



Luigi Leo Perini

November 3, 1934 - October 17, 2023

Luigi Leo Perini, 88, passed away on October 17, 2023. He was a beloved husband, father, son, brother, grandfather, co-worker, and friend who will be missed by all who knew him.

Luigi was born in 1934 in New York, New York and lived in Greenwich Village until he was seven years old, when the family moved to Dover, New Jersey. In 1952, he enlisted in the Air Force and was assigned to McClellan Air Force Base in Sacramento, California, where he met and married his late wife Jean Krouse Perini, then served four years as a radio operator on the first airborne early warning aircraft. After he was discharged, Luigi moved to Las Cruces, New Mexico and earned a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering on the GI Bill from New Mexico State University in 1960.

Moving back east with Jean and his young family, Luigi began a 52-year career as an engineer in the Air and Missile Defense Department at the Johns Hopkins University / Applied Physics Laboratory (JHU/APL) in Columbia, Maryland, and the family settled in Beltsville, Maryland. While working as an engineer at JHU/APL, he earned a master's degree in aeronautical engineering from the University of Maryland. Luigi conducted aerodynamic, heat transfer, fluid dynamic, and vehicle dynamics analyses for numerous

projects, including ocean and geothermal energy conversion systems, supersonic combustion ramjet engines, expendable drones, and defensive missile systems. He was promoted to Principal Staff in 1981 and published over 40 technical papers while at JHU/APL.

In 1978 Luigi purchased an abandoned circa-1800 grist mill known as Beaver Creek (Doub's) Mill in Hagerstown, Maryland. He loved that mill. It was a decrepit shell when he bought it, and he worked tirelessly to make it a home. From shoring up and rebuilding all the flooring and stairs, to installing plumbing, electricity, heating and ventilation, insulation, internal rooms, and landscaping, no part of the property was untouched by Luigi. In the original building, the mill race went through the building to turn the mill stones. Luigi wanted to keep the race in the building, so he enclosed the race in glass so it could be seen through internal windows in the living room. He loved driving his bobcat around the property, pulling down trees, building wooden walkways across the creek, keeping the creek clear, and repairing stone walls. The renovation was so well done that it was included in several Washington County and Smithsonian Institution tours of historic homes. In the early 2000s, HGTV even featured the mill as a part of its national series on unique homes.

Luigi used the mill to help active Air Force military and veterans by participating in Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing, a program designed to provide healing to in-need veterans through camaraderie, connectedness, and fly fishing. Luigi would host events at the mill where participants could fish in the mill pond and creek and could socialize and relax in beautiful and quiet surroundings.

Friends and family would describe Luigi as independent, whip-smart,

stubborn, irascible, funny, driven, and thorough. There are few photos of Luigi where he isn't holding up his middle finger. That's just who he was.

Luigi is survived by his sons Craig Perini and Brian Perini, daughters-in-law Valyn Perini and Wendy Perini, grandchildren Jennifer Perini, Samantha Perini Nagel, and Dustin Perini, stepchildren Christopher DeBlauw and Gwen Shealy, and step-grandsons Benjamin and Alexander DeBlauw.

He was preceded in death by his wife Mary Sampson Perini, his brother John Perini, Jr. and his parents John and Marcella Perini.

A private celebration of life will be held for family and close friends in the coming months.

Donations in Luigi's memory can be made to Project Healing Waters at <https://projecthealingwaters.org/ways-to-give/donate-now/>.

Tribute Wall

AN

“ *In memory of dear friend Luigi and sincere condolences to all his family on their loss. May this tree grow in your memory for decades to come.*

Anonymous - October 26, 2023 at 11:22 AM

MH

“ *I have such fond memories of Luigi through my meeting him years ago working at APL. I will remember the joy and laughter he brought to everyone he passed each day as he traveled the hallways with his pipe in hand. He was highly respected in his field, a brilliant historian, voracious reader, and a mentor to others. We bonded over my Irish heritage and literature. He loved his Mill house and I will always remember the get-togethers he and Mary shared with friends and family over their years there. I always loved to see the gorgeous quilts Mary created. I was amazed at his tireless energy hauling a huge fir tree on top of his compact car and managing to carry into the house and decorate for Christmas every year. He loved NYC and driving to Greenwich Village and spending time there, and also Boston visiting elderly cousins. And he flew to Italy to find his ancestral home. And when he was no longer mentally or physically able, my last memories of him will be his dedication, love, and care of his beloved Mary in her last months on earth. Rest in peace Luigi knowing you were so loved.*

Mary Ann Haug - October 26, 2023 at 11:12 AM

SS

“ My family has the most fond memories of Luigi, our neighbor and friend at Doub's Mill Historic District. Luigi was engaging, thoughtful, intelligent, entertaining, and hardworking. His accomplishments in his career and personal life were noteworthy and impressive. His drive to continue learning and be productive into his later years was just so inspiring for all around him! We missed him (& Mary) so much after they moved away. We will continue to remember both so fondly.

Susan Simonson - October 24, 2023 at 10:38 AM

EM

“ As the son of Italian immigrants, Luigi exceeded in all he did without direction or encouragement. He similarly helped others, in a friendly and caring way, to live up to their potential. As an immigrant myself, Luigi encouraged me and provided inspiration not to just do well but to exceed in everything I did. He was thoughtful ...and I could always count on his input and advice. Elena Malunis

Elena Malunis - October 23, 2023 at 08:43 AM

AN

“ What a life he lived! He will be missed greatly.

Anonymous - October 20, 2023 at 05:53 PM

AP

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

A Memorial Tree was planted for Luigi Leo Perini - October 20, 2023 at 04:13 PM