



Mr. Luigi Cesare Lavagnino

April 15, 1943 - November 10, 2017

Luigi Cesare Lavagnino was born in 1943 in Catania, Sicily. He was the son of Pietro Guiseppe Lavagnino of Genoa and Rosalia Catania of Catania, Sicily. He often spoke of his childhood in Catania fondly, where he was raised by extended family Aunt Tina and Uncle Luigi who owned a furniture business. He was taught about the business in the hopes that he would take it over one day. In school, Luigi excelled in Mathematics and Physics. He dreamed of becoming an architect. At middle school age, he attended a seminary at his aunt's bidding and studied with the Salesians to become a priest.

His time in Catania ended abruptly when his father in Genoa became gravely ill. He returned there to finish his education, graduating as a "Geometer" – which is the first step to becoming a full architect and permits the design of buildings up to four stories. Luigi carried this love of design his whole life, no matter what path his career took. He designed and oversaw the renovation of his home in Bolton Hill and extended this same love of design to the creation of his backyard garden, which was a haven for Luigi and his family and friends.

Luigi came to America in 1961, seeing this country as a land of tremendous opportunity. He earned a degree in Mathematics and landed a job with Western Electric, a division of Bell Labs, as an electrical engineer. He saw his opportunity to give back to this country and enlisted in the army, completed green beret training, and fought in Vietnam where he was wounded and medaled. Upon his return to the United States, he returned to school earning

an M.B.A. and an M.S. in Finance from Loyola University. In 1973 he took an opportunity with Commercial Credit where he worked initially as a systems and financial analyst and then as Chief Financial Officer of their International Banking Division. He left Commercial Credit in 1986 to start his own business with his friend of now over 40 years, Jim Billings in real estate development and property management, which combined his love of design, his early training in his uncle's business, and his experience at Commercial Credit. Luigi married Melanie Alfano in 1986 and together they have a son, Peter. Luigi was able to continue his passion for Mathematics as he taught his son who also had the same passion. He was very proud of his family, preferring to spend time with his son in his garden talking about Math and Philosophy. He also enjoyed cooking for and with his family, and taught his son how to cook. Friends and family enjoyed many holidays and pot lucks that included some of Luigi's specialties – Lasagna, Gnocchi con Pesto, Sicilian Leg of Lamb to name a few.

Luigi touched many lives and will be remembered for his quick wit, sense of humor and strong pursuit of what is true.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the St. Cecilia Society of St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 1900 St. Paul Street, Baltimore, MD 21218 or the Vietnam Veterans of America, 8719 Colesville Road, Suite 100, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

Wake Service 7:30 p.m., Monday November 20th
Monsignor Richard Bozzelli presiding.

Funeral Service 11:00 a.m., Tuesday November 21st

Dr. Brannon, presiding

Remembrances from the Billings Family – Jim, Judy, Jenny and Sarah

Eulogy – Peter Lavagnino

Interment immediately following Funeral Service at Dulaney Valley Memorial Gardens.

Cemetery Details

Dulaney Valley Memorial Gardens

200 E. Padonia Road
Timonium, MD 21093
<http://www.dulaneyvalley.com>

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV **20**. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Mitchell - Wiedefeld Funeral Home, Inc.
6500 York Road
Baltimore, MD 21212
(410) 377-8300
general@mwfuneralhome.com

Visitation

NOV **20**. 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM (ET)

Mitchell - Wiedefeld Funeral Home, Inc.
6500 York Road
Baltimore, MD 21212
(410) 377-8300
general@mwfuneralhome.com

Funeral Service

NOV **21**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Mitchell - Wiedefeld Funeral Home, Inc.
6500 York Road
Baltimore, MD 21212
(410) 377-8300
general@mwfuneralhome.com

Tribute Wall

AP

“ *Mi dispiace scoprire su Internet che mio cugino non c'è più. Ho provato a chiamare più volte voi e zia Rosalia e ho lasciato messaggi. Solo ora capisco. Zia Nuccia è sempre stata molto affezionata a Voi e le è dispiaciuto non sentirvi più. Non le dirò di Luigino. Preferisco che ricordi i giorni felici che avete trascorso a Roma con lei. I love you. Anna Rita e famiglia*

anna rita petrini - July 30, 2018 at 12:46 PM

DD

“ *I was truly shocked to learn of Luigi's passing. My thoughts and prayers are with all of you, especially Mama Rosa. Luigi was a wonderful man---it just wasn't meant to be.*
Dotti Lavagnino Dunham

Dotti Lavagnino Dunham - November 19, 2017 at 08:57 AM

JB

“ *Melanie and Peter,
Our hearts are broken.
Luigi was bigger than life and we cherish all our memories!!!
We love you!
Hugs
The Billings Family*



judy billings - November 18, 2017 at 10:32 AM

JB

“ *Judy Billings lit a candle in memory of Mr. Luigi Cesare Lavagnino*



judy billings - November 18, 2017 at 10:25 AM