

Michael R. Ferrara of Yardville, New Jersey

July 7, 1945 - March 9, 2020

Michael R. Ferrara, 74, of Hamilton, NJ, passed away on Monday, March 9, 2020 at Pennsylvania Hospital in Philadelphia after a long and courageous battle with cancer.

Born on July 7, 1945, Michael was the son of Leontine (Donini) Ferrara and Philip Ferrara. Michael attended Ewing High School, class of 1963. He received a Bachelor of Science from the University of Maryland College Park in 1967 and was a proud member of the Sigma Chi Fraternity. After college in 1967, he began his State career with the NJ Department of Transportation where he met the love of his life, Karen (Rogoza). They were married on April 12, 1969. He served in the United States Air Force from March 1968-March 1972. During that time, Michael and his new bride were stationed in Kansas City, MO, Ankara, Turkey and Tullahoma, TN. Michael was awarded the Air Force Commendation Medal for Meritorious Service. Upon leaving the military, Michael returned to NJ where he and Karen settled in Hamilton. He served with distinction in the Office of Management and Budget beginning in 1972, in a series of positions including Acting Director and State Comptroller. He was honored with lifetime membership to NASBO (National Association of State Budget Offices) in 2000. He retired from the state in 2000 and began a new career at Rutgers University New Brunswick as Assistant Director of the Office of Budget and Resource Studies. Michael retired from Rutgers in 2015. Michael loved all sports but was an avid NY Yankees and Philadelphia Eagles fan. He was the longtime treasurer for the Steinert Spartan baseball team. He was full of life and had an unparalleled sense of humor. He loved crossword puzzles, Sudoku and watching TV. He also loved to sing and dance. But most of all, Mike loved his family. His favorite pastime was watching his children and grandchildren participate in all their many activities. He will be forever in the hearts of those who knew and loved him.

He is survived by his loving wife of 50 years, Karen; children, Renee (David) Szkubiel and Nicholas (Carrie) Ferrara; his grandchildren who he adored, Jacob and Zachary Szkubiel and Ashlynn and Addison Ferrara; his siblings, Karen (Erik) Catob and Philip Thomas Ferrara (Caroline); his sister-in-law Kimberlee (Kenneth) D'Andrea; his brothers-in-law, Kenneth (Joy) Rogoza and Kevin (Jennifer) Rogoza; his many special nieces and nephews, Donna Catob, Laurie (Harry) Whetstone, Lisa Catob, Jennifer Commiso, Amanda Rogoza, and Christa (Sean) Meara; his great-nephews/Godsons, Devin Smith and Jayson Commiso; his great-nephew Michael Catob; his great-niece Tara Whetstone; as well as aunts, cousins and many friends especially his lifelong friends, Vince (Jane) Perelli, Gary (Linda) Thorn and Robert (Sally) Segal. He was predeceased by his parents, Leontine (Donini) Ferrara and Philip Ferrara; his in-laws John and Eleanor (Bogdan) Rogoza; his sister-in-law Kristine Szul; and his nephews Erik Catob Jr. and Jason Szul.

Visiting hours for relatives and friends will be held on Monday, March 16, 2020, from 5:00pm-8:00pm at the Buklad-Merlino Yardville Memorial Home, 30 Yardville-Allentown Road, Yardville, NJ. A mass

of Christian burial will be celebrated on Tuesday, March 17, 2020, at 11:00am at St. Vincent DePaul Roman Catholic Church, 555 Yardville-Allentown Road, Yardville, NJ. Interment will follow in Saints Peter & Paul Cemetery, Cedar Lane, Hamilton.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105.

Services

Visitation

Monday, March 16, 2020

5:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Buklad-Merlino Memorial Homes, Inc. - Yardville

30 Yardville Allentown Rd

Yardville, New Jersey 08620

Funeral Service

Tuesday, March 17, 2020

11:00 AM

St. Vincent dePaul Church

555 Yardville-Allentown Road

Yardville, New Jersey 08620

Graveside Service

Tuesday, March 17, 2020

12:15 PM

Saints Peter & Paul Cemetery

Cedar Lane (entrance is across the street from 1200 Cedar Lane - St. Mary's)Cemetery

Hamilton, New Jersey 08610

There will be no public calling hours at the funeral home prior to the mass on Tuesday morning. Please arrive a few minutes early to Church, as the services begin at 11:00am at the church with the Mass of Christian burial