



## Louis Richard Nicoletti

September 30, 1949 - April 9, 2020

Louis Richard Nicoletti - most prominently and fondly known as Coach Nic - passed away peacefully on the morning of Thursday, April 9th, at the age of 70, after a courageous struggle with meningioma, a noncancerous tumor of the brain. He spent the last two years of his life at Harbor Healthcare & Rehabilitation Center, located in Lewes, Delaware. Lou was born in New York, New York on September 30th, 1949, son of the late Francis J. and Helen Nicoletti, whose parents were immigrants from Italy and Greece.

Lou was a graduate of Conrad High School, Class of 1967, earned a Bachelor's Degree in Sociology from the University of Delaware in 1971, and completed his Master's studies in 1981. He was a devoted father as well as an exceptional teacher, coach, friend, and mentor. Working at Glasgow High School, Delcastle Technical High School, and Sussex Technical High School, he achieved over 4 decades of service and was named District Teacher of the Year in 1984 and 1995. He was also nominated for State Teacher of the Year twice during the course of his career. Throughout his life, he taught several forms of Social Studies, including Civics, Economics, Law, Environmental Education, and Advanced Placement U.S. History, and piloted his own senior seminars and curriculums, including a course titled Human Motivation. Lou's animated personality, uproarious sense of humor, and thorough knowledge of history and story telling made his class not only educational, but also incredibly captivating. It's no surprise that the students often said Coach Nic's class was their favorite.

In addition to his teaching achievements, Lou coached several sports including soccer in his early years and ran more than a dozen 26-mile marathons including the Boston Marathon. It was his profound love for the sport of running that made him widely known to be a successful track and cross country coach, not only coaching conference and state champions, but also lifelong athletes. He was named the State of Delaware's Coach of the Year for Cross Country in 1987, 1988, and 2010. Lou's passion for motivating and serving others inspired students and peers alike. He will be deeply missed by his family, friends, and all who knew him in and out of the classroom.

Lou is survived by his daughters: Isabella Nicoletti and Madison T. Nicoletti; his former

wife, Lisa Nicoletti; his brother, Michael Nicoletti (Kathy); his sister, Marie Nicoletti Cariello (John); his three nieces; and his one nephew.

UPDATED SERVICE INFORMATION: A memorial service will be held on Thursday, August 12, 2021, at 3:00 PM, at Parsell Funeral Homes and Crematorium, Atkins-Lodge Chapel, 16961 Kings Highway, Lewes, DE, where friends may call beginning at 2:00 PM.

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, masks are required to be worn by any and all persons participating in any aspect of the services.

All who cannot attend in person are invited to join the services via live streaming by visiting the following link:

<http://www.parsellfuneralhomes.com/obituaries/permalink/9463519/LTWebcast>

In lieu of flowers, Lou's final wishes were that memorial contributions be made to Autism Delaware's Productive Opportunities for Work & Recreation (POW&R) program.

Donations can be made through their website or sent via mail to 17517 Nassau Commons Blvd., Unit 1, Lewes, DE 19958.

# Events

---

**AUG 12** **Flowers to be delivered by:** 09:00AM  
Parsell Funeral Homes & Crematorium-Atkins-Lodge Chapel  
16961 Kings Highway, Lewes, DE, US, 19958

**AUG 12** **Visitation** 02:00PM - 03:00PM  
Parsell Funeral Homes & Crematorium-Atkins-Lodge Chapel  
16961 Kings Highway, Lewes, DE, US, 19958

**AUG 12** **Celebration of Life** 03:00PM  
Parsell Funeral Homes & Crematorium-Atkins-Lodge Chapel  
16961 Kings Highway, Lewes, DE, US, 19958

# Comments

---



“ A webcast video has been added.



**Parsell Funeral Homes & Crematorium** - July 14, 2021 at 03:37 PM



“ Beautiful memorial....thank you for sharing. Hugs to Lisa, Jay, Maddie, Isabelle and the rest of the Nicoletti's.

