



Salvatore LaRocca

July 26, 1950 - October 26, 2023

Sal was born on July 26, 1950 in San Francisco CA to his late parents Joseph & Beverly LaRocca, and passed away on October 26th, 2023 in Santa Rosa CA. He grew up in a large Italian American family in San Francisco and Daly City, alongside his cherished brothers - Joseph, Steven, and Tony LaRocca.

Beyond the hustle and bustle of city life, Sal found solace in the serene landscapes of Petaluma. It was here that he embraced the country lifestyle, finding joy in owning horses, and continuing his passion for running. Sal wasn't just a casual runner; he took to it with the same vigor he applied to everything in life, even participating in the renowned Dipsea race.

He had a lifelong career in the grocery and food business, with Petrini's and Mollie Stones, that would eventually lead him to a fulfilling second career with a local wine distributor in Santa Rosa. Even after retirement, his love for the community and his work saw him continuing a part-time job at Fircrest Market.

He was a true Bay Area sports fan, and was passionate about the 49ers, Warriors, and Giants. Sal's proudest role was that of a father to his beloved daughter, Tara, and grandfather to Sofia and Ella. His love for them was boundless, and his legacy will undoubtedly live on through them. His spirit will forever remain in the hearts of those he touched. May he rest in peace.

Family and friends are invited to attend a Memorial Mass at St. Rose Catholic Church, 398 10th Street in Santa Rosa, CA on Friday December 1, 2023 at 10:30 AM. In lieu of flowers, the family request's a charitable donation in his memory to the St. Jude's Children Hospital <https://www.stjude.org/> or your favorite charity.

Previous Events

Memorial

DEC 1. 10:30 AM (PT)

St. Rose Catholic Church
398 10th Street
Santa Rosa, CA 95401

Tribute Wall



“ *Missing you, Sal.*

Irene Vogel - December 10, 2023 at 06:24 PM

EM

“ Nonno was never afraid to die
He would always joke about how he didn't think he'd make it to 40
a lot of you have probably heard About his near death experience
when he was in a car incident as a child
But it made him feel a connection to God all his life
And All of his life he was fulfilled
I always hear about people getting older and regretting not doing
things before the end
And it wasn't that he did all of these extravagant things but he was
just proud of his life
His little life
He took care of us
He was proud of his family and all of our accomplishments and had
an insatiable amount of love for us
He appreciated his family and friends and everything he had
He supported each and every one of our goals no matter how crazy
they may be
Although he was never worried about dying with so much of his life
fulfilled, he was always concerned for his family to be alone and not
taken care of
No matter how hard it was at the end he kept a smile on his face,
He was positive for us even if there was not so positive news
(And all of you knew his humorous and silly personality) he cracked
jokes left and right
He wanted to make us laugh and wanted to see a smile on our
faces
He didn't want us to worry about him and insisted that he was
feeling great although that may not have been the case
Even when he was unconscious and fighting in the end he fought so
hard through his pain to squeeze us, to open his eyes ever so
slightly, to move his feet
He even woke up and laughed one time when he heard my mom
laughing
Literally came out of consciousness to laugh
And in the end, he gave me a smile the last day I saw him
And when I was saying goodbye to him after a day of rain and

*gloom, the clouds disappeared and the sun came shining through
the windows of the living room filling the room with streams of light
just brightening up the room*

And it felt like he was shining this light on me

The same light that radiated from him everytime i saw him

He truly lit up the room

And on this day, he reminded me that he would always still be there.

*Although it may not be physically and I won't be able to see that
smile or hear his voice Ill always know he's with me and he's proud
of me*

*Everything I do is for him because I know that he loves to watch me
accomplish my dreams*

We love you nonno



Ella Milante - December 01, 2023 at 03:15 AM

SO

“ i knew my nonno sal as i knew him to be since i was little , remembering him for appearing harder looking but actually being soft, a strong and sensitive man with silvery white hair and piercing wolf-like eyes. from the beginning i looked up to my nonno and saw this white angel protector of some sorts. even in the very few memories i have from childhood he always stood in front of me as this kind of white light. i didn't think much of it, just thought it was mostly because of , again, the white hair and maybe because i only knew of him wearing mostly lighter colored clothes. years i knew of the story of my nonno as a child and the car accident that sent him to the ' in between ' temporarily . he was in a coma for days but i'm sure it felt like years for his family. for anyone that hasn't heard the story which may be none of you , my nonno said he saw himself from above, looking down at himself in the hospital bed, his mother beside him and the priest reading his last rights. he remembered this glowing bright light too. but he was told by whatever or whoever that it was not his time. eventually, my nonno woke up. and it was obvious , his life would be changed forever. or at least his view of life. this and my belief that he has always been an intuitive and maybe slightly existential person was a result of values that followed my nonno through his entire life. and this is one of the many things i felt connected to him with. the idea that regardless of where we go or who or what we might become, our duty on this earth is to love and laugh and as long as we remain kind while doing so, follow our dreams despite undeniable hardships and obstacles we will face. it's all worth it.

