



Nino L. Bonavito

SEP 5, 1931 - MAR 23, 2017



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Nino L. Bonavito

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Nino L. Bonavito, age 85 of Rehoboth Beach, DE, passed away on Thursday, March 23, 2017, at Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center in Baltimore, MD. He was born on September 5, 1931 in White Plains, NY, son of the late Louis and Anna (Brescia) Bonavito.

Dr. Bonavito was born and raised in White Plains New York. He was a 1954 graduate of Fordham University where he earned a bachelor's degree in Physics and went on to obtain a Masters and PhD in Physics from the Catholic University of America in Washington DC. After a civilian scientist internship with the Ballistics Research Laboratory at the U.S. Army Aberdeen Proving Ground in Maryland, and service in the Army as an instructor at the Air Defense Artillery School and Guided Missile Battalion at Ft. Bliss Texas and White Sands Missile Range, he worked briefly at the U.S. Naval Research Laboratory in Washington DC. He then joined the early U.S. space program, first at the former IBM Computing Center in Washington DC, and shortly after with the newly formed National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) Goddard Space Flight Center (GSFC) in Maryland. He worked for NASA-GSFC until his retirement in 2000, after more than 42 years of civilian federal government service. Early on he was a pioneer in the area of astrodynamics and orbit determination, and worked on Project Vanguard, computation of Sputnik 1 and 2 orbit trajectories, Scout rocket launches from Wallops Island and numerous satellite programs. Later in his career, he published research papers in information theory, particularly in the areas of applications of Bayesian analysis and Maximum Entropy methods, to image reconstruction and knowledge discovery. He retired to Rehoboth Beach Delaware in 2003.

He is survived by his adoring family, including his wife of 52 years, Cynthia (Walsh); his sons, Nino and Kevin; his brother Louis; his sister in law Shirley; and numerous other relatives, friends, and colleagues.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:30 AM, Wednesday, March 29, 2017 at St. Edmond Catholic Church, 409 King Charles Avenue, Rehoboth Beach, DE. A Viewing will be held



Obituary

Nino L. Bonavito

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at 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM, Tuesday, March 28, 2017 at Parsell Funeral Homes and Crematorium, Atkins-Lodge Chapel, Lewes DE.

Florist Note- Please deliver all flowers to the funeral home in Lewes on Tuesday by 11AM.



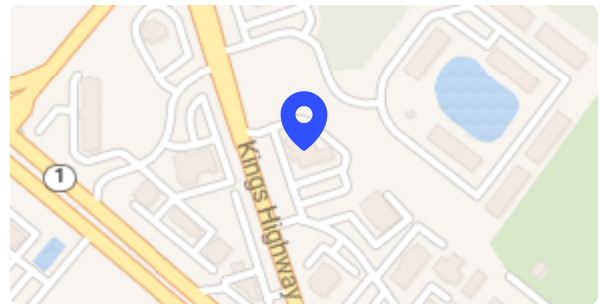
Viewing

Tuesday, March 28, 2017

2:00 PM - 4:00 PM ET

**Parsell Funeral Homes & Crematorium-
Atkins-Lodge Chapel**

16961 Kings Highway, Lewes DE 19958



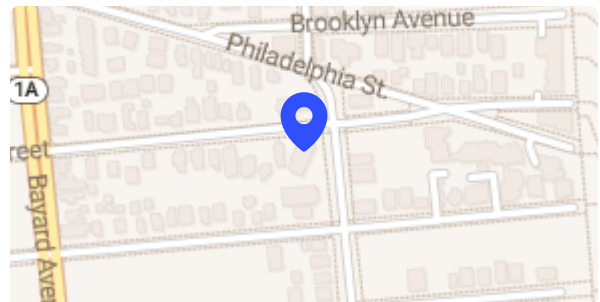
Mass of Christian Burial

Wednesday, March 29, 2017

10:30 AM ET

St. Edmond Catholic Church

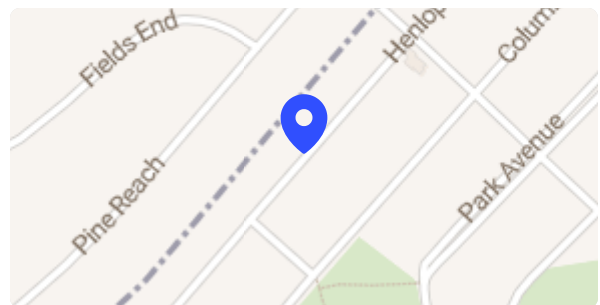
409 King Charles Avenue, Rehoboth Beach DE
19971



Cemetery Details

Epworth Methodist Cemetery

159 Henlopen Avenue, Rehoboth Beach DE
19971





Tribute Wall

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Michael Coleman posted:

Very sorry to hear about Dr. Bonavito. I hold very fond memories of smashing a red wagon into boxes in your basement in Mitchellville with Nino and Kevin, and playing whiffle ball in your back yard. I am especially grateful for the time he gave me when I was in 7th grade writing a report on the space shuttle program. He sat with me, answered all my questions, and provided answers to the questions I didn't think to ask, as well. He was a very kind, intelligent, and fun man.

August 11 at 9:00 AM



Diana Orrick posted:

I am saddened to hear of the passing of Dr. Bonavito and so very sorry for your loss. I was a student of his during a 1995 summer program at GSFC. He was a kind and generous mentor, I have tried to emulate his integrity in my own professional career. His encouragement convinced me I should continue on to graduate school and would succeed. I will remember him as one of the best teachers I have known and miss him. Some of my best memories of him include his rascally wit! Blessed be... Diana M Orrick

June 29 at 6:42 AM



Love & Peace, Sandra sent a Beautiful in Blue to the Bonavito family.



March 27 at 11:54 AM



Sandra lit a candle in honor of Nino.



March 27 at 10:58 AM



Christian Vanhecke sent a Divine Peace Bouquet to the Bonavito family.



March 26 at 9:26 AM



Tribute Wall

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Kathy & Dan Hulse (Your Glade Neighbors) sent a Sacred Duty Spray to the Bonavito family.

March 25 at 3:22 PM





Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Nino by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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