**Susie & Tom Kelly** - August 12, 2021 at 05:02 PM



“ a moving tribute to a wonderful guy

**john cariello** - August 12, 2021 at 07:48 PM

---



“ Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Louis Richard Nicoletti.



August 07, 2021 at 01:56 AM

---



“ Deptula Family lit a candle in memory of Louis Richard Nicoletti



**Deptula Family** - July 28, 2021 at 11:14 AM

---



“ UPDATED SERVICE INFORMATION: A memorial service will be held on Thursday, August 12, 2021, at 3:00 PM, at Parsell Funeral Homes and Crematorium, Atkins-Lodge Chapel, 16961 Kings Highway, Lewes, DE, where friends may call beginning at 2:00 PM.

All who cannot attend in person are invited to join the services via live streaming by visiting the following link:

<http://www.parsellfuneralhomes.com/obituaries/permalink/9463519/LTWebcast>

**Parsell Funeral Homes & Crematorium** - July 14, 2021 at 04:39 PM

---



“ Coach Nicoletti was my soccer coach at Glasgow H.S. in 1977-78. His energy and spirit inspired to be a better player. After college I had the opportunity to coach with him at Delcastle for a year. He still had that same energy and spirit that he brought to every practice and game. It was a honor to coach with him and learn from the best.

John Petito - Glasgow HS 1978

**John Petito** - April 24, 2020 at 03:01 PM

---



“ Coach Nicoletti changed my life. After my own parents, he has been the most influential adult in my life. Because of him, I ran in college and have now been coaching college cross country for the past 9 years. Coach Nic believed in me in a way that changed my life. He taught me how to go after things that seemed impossible. Not only that, but he made every single day so much fun. I looked forward to practice every day because of his sense of humor and energy and genuine care. I used to hate running but grew to love it. There's no way I'd be where I am today if it wasn't for his influence. Even though I graduated in 2005, his words still echo in my mind all the time, even today: "You're the best, so run with the best!"..."Running is 90% mental, the rest is in your head"..."Lift your knees!"..."Don't ever say the j-word...it's a curse word."

Isabella and Maddie - thank you for sharing your dad with so many of us. Our lives were forever changed.

Much love,  
Rebekah Ricksecker

**Rebekah Ricksecker** - April 20, 2020 at 11:09 PM



“ Thank you Rebekah! Marie Nicoletti Cariello

**Marie** - April 22, 2020 at 07:56 PM



“ Lou was a great man and a great educator. Our time with him was cut way too short. He touched many lives and and will be missed by the family of Sussex Tech.

**Steve Persolio** - April 20, 2020 at 07:06 PM



“ Coach Nick was one of the most influential people in my life. Throughout my time running Cross Country at Sussex Tech, he taught me volumes about integrity, accountability, and mental toughness. His words, “Successful people do, what unsuccessful people won't do” have always stuck with me. He looked out for our team like his own family, and even bought me a pair of race shoes when I first got into the sport. I'll miss you coach Nick, and may our trails cross again. Rest in power.

-Ian Carlisle

**Ian Carlisle** - April 18, 2020 at 09:52 AM



“ My heart and prayers to the family. He was a great teacher, I still remember so many of his lessons. By far one of the best teachers I had at Delcastle. He made the classroom come alive and never faltered in keeping us interested.

**Liduvina Torres** - April 17, 2020 at 07:39 AM

---



“ My deepest condolences to the Nicoletti family. He was truly a great teacher, coach and inspiration to my son. We often ran into him out and about and he never failed to ask about how my son was doing. Such an honor to have known him.

**Keith Jacobi** - April 16, 2020 at 09:41 AM

---



“ Coach Nic was a beloved teacher and coach at Glasgow High School when my son was a student and athlete. What wonderful tributes are left on this wall by his former students, family and friends! Condolences to his family at this difficult time.