despite identifying by a dreamer- whether or not that were to be met with encouragement or judgment - i was lost for a while. it was really really hard for a long time. i remember in the thick of this time in my life i was sitting with miguel, i was helping him with school work i think and i got a call from my nonno. now my mind is not great at remembering every little said thing from past conversations but the parts i do remember pretty clearly ill never forget.

i admit im not great at getting back to people but whenever my

nonno wanted to talk even on text ,i wouldn't think twice to answer right away. we said our hi's and how are you when then he immediately asked me how things were going with my writing and all that. i probably sounded a bit thrown off cus with the way i was feeling i had hardly been fantasizing for probably a few months about my dreams which i normally would do daily. he was like "ah" . which was his my nonnos response to answers he was disappointed in , like "yeah.ok" i told him i had yet to submit one of my completed scripts somewhere but i had many other ideas for scripts , which was true. one of them being a story inspired by him and his brothers. he sounded pretty satisfied with that answer . he then went on to say that i can't give up and he believed in me. he kept repeating "you're gonna do it " "i know you're gonna do it " i told him he'd have to fight with my mom to be my date at the oscars when i'm nominated for best screenplay . he laughed but seriously said "i don't need to be there but ill be watching "

*nonno,
i love you and i miss you. don't be afraid to come visit me either here in person or in my dreams, in any shape or form. i'll know it's you .*



sofia - November 30, 2023 at 07:27 PM



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



November 30, 2023 at 01:43 PM

TL

“ 4 files added to the tribute wall



Tara LaRocca - November 25, 2023 at 12:13 AM

TL

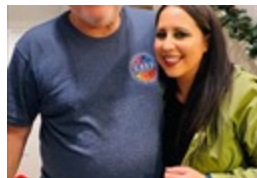
Papa & Me ❤️❤️

Tara LaRocca - November 25, 2023 at 12:13 AM



“ I have so many memories with you, Uncle.. core memories of you carving Thanksgiving turkeys, being my only client when I was a Notary, having Uncle/Niece lunches, talking on the phone about politics for hours, and dancing crazy at my wedding, and calling you for life advice.

Your sense of humor always made me tilt my head and smile! Lol Always joking, but sure loved hard. I love you and am thinking of you especially today on Thanksgiving. I miss you.



Danielle LaRocca - November 23, 2023 at 11:57 AM

TL

He loved you!! 🥰❤️

Tara LaRocca - November 25, 2023 at 12:15 AM

DL

Danielle!! He so loved you and being with his family. ❤️

Dorene L. Lucchesi - November 25, 2023 at 02:08 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Salvatore LaRocca.

November 14, 2023 at 10:52 PM

YJ

“ *Sal has been my brother-in-law for the past 20 years. We are both spouses and/or partners of sister and brother Irene (Spiteri) Vogel and Dave Spiteri. The four of us shared quality time and 20 years of memories. One time we spent two weeks together in the country of Malta, burning the candles at both ends. But it still wasn't enough time to visit Sal's beloved Sicily.*

Sal and I have another shared experience: we both attended St. Anthony's Catholic Elementary School in San Francisco at the same time. 1st -3rd grades, but we couldn't remember each other.

Sal was fun-loving and witty with a personality plus. He was smart and knew something about everything. He was an extravagantly good cook. Sal was a laid-back, easy-going dude, but he could certainly relish a feisty debate when in disagreement. I will miss all of these things about our dear Sal.

Here is a photo of the four of us about to go to Mass in Malta.

Yvette (McCamey) James



Yvette James - November 06, 2023 at 08:31 PM

DS

“ We had some fun times together. I enjoyed sharing our tequila. Car shows and our Mexico cruise will always be with me. Rest in peace.



David Spiteri - November 04, 2023 at 09:41 PM

DL

“ Sal you left us way too soon! You always cared deeply for your family and always put them first. We shared a wonderful daughter and two beautiful granddaughters and over 50 years of wonderful memories of times with family and friends. These will not be forgotten. You will be missed. Love, Dorene

Dorene L. Lucchesi - November 03, 2023 at 05:57 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Salvatore LaRocca.

November 02, 2023 at 07:34 PM

MR

“ *What a blessing to be part of the LaRocca extended family. Sal was definitely his own man and a true character and force to be reckoned with. One minute he could make you laugh and the next minute cry.*

I love you Tara and Dorene, and even though you may not remember me, Sofia and Ella, you girls are delightfully sweet and smart. His eyes lit up whenever he heard your name or talked about you.

I am so glad I got to spend a little time with him in the past few months. His smiling eyes are forever in my eyes and heart. And now for sure he knows what all of us are doing all of the time! At least that's what I believe happens when you're in Heaven.



Mary Frances Christine Ruffatto (Rambeaux Deuteronomy ☐ too)



Mary F. Ruffatto - November 02, 2023 at 07:33 PM

JL

“ *He was hard to understand but he did save me once. He was fun to be with when things went well. I miss you love Joe*

Joseph LaRocca - November 02, 2023 at 07:29 PM



“ *Joseph LaRocca lit a candle in memory of Salvatore LaRocca* ”



Joseph LaRocca - November 02, 2023 at 07:25 PM



Tara LaRocca - November 25, 2023 at 12:16 AM