



CARMINE L. PENNELLA

June 3, 1937 - January 8, 2026

Carmine L. Pennella, age 88, of Moravia N.Y. died peacefully after a sudden illness on January 8, 2026 with family at his side.

He is survived by his daughters Lisa (Jerome Witkin) and Annie (Thomas Chichester), daughter-in-law Marcie Pennella, grandchildren Jacob and Carly, sisters Rose Greenland and Judy (Gene) Letukas, many nieces and nephews, dear family friend Christine Rice and his golden retriever, Gracie. He was predeceased by his wife Josefa, son Nick and grandson, Andrew Witkin.

Carmine was born in Nanticoke, PA and graduated from Bloomsburg State College and Temple University. He had an impactful career as an English teacher at Moravia Central High School including co-teaching college English via Syracuse University Project Advance and winning Teacher of the Year multiple times. He retired in 1994.

Carm was a man of many interests and amusements: wrestling coach, lover of poetry, tennis player, inaugural member of the Millard Fillmore Memorial Fantasy Football League (Est. 1981), musician, singer, actor, theater director, bridge and billiards hustler, lepidopterist, car enthusiast and hobby farmer. His easy charm, insightful humor, unflinching generosity and compassion made Carm a beloved friend to many including a legion of former students, teaching colleagues, neighbors and fellow enthusiasts.

Calling hours will be held Saturday, January 17th at BAGOZZI TWINS FUNERAL HOME, 2601 Milton Ave, Solvay N.Y. from 11 am until 2 pm. Remarks and remembrances will be given at 1 pm during calling hours.

The family would like to thank SUNY Upstate Community Hospital Emergency Department for providing exceptional care and kindness during his short stay. In lieu of flowers, donations in Carmine's honor may be made to inmyfatherskitchen.org which provides food, clothing and support to homeless individuals or Upstatefoundation.org grateful patient program. Please share online memories and tributes at www.bagozzitwins.com.

Previous Events

Calling Hours

JAN 17. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (ET)

BAGOZZI TWINS FUNERAL HOME
2601 Milton Avenue
Solvay, NY 13209
info@bagozzitwinsfh.com
<http://www.bagozzitwins.com>

Remarks and Remembrances

JAN 17. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

BAGOZZI TWINS FUNERAL HOME
2601 Milton Avenue
Solvay, NY 13209
info@bagozzitwinsfh.com
<http://www.bagozzitwins.com>

Tribute Wall

MS

“ Dear Lisa And Annie, your father and your mother were such a blessing to Don and me. We cherish our memories and send our heartfelt condolences to you and they were greatly loved.

Mary Stevens - March 08 at 12:04 PM

JS

“ Carmine was unique and gifted in so many ways. It was a lucky day for the town of Moravia when Carm accepted a position at MCS. One of my favorite memories is the summer spent rehearsing for Moravia Community Theater’s production of “Music Man.” We had an outstanding cast with all major roles played by talented actors and musicians, but the show stopping scenes featured the Pennellas. Josefa was perfectly cast as the mayor’s wife, Eulalia Mackecknie Shinn, and Carm became the penultimate Music Man. No one, including Robert Preston, played that role better than Carm Pennella.
My condolences to the many friends of the Pennellas. They brought great energy and joy to the whole village of Moravia, and may there be a heavenly choir softly singing as you rest in peace.

Judith Shearer - January 17 at 11:25 AM

ML

“ I never had the pleasure of knowing Carmine, but I've always heard he was a great person, and I'd like to send my condolences to Lisa, Jerome, and the rest of the family. Marie Lamb

Marie Lamb - January 16 at 01:23 PM

CW

“ An incredibly kind, empathetic with a wonderful sense of humor! Will miss you, Carmen. C

CHRISTIAN R WITKIN - January 15 at 10:02 PM

PK

“ Carm played the lead in Music Man for Moravia's Community Theater many years ago, when my parents, Dave and Vera Wood were also cast members. Carm's portrayal of that marvelous con man, Harold Hill, was the subject of our family's pure enjoyment of Carm's theatrical abilities and still brings a smile. Please know that Carm leaves a legacy of humor, kindness and a brilliant, curious mind. with my deepest sympathy, Pat Kinney

Patricia M Kinney - January 15 at 04:25 PM

IW

“ Carmine will be in my heart for a lifetime. Will miss him at his beautiful family home in the Moravia summers.



india witkin - January 14 at 10:34 AM

KM

“ Karin, Karla, Debbie, Kevin, Mike & Marty purchased the Fairest of All for the family of CARMINE L. PENNELLA.



Karin, Karla, Debbie, Kevin, Mike & Marty - January 13 at 01:09 PM

FS

“ Annie: I am very sorry to see your dad passed. My thoughts are with you and your family at this time.

Fran Swiecki - January 13 at 09:31 AM

JL

“ Jerry Lawrence purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of CARMINE L. PENNELLA.



Jerry Lawrence - January 13 at 09:04 AM

JL

“ Jerry Lawrence planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of CARMINE L. PENNELLA.

Jerry Lawrence - January 13 at 09:04 AM