Janet Brown

**Janet Brown** - April 15, 2020 at 04:52 PM

---



“ COACH NICOLETTI HAS ALWAYS BEEN AN INSPIRATION. THE CAESAR RODNEY GIRLS TRACK AND FIELD TEAMS ALWAYS LOOKED FORWARD TO SEEING HIM DURING THE SEASON. HE WAS A GREAT MOTIVATOR TO ANY ATHLETE HE WAS AROUND. LOU WAS AN AWESOME ROLE MODEL FOR ME AND I WILL GREATLY MISS BUT NEVER FORGET HIM! THANK YOU LOU SO MUCH FOR ALLOWING US INTO YOUR LIFE AND I WILL TRULY MISS TALKING TO YOU!!! GOD REST YOUR SOUL. COACH BRIAN BERNS

**Brian Berns** - April 14, 2020 at 06:22 PM

---



“ To the entire Nicoletti family, our sincere condolences on the passing of Lou. May your memories give you comfort. He will be missed by many.  
Bernadette and Jim O'Brien

**Bernadette OBrien** - April 14, 2020 at 03:18 PM

---



“ To the entire Nicoletti family, I am so sorry for your loss and especially during these difficult times where most family and friends can't be there for you during this pandemic. Know that you are in our thoughts and prayers. Mr. Nick was one of my favorite teachers when I was at Delcastle. He was funny and full of energy. He made the characters in our history class come to life. He was so animated and excited to teach us like it was the first time we heard this. For most of us, it really was so to speak because he made it so real where as other teachers did not. He had a great skill in teaching and I am sure all would agree. The best to all of you and be safe...

**Mike** - April 14, 2020 at 01:32 PM

---



“ I worked with Nick at Glasgow HS but have not seen him for many years . He was a great guy and respected teacher. Sounds like he had a great life of service and will be missed by many friends and former students. God bless for the Nicks of the world  
Jack Brandt

**Jack Brandt** - April 14, 2020 at 11:33 AM

---



“ Sending my sincere sympathy to the family. I had met Lou several times and am saddened at his passing. My heart goes to Lisa and the girls who have been friends for a long time. Love and prayers to them and all the family. Kelly Pettyjohn

**Kelly Pettyjohn** - April 14, 2020 at 10:52 AM

---



“ Lou will always be remembered as a Loving Father, a Caring Friend to everyone who knew him, an Excellent Teacher, an Exemplary Coach, a Fantastic Storyteller, a Disciplined Exerciser, a Comedian, and a Devout Lover of Eggplant Parmigiana. I picture him now happy and running through Heaven with running partners that have gone before him especially my late husband, Vinnie. I'm sure Heaven will never be the same!

I wish his family and friends peace, comfort, and many happy memories.

**Debbie Scott** - April 14, 2020 at 10:28 AM

---



“ My deepest condolences to Lou’s daughters, Isabella and Madison, for the loss of their father and to Lisa Nicoletti Smilyk, May they be comforted by only sweet memories.

**Karen Norton** - April 14, 2020 at 09:14 AM

---



“ To his family, I am so sorry for your loss. As everyone here has said, he was a wonderful teacher (class of 1982). He was interesting to be taught by and he was interested in the lives of his students. I lived in the same area and would see him running on West Chestnut Hill road. I never did more than wave because he warned us not to startle him with a beeping horn if we saw him out on a run. Its so ironic that I was just thinking of him this weekend during a conversation about favorite teachers. Peace to all of you.

Sincerely,  
Debbie (Young) Meekins

**Debbie Young-Meekins** - April 13, 2020 at 10:25 PM

---



“ So sorry to hear of Mr. Nic, 's passing. You were one of my absolute favorite teachers at DelCastle and I'm sure for many others. My thoughts and prayers are with your family. Rest in Peace Mr. Night v

**Scarlett Rhoades** - April 13, 2020 at 09:16 PM

---



“ Rest easy coach Nic! You were incredibly funny, caring, and motivational. You made an impact on so many of us and for that your memory will continue to live on.

**Brandon Krauss** - April 13, 2020 at 09:06 PM

---



“ Rest well my friend. This is not goodbye, but we'll see each other again some day. Know this my friend, you left this world a better place than which you found it. You inspired students and runners alike, to reach their full potential. You did it well Lou. We're all going to miss you.

