



## Anthony Jesus Poma

April 15, 1932 - January 21, 2024

Anthony Jesus Poma, fondly known as Tony at 91, peacefully passed away on January 21, 2024, in Chester, Maryland. Born on April 15, 1932, in Brooklyn, New York, he shared his early years with his parents, Catherine and Frank, and his sister, Catherine.

Tony leaves behind a legacy survived by his son, Frank Poma, daughters Cathy Poma and Toniann Poma, and five cherished grandchildren: Christine Poma, Nicole Poma, Amber Rodriguez, Neena Rodriguez, and Natalie Rodriguez. His memory is further embraced by his nephew Frank Sequino and wife Donna Sequino and family, as well as nephew Joseph Sequino and wife Maryann Sequino and family.

Preceded in death by his beloved wife Anna Poma and sister Catherine Sequino, Tony's life was marked by a rich tapestry of experiences. In 1953, he proudly served in the Army for two years. Following this, he found success as the proud owner of Canarsie Business Machines, a thriving enterprise deeply rooted in Brooklyn, New York during the 1970s.

Tony's ventures extended beyond business. He embraced the joys of

Monticello, New York, crafting a beautiful lake house that became a haven for gatherings, cookouts, and tranquil fishing trips. As a snowbird, he gracefully balanced his time between New York and his home in Florida, finally deciding to make Florida his permanent residence for many years.

In 2020, Tony made a heartfelt decision to reunite with his two daughters and three grandchildren in Maryland, bidding farewell to the Floridian sunsets. Tony was the heart of his family and affectionately known as "OoPapá" to his loved ones. His days in Maryland were filled with joy—spending quality time with family, appreciating scenic trail views, and pedaling at least 5 miles on his bike daily.

A true music enthusiast, Tony orchestrated what he fondly called his concerts, playing the harmonica and keyboard for those around him. His love for music was infectious, creating cherished memories for family and friends.

In addition to being a generous and caring family man, Tony was known for his stubbornness, a trait that added to his unique and unforgettable personality. A testament to his caring yet stubborn nature was his habit of sneaking food to the dogs under the table, all the while saying, "A case di Papá si mangia bene"—he couldn't leave his babies out of that! As many would attest, he often asserted, "I'm doing it my way." With that sentiment in mind, as we bid farewell to our beloved father and grandfather, we celebrated his life with one of his favorite songs, "My Way" by Frank Sinatra. For those who knew Tony, that song encapsulated him perfectly. His way may have been unconventional, but it invariably turned out to be the best way.

Tony will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved him.

# Tribute Wall

HO

“ *Better late than never...that’s what they say, huh?*” I stumbled upon this and felt compelled to jot some wonderful, amazing memories that I have of Tony Poma, who I sometimes called Tony, sometimes I called him Poppy and even affectionately referred to him as sir! To be honest, anyone that knows Tony and myself will say that it was how he addressed me that is forefront in our minds. “HOLLYPOP, what the hell are you up to?” he would bellow as I walked down the gravel path leading to the “back door” of his beautiful home on Sacket Lake. This would happen just about every weekend, of every summer starting around 1980 or so. Tony, true to who he was, would not spare me any sympathy for the fact that I was not his daughter. Heck no, if I did something he didn’t like, I would get yelled at...as though I was his wicked stepchild. As I got older, the way he treated me went from embarrassed, shocked child to a mutually respected relationship, friendship, if you will. He was always Cathy and Toniann’s dad, for that reason, I maintained the utmost respect for him and I kept going back to his summer house, year after year. Years have passed, and we have all moved away and thankfully Toniann and I were able to sustain a 45 year friendship and I never stopped asking how dad was doing. About 6 months before he passed, I randomly called Toniann and she was at his house. She yells, hey dad, guess who is on the phone...its hollypop. I then learned that the years had not mellowed or quieted Tony cause as those words exited Toniann’s mouth a huge, giant scream filled the air...HOLLYPOP, HOW THE HELL ARE YOU? Are you gonna come see me before I die, he asked? Well, Mr. Tony Poma, not coming to see you will be a big regret of mine forever. R.I.P., my friend. Love forever, HOLLYPOP.

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Hollypop - November 01, 2024 at 07:54 PM

NR

“ Anthony Jesus Poma

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Natalie Rodriguez - April 15, 2024 at 10:47 AM

NR

“ Happy heavenly birthday, my sweet Nony. Today marks your 92nd birthday, the first one without you. The “firsts” without your loved one always hit the hardest. How I long to wake up to your voice, especially on such a beautiful day like today. I can still hear you saying, “Nat Nat, I’m going to ride my bike today.” You would have been out all day, shocking everyone with your youthful spirit, saying “Go ahead, guess how old I am”. Your ambitious attitude towards life was truly beautiful to witness. Some might call it stubbornness, but to me, it was a testament of your zest for life. Your “I’ll do it my way” attitude. I recall the days when you’d brave the heat to ride your bike or play your keyboard so loud that you would give the whole building a concert. I remember buying that sign that says “My neighbors are listening to great music whether they like it or not.” I can hear your laughter and excitement for me to put it up on your man cave door.

Today, you would have turned 92, Nony! We would have all gathered around the dinner table for your favorite linguini and clam sauce (although I would’ve opted for a burger, as you know I don’t like clams). I would have picked up your favorite apple pie from the market, and we would have soaked in all of your love as we celebrated together. Though you’re not here with us in person, I know you’re watching over us as we celebrated your life this weekend. We miss you so very much. I hope you’re having a beautiful heavenly birthday surrounded by our other beautiful angels. I love you, forever and always.

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Natalie Rodriguez - April 15, 2024 at 10:43 AM

CS

“ I met Tony as a business relationship, but it soon became much more. As a financial advisor to Tony, we grew close, and we would talk at least multiple times a week. Not just about business, but different stuff going on in our lives. When he called, he wouldn't even say who he was, just “How's it hanging”, I would reply “To the left”. He was always a jokester. \nOne day he was looking to rent a car and my daughter who was working for Enterprise hooked him up. To get him the family discount, my daughter had to make him a relative, and so from that day forward he became Uncle Tony to all the Slater's. He loved being called that, and it stuck. \nUnfortunately, we would only see him a couple times a year when my wife and I would head down to Florida. We would go out to lunch or do something fun with him. \nI already miss his calls, and frequent chats, and know he will be sorely missed, by me and all that knew him.

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**Charles Slater** - February 04, 2024 at 05:37 PM

CP

“ Anthony Poma was a man larger than life. I have fond memories of our trips Upstate in Monticello, swimming in Sackett Lake and enjoying bar-b-b-ques. Poppy (as I called him) always had a new toy or gadget like a fun lawnmower to ride on or a new boat to fish off of. It was exciting and fun to be around him. Especially when he was in his happy place. I even remember the drives up in the mercedes while everyone would fall asleep grandpa would be driving and I'd be awake listening to him play Unforegattable by Nat King Cole. That song will always remind me of him and that's what he was ... unforgettable. \nHe encouraged me to embrace life and prosper in school and have a career and I always took his advice seriously. He guided me and provided the way towards me becoming a dental hygienist. Up until recently he still boosted about it. Always made me feel good knowing I made him proud.\nHe had many sides to him. Some weren't nice and hard to be around. He was stubborn and narrow-minded but he's my grandpa. I always knew not to engage in a fight with him. Because there's no winning against Tony Poma. And he wasn't afraid to let you know that. He taught me to speak my mind, stick up for myself, and take chances.\nWhen I decided to move to Montana he thought I was bat shit crazy. But after, he sad I had quite the balls to embark on such an adventure. I told him, \"I'm pretty sure I know where I get them from!\" He would chuckle. Certain phrases like \"Bitey head\" come to mind as a child hood memory. He would literally chase us and try to bite our heads. He was a funny, quirky man. And you never knew what Tony you would get . It was totally depending on his personality that day. And that had many sides.\nHe will be dearly missed. A patriarch of our family he leaves behind a legacy through his kids and grandchildren. We will always have him in our hearts and hear his voice in our heads. His memory will never be forgotten. And the stories will forever be told. Enjoy the afterlife grandpa. I pray you are at peace surrounded by those you've loved and lost.

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Christine Poma - February 02, 2024 at 10:03 AM

RM

“ Wishing you peace to bring comfort, courage to face the days ahead and loving memories to forever hold in your hearts.

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**Rick & Marti** - January 31, 2024 at 03:56 PM

RO

“ I remember the first time I met Tony (who I always called poppy) almost 50 years ago, was in a garage in Monticello, New York after his car broke down. He was steaming mad and totally intimidating. Little did I know that this man, and the others in the car (Anna, Cathy and Toniann) would become my family (and yes, I still consider them my family). He welcomed me into his family and treated me as if I were his own. Throughout the years, he was always there for my girls (all 3); generous and caring. I developed a deep love, respect and appreciation for Tony. We shared a great love of the country and I can close my eyes and hear his voice yelling from the top of his balcony overlooking Sackett Lake, “Robbi, coffee? And even after all these years, whenever I had the pleasure of talking to him, he would always begin our conversation with, “how the hell are you?” I have the great pleasure of holding countless memories of holidays, birthdays and family events in my heart. Not to mention the pictures that keep his memory alive. He was a force bigger than life for his children and grandchildren and he will be forever in our hearts. Rest in peace dear Tony.

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**Robin Overeem** - January 28, 2024 at 04:04 PM

DS

“ I only have fond memories of Uncle Tony. He always called me Sweet Pea from the moment I came into the family over 50 yrs ago & married his nephew Frank. I loved his generous heart, his quirkiness & he was always fun at gatherings. I remember him playing the piano. He was really good! I will also miss our phone conversations. He would always have a story to tell. He was a special man that loved his family & friends & would go to the ends of the earth for them. Rest in peace Uncle Tony . You are loved & will be missed by all us! 🙏😭

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**Donna Sequino** - January 28, 2024 at 10:39 AM

RM

“ We will always remember Tony riding around on his tricycle smiling. What an inspiration he was to all who would see him riding his bike even in the very hot weather. We will miss seeing him!

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**Ruth & Danny McDaniel** - January 27, 2024 at 05:17 PM

NR

“ Dear Noni, as I sit here and search my heart for the words that will help me to express how much I love you and will miss you, I am genuinely lost. You gave everything to your family and none of us would be where we are today if it wasn't for you. These past couple of days I have been endlessly scrolling through all of the pictures I have with you and although my heart aches from missing you. My heart is smiling as well because I know that I am so blessed to have had you as my Noni, we all are. You were such an amazing grandfather, you were ALWAYS there and you would move mountains for your family. You made it possible for me to chase my dreams and I will forever be grateful to you for that. I will continue to make you proud and become the amazing woman you knew I could be, & I will have you to thank for that. Thank you for always believing in me and for all the laughter you brought into our lives and for all the love you showed us. \n\nP.S. I love you more than all the peanut M&M's in the whole universe! \n\nLove your Neenie Beanie

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Neena Rodriguez - January 27, 2024 at 04:54 PM

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*Tony will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved him.*

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**Natalie Rodriguez** - January 27, 2024 at 03:59 PM

BK

“ This country was blessed to have received a man such as Mr. Poma. Not only did he honor his country through service, but he left behind a lineage of fantastic people. Personally, a memory that will always remain is the time Mr. Poma, me, and his Granddaughter took a ride through Monticello, NY. Mr. Poma was probably 89 years old at the time and doing 45-50mph on curvy, upstate NY backroads with no problem. He shared his home and his family with me; for that, I will always be thankful.

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**BKO** - January 27, 2024 at 03:58 PM

NR

“ In loving memory of my Nony, our beloved OoPapá, the heart of our family. The overwhelming void without you lingers. I'll forever ache for your hands on my face and the resonant call of "My Nat Nat." The joy during family gatherings, your excitement at the table exclaiming, "All my kiddies are here," is etched in my heart. Watching Layla and Nino play, and hearing your laughter with Zoey's antics, are cherished memories. I'll long for the morning ritual shout of "CATHY CAFE." The man cave concerts, even the foot-tapping at the dinner table, reflect your unique character – grumpy yet sweet and remarkably generous. I feel blessed to have been influenced by your wisdom, wit, and discipline. Your indelible mark will endure. I hope Heaven greeted you with a big bowl of New England Clam chowder, a man cave grander than your closet, and a breathtaking view for your tricycle rides. Your kiddies love and miss you dearly. Until we meet again, be good, my Nony!

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**Natalie Rodriguez** - January 24, 2024 at 04:28 PM

AP

“ We are deeply sorry for your loss ~ *Simplicity Cremation & Funeral Services*

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**A Memorial Tree was planted for Anthony Jesus Poma** - January 23, 2024 at 03:20 PM