



Daniel E. Valente

December 20, 1953 - December 20, 2015

Daniel E. Valente, 62, passed away on Sunday, December 20, 2015 at home, surrounded by his family. He was born in Romulus, NY on October 6, 1953 and was adopted soon after by the late Frank and Marie Valente. Dan, as he was known to most, graduated from Conard High School in 1971 and soon after spent two months traveling across the country to Alaska with a close friend. Upon his return he started his career in the printing and bindery industry at Cricket Press in West Hartford. Over his 50-year career he worked his way up to Vice President of Operations at Connecticut Valley Bindery, where he worked until his retirement.

He married Candace Baker in 1973, and they welcomed their first daughter Melinda in 1976 and their second daughter Sarah in 1977.

Dan was active with the West Hartford Girls' Softball League for 23 years, starting as a coach in 1983. He eventually became President of the league, while continuing to run pitching clinics during the winter months.

Dan was a talented musician, learning to play the bass guitar in junior high school. He played in a wide variety of bands over the past five decades, including rock and roll, new age, country, and blues.

Dan is survived by his sister, Donna Valente of West Hartford; daughter Melinda Valente and her husband Kenchy Ragsdale and their son Dashiell, all of Los Angeles, CA; daughter Sarah Quirk and her husband Tom Quirk and their children Dominic and Evan, all of West Hartford; and his former wife Candy, with whom he remained close friends.

The family would like to thank the doctors and nurses at the Smilow Cancer Center at Yale New Haven Hospital, the doctors and nurses at Saint Francis Hospital, and the nurses and staff from the Masonicare Partners Hospice team.

A Funeral Mass will be held on Monday, December 28, at 10:00 a.m. at St. Thomas the Apostle Church, 872 Farmington Avenue, West Hartford, CT. Calling hours will take place

on Sunday, December 27, from 2:00 – 6:00 p.m. at the Taylor & Modeen Funeral Home, 136 South Main Street, West Hartford, CT. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the CT Brain Tumor Alliance (www.ctbta.org) or the National Brain Tumor Society (www.brainumor.org). For directions and online condolences, please visit www.taylorandmodeen.com.

Comments



“ My sincere condolences to the family and friends of Dan.

Elizabeth - CT - January 11, 2016 at 12:00 AM



“ Dan was one of my closest friends throughout high school. I left West Htfd after graduation, but Dan would call to wish me a happy birthday for many, many years. I did not realize my brother, Shawn Leonard, also had a connection to Dan. They and their friends often performed music together. I'm sorry for your loss.

Carol Leonard Parker - Nashua, NH - January 08, 2016 at 12:00 AM



“ My second Munchkin & Dan you know who is the first. You bring happiness to my life with special moments I will always remember (want some ice cream). So glad I got to see you in Sept of 2014 I will see you again, till then love & hugs to you.

Barbara Battisto - San Deigo, CA - January 04, 2016 at 12:00 AM



“ My deepest sympathies to the family and friends of Dan. He was a special person, always willing to go above and beyond. He was of great assistance in training me at Hitchcock Printing. He was ever patient and thorough. He was very easy to work with and just a terrific guy. Enjoyed his music, too. My prayers are with you.

Pat Cote - Berlin, CT - December 29, 2015 at 12:00 AM



“ Coach Dan helped start my pitching career when I played for the Red Sox. He got me started and then kept coaching me for many years. He gave me a great foundation in good pitching technique that I kept with me throughout my career in high school. Thanks, Coach Dan! I will always remember you!

Madison Manning - West Hartford, CT - Student - December 27, 2015 at 12:00 AM



“ The loss of Dan is so sad.He was a high quality person who was such a joy to be a friend of.We traded guitars for so many years.....always such a pleasure.No bad stories or words about Dan....beyond reproach.If anybody is going to Heaven,it is Dan.We will always miss him.I will always miss him.May he rest in Peace.

A friend - December 26, 2015 at 12:00 AM



“ Dan was a dear friend that I've known since 1960 and there are too many memories to list, all of them good. He will be greatly missed.

Konrad Frank - Mesa, AZ - Friend - December 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM



“ I will miss my walking partner and the many conversations and thoughts we shared on these walks. You will be missed!

Debra Hunter - West Hartford, CT - Friend - December 24, 2015 at 12:00 AM



“ My heartfelt condolences to the Valente family. My dad and I enjoyed our time with Dan while coaching in the softball league. We convinced him to come back to the league, well after his term as president had ended, to coach with us as our team's primary pitching coach. He quickly learned that the Red Sox was not just a team, but a family. Lovingly named Coach Noodle, he was instantly welcomed into our softball family. He always knew what to say to the pitchers to help them calm down when their nerves were starting to take over, and the girls loved to joke around with him, especially when he was "pretending" to be very serious. We will all miss Dan and his smile.

Stephanie Bernabeo - December 23, 2015 at 12:00 AM



“ We will always remember Dan's quiet friendly manner over our many many years of acquaintance. Our thoughts and prayers are sent to all of his family through this difficult time of loss.

Craig & Donna McGlinchey - Moodus, CT - Friends - December 23, 2015 at 12:00 AM