Jeff, Dianne, & Ellie Domowicz

Jeff Domowicz - April 13, 2020 at 08:50 PM

---



“ Sleep Well Mr Nic...he was a great educator! I remember loving to enter his classroom way back in 1989...he left such an impression...he will never be forgotten

Kwamsha Evans - April 13, 2020 at 07:58 PM

---



“ Farewell Coach. Fond memories of the best coach any athlete could ask for. He truly brought out the best in all of us. A great teacher in the classroom. He also prepared us for life beyond school. Love and peace.

Robert Malinowski - April 13, 2020 at 07:57 PM

---



“ Mr. Nic was my favorite teacher in my 4 years of high school.... I looked forward to his class everyday.... My condolences to his family and friends.... RIP Mr. Nic

Stephanie Lewis - April 13, 2020 at 07:06 PM

---



“ My thoughts and prayers to Mr.Nic`s family. He was such a wonderful teacher & I have fond memories of his class. He will always be remembered



Bobbi Jo Dean - April 13, 2020 at 06:49 PM

---



“ Our prayers our with the Nicoletti family at this time of grieving. Coach Nic was one of those teachers who motivated his students and his positive thoughts and behavior would spread to other teachers. I could always count on Coach Nic to be there for the Tech. He will be missed.  
Sandy Culotta

**Sandy Culotta** - April 13, 2020 at 04:53 PM

---



“ Sending prayers to the Nicolette family. I was fortunate to have worked with Lou for many years at Sussex Tech. He Always brightened my day when he came into the high school office. So very sorry. Sally DeLoy

**Sally DeLoy** - April 14, 2020 at 08:05 AM

---



“ My deepest condolences to Mr Nic family I have many wonderful memories of Mr Nic from him teaching me at Delcastle to him being a client of mine and finally teaching my children at Sussex Tech him will always be remembered fondly

**Sharren Joseph** - April 13, 2020 at 04:51 PM

---



“ Like many others, Mr Nicoletti was one of my favorite teachers at Delcastle High School. I distinctly remember him teaching the meaning of "tip of the iceberg", during class. This concept was an "aha moment" then, and a positive progression throughout life!! Thank you for making a difference!!

**Tammy Comegys Davis** - April 13, 2020 at 03:58 PM

---



“ Our heartfelt condolences to the Nicoletti family for the passing of Coach Nic. It was an honor to have known him as a fellow teacher, coach, and friend. May he run forever in our memories.  
Sincerely  
Nancy and Tuffy Tribbitt

**Nancy Tribbitt** - April 13, 2020 at 03:05 PM

---



“ Mr. Nick will always be a name remembered when you mention Delcastle. RIP Mr. Nick.  
Yalika Ritchie. C/O 1990

Yalika Ritchie - April 13, 2020 at 02:56 PM

---



“ Nicoletti was one of the Best and I cant emphasize Best enough ! My all time favorite teacher he taught me to stop self doubting myself . By pushing me beyond my comfort zone. He also cared about each and everyone of his students. An Amazing person .

Xochitl - April 13, 2020 at 02:52 PM

---



“ Many fond memories of Lou when he lived up here in Northern Delaware. Raced against in many times in our younger yrs but lost track of him when he moved to Southern Delaware . great guy an fellow competitor . RIP LOU. Condolences to his family.

Ron Niblett - April 13, 2020 at 02:40 PM

---



“ We were so saddened to learn of Lou's passing, even though we knew how sick he was. For us he was an incredible friend and colleague dating back to our days together at the UD. Lou had a wonderful sense of humor and was always seeking a way to play a practical joke whenever he could. He was a terrific mentor, academically and athletically, to thousands of students, all of whom considered him to be a friend. We celebrate his life and mourn his passing.

Richard M Farmer Jr - April 13, 2020 at 02:21 PM

---



“ I only knew Lou by the name of Coach. His passion for the sport of running and teaching Any kid that came to him how to become a better runner. Coach Nic made our Sussex Tech cross country teams very successful for a very long time. Coach Nic will be remembered many many people all around for all the things he has accomplished.

David Allen - April 13, 2020 at 02:11 PM



“ I only ever knew Mr. Nicoletti as Mr. Nicoletti, my AP US History teacher. I spent a year in his class, doing the most intense work I've ever done, learning more than I've ever learned, under one of the best teachers I've ever had. He cared about each and every single one of his students and athletes, and his sense of humour made every day in his classroom worth looking forward to. His lessons helped me form my worldviews, helped me learn about the world I live in from the perspective of the past, and inspired me to be a teacher myself one day.

Lou Nicoletti, Couch Nic, Mr. Nicoletti, you are one of the reasons I continue to study, I continue to grow, and I continue to be ambitious, and you gave me a fond love of joking about conspiracy theories.

Run fast, never look back.

**Rae Hoban** - April 13, 2020 at 01:18 PM

---



“ Coach Nic's memories will last a life time. As a teacher, coach and mentor at Delcastle, coach Nic had a special way of getting his message across to anyone and everyone! He will be dearly missed. Prayers and sympathy to his entire family and to all of those who knew him,  
Cynthia Boone Joseph

**cynthia joseph** - April 13, 2020 at 12:50 PM

---



“ Mr. Nicoletti had such a positive impact during my high school years. He helped mold me into who I am today. Thank you. I will always fondly remember you. Rest in peace.



**Melina** - April 13, 2020 at 12:45 PM

---



“ Mr. Nicoletti was the type of person, teacher and mentor that you can never forget. His energy was never-ending and contagious. I loved his class & I will never forget the way he inspired you to learn! Rest In Peace Mr. Nicoletti. Prayers for his family for peace and comfort.

**Karen Williams** - April 13, 2020 at 12:41 PM

---



“ I'm so sorry to hear about the passing of Mr. Nicoletti. He was an outstanding educator who shared his love of history in a way that drew everyone in with interest. I was lucky enough to have him as a teacher at Sussex Technical High School. He encouraged my interest in history during my time in his classroom, and I eventually went on to graduate with two BA degrees - one of them is in history. His encouragement is one of the reasons why I accomplished that goal. I'm so grateful for his dedication and caring, and my thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends.

**Jason Lang** - April 13, 2020 at 12:35 PM

---



“ Mr. Nic was one of my favorite teachers. He was the only person that could get me to run XC, I was a true sprinter at heart. I never thought I could run anything over 400 meters, until I met Coach Nic at Delcastle. He believed in me and pushed me to become better. He will always have a special place in my heart. I will always remember the many life lessons he taught me. RIP Mr. Coach love and miss you. Delcastle Track Family forever

**carmella anderson** - April 13, 2020 at 12:27 PM

---



“ I will always remember him fondly. Such a great person to know. Heartfelt condolences to his family.

**Kristen Hatfield** - April 13, 2020 at 12:20 PM

---



“ Coach Nic was one of the best teachers I ever had, and I think of him often when I go to work as a teacher myself today! I'm very sorry hear of his passing, but I can't help but think what a wonderful man he was and the legacy he left across so many lives. We should all be so lucky to live such a full life.

**Jeffrey** - April 13, 2020 at 12:13 PM

---



“ RIP Mr. Nic, It was a pleasure having him for a teacher 96-98 and then my son was lucky to have him for a teacher & coach 2014-2017!! Great Man!!



**Heather Truitt** - April 13, 2020 at 11:56 AM

---



“ I got to know Coach Nick through driving bus and hauling him and his kids to meets. Coach Nick was a pleasure to always be around and loved all his kids. He also loved his dog. Coach Nick you will definitely be missed.



**Amy Betts** - April 13, 2020 at 11:37 AM

---



“ Connie Edwards lit a candle in memory of Louis Richard Nicoletti



**Connie Edwards** - April 13, 2020 at 11:07 AM

---



“ He was an awesome teacher and Mentor during my time At Sussex Tech one of my favorite teachers of all time. He would do anything to help his students succeed

**Garrett Anderson** - April 13, 2020 at 10:59 AM