



William James O'Leary

August 30, 1964 - January 2, 2017

Albany-William James O'Leary, 52 was suddenly taken to heaven on Monday, January 2, 2017 while enjoying a dinner celebration with family. Will was born in Cork City, Ireland and emigrated to this great country in 1969. He attended St. Casimers, Bishop Maginn and HVCC.

Will was a 16 year veteran of the Albany fire Department. Most of his career he worked in the South End Firehouse, Engine 5 "C" Platoon. He was an active member of the Albany Yacht Club and the Ancient Order of Hibernians. When not in the firehouse Will worked for the City of Rensselaer.

Will enjoyed spending time on his boat with his long time partner Julie Grace. Together they traveled and loved being with their beloved German Shephard, Hans. Will was an avid photographer, computer problem solver and exceptional event planner.

Will was one of those people who would never hesitate to help anyone in need, he would give a complete stranger the shirt off his back. His love of family, friends and people in general knew no bounds. Will lived, loved and laughed. He lived life to the fullest.

Family wish to thank both the Albany Fire and Police Departments for their love and support during these difficult times.

A special thank you to all those who helped Will that night, the staff at Caseys Restaurant, Police, Fire and First Responders.

Will is survived by his loving partner Julie "Grace" Nolan. He is the beloved son of James and Maureen O'Leary; brother of Tim, Ed (Stephanie) and Julie; uncle of James, Shawn, Adam, Sarah, Colm and Owen. He also had many cousins and godchildren he loved

Please join all who knew and loved Will in celebrating his life.

Relatives and friends are invited to visit with Will's family Sunday, January 8, 2017 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm at The Parish of Mater Christi, Albany.

Funeral services with full Fire Department Honors will be held Monday, January 9, 2017 at 9:30 am at the Historic Church of St. Mary on Capitol Hill, where a Funeral Mass will be celebrated. The Rite of Committal will immediately follow the Mass at Our Lady of Angels Cemetery.

To leave a message for the family, obtain directions, light a candle or view other helpful services please visit www.McveighFuneralHome.com

Cemetery Details

Our Lady of Angels Cemetery

1389 Central Ave
Albany, NY

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 8. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Parish of Mater Christi
40 Hopewell Street (Rev. Kenneth J. Doyle Way)
Albany, NY 12208

Tribute Wall



“ *William James O'Leary*

October 08, 2023 at 09:24 PM



“ *I am very sorry to hear of Willie's passing. My deepest sympathy to you all during this difficult time.*
Erin Lewis

Erin Lewis - January 10, 2017 at 08:10 AM



“ *My thoughts and prayers are with the O'leary family. Rest in eternal peace Willie. Frank & Jessica Hoban.*

Frank Hoban - January 10, 2017 at 07:53 AM



“ *To the O'Leary family,
We are so sorry to hear of the sudden loss of Will, you are in our thoughts and prayers. With sincere sympathy,
Harold and Donna Hatfield*

Harold Hatfield - January 09, 2017 at 12:48 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of William James O'Leary.*



January 08, 2017 at 01:15 PM



“ *Our deepest sympathies from your Brothers and Sisters of the Troy Fire Department.*

Frank Razzano - January 08, 2017 at 12:17 PM

MG

“ *To the Oleary family and Grace, Willy will be missed dearly. He was an amazing person and friend. I remember when my mom passed, and we were short a pall bearer for her service. We asked Willy. He didnt even know my mom, but wanted to help. He was a true friend. He also came over to our house to take some fantastic pictures of my son Matthew the first week he was born. I have these pictures framed, as Willy was an exceptional photographer. Willy will be missed by everyone who knew him. He will never be forgotten!*

*Sincerely,
Michelle Golonka*

michelle G - January 08, 2017 at 07:18 AM

PZ

“ *Dear O'Leary Family and Friends, I was so sorry to hear of the passing of Will. Every encounter with Will was always with smiles, laughter, and good times. He will be greatly missed. My condolences to all and prayers to God to ease your sorrow and pain during this time.*



*Sincerely,
Paul A. Zullo and Family*

Paul A. Zullo - January 07, 2017 at 05:53 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of William James O'Leary.*



January 07, 2017 at 01:29 PM



“ *Dian Williams lit a candle in memory of William James O'Leary*



Dian Williams - January 07, 2017 at 12:14 PM



“ *Will, I will never forget your kindness and welcoming spirit and riding on your boat with Julie Grace. You are in Heaven, will meet you there. Dian Williams*

Dian Williams - January 07, 2017 at 12:13 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of William James O'Leary.*



January 06, 2017 at 12:38 PM

TF

“ *The Browne Family lit a candle in memory of William James O'Leary*



The Browne Family - January 06, 2017 at 11:24 AM

TF

“ *The Lyman Family lit a candle in memory of William James O'Leary*



The Lyman Family - January 06, 2017 at 01:14 AM



“ *Be My Love Bouquet with Red Roses was purchased for the family of William James O'Leary.*



January 06, 2017 at 12:05 AM

AR

“ *Anna Mary Kelly Rivet lit a candle in memory of William James O'Leary*



Anna Mary Kelly Rivet - January 05, 2017 at 10:27 PM

CL

“ *CAROL LOVELACE lit a candle in memory of William James O'Leary*



CAROL LOVELACE - January 05, 2017 at 07:16 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of William James O'Leary.*



January 05, 2017 at 04:53 PM

TJ

“ *I was so sorry to hear about Willie. His heart was so big and kindness touched so many people. He was so loved. Mr and Mrs. O'Leary, Tim, Ed, Julie and Julie Grace, you are all in my thoughts and prayers.*



Tammy (Donovan) Jacobson - January 05, 2017 at 04:32 PM

MS

“ Sending my deepest sympathy to Mr. and Mrs. O’Leary, Grace “Julie”, Timmy, Eddie and Julie and to the Burke and Manley Families. I am so sorry for your tragic loss of darling Willie. He was a true treasure on this earth and he had the rare ability to make each and every person he ever came in contact with feel important and special. I am remembering our parent’s friendship of 48 years all the jobs our Dad’s did together, all the Hibernian memories...picnics, parties, weddings, dances, and all the conventions with Willie. Willie was so good to my Mom and Dad; every single year he made sure he took them out on his boat. He told me Sheila, I want Sheila & Moss to have a great day out and I won’t take no for an answer. Willie would come to the house to collect them and even through my Dad’s illness take care of them for the whole day. Through his gift of photography and just by being the amazing person he was Willie leaves us with priceless memories.

What an inconceivable loss, what a friend! Gone too soon, the Savage Family will always love you Willie and your presence added to our lives.



Moss Savage and daughter Sheila - January 05, 2017 at 01:02 PM

DF

D. McGraw and family

On behalf of the family I extend our deepest and heartfelt sympathy and prayers for this terrible loss. Our thoughts and condolences to the O'Leary family, Grace, and all of his loved ones. Far too soon to say goodbye. I met Will about 20 years ago. We worked together on numerous occasions over the years, he was a true professional at what he did, with the AFD or just about any other job he took on. But I really got to know him best while boating with him on the Hudson River. He took to the water like a fish. Will shall be missed and not forgotten by anