' I enjoyed working with you at Pueblo high school back in the 90's. I was then fortunate to meet up with you again years later at Catalina high school' You were a great educator, and you always put your heart first' May you rest in peace my friend'
My thoughts and prayers are with all'
Wanda



Wanda Pacheco - January 20, 2020 at 04:12 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Salvatore Vitale.



January 20, 2020 at 10:49 AM



“ Sal, you’ve been part of all our girls lives ever since I can remember. You were a spicy tough Sicilian but kind and got a kick out of us girls and our constant shenanigans. An adventurous spirit and a million thousand countless friends from literally all over the globe. Whenever I think of racquetball, gold Honda’s, huge trampolines in backyards, old classic Nissan sport cars, or hear Roxanne by The Police I think of you. Your driving used to scare the sh#t out of me at first but after a few times in the car with you I realized you were a skilled driver and I’ll never forget watching you maneuver the steering wheel of your gold Honda single handedly while singing some classic rock song on the radio while we were in the car. Your smart little smirk and shaking of your head when you thought us girls were being ridiculous and we absolutely were of course. Or the time you screamed at Faybra and I in your thick New York accent when we named our science project “Jizzy Juice” and made a huge poster board of those exact words our freshman year in high school because we were so clueless and innocent to what that word meant and then when you cracked up at us when you realized we were absolutely clueless. I remember your face softening instantly when we were like: “what?!” Probably super inappropriate to post but these are my most honest hilarious and cherished memories of you Sal. Watching you dance with Faybra when she married her love at her wedding. Always giving good financial advice! You were loved by many and will be missed greatly. My heart aches for you Faybra. My heart is with you

Gina Watters - January 19, 2020 at 11:45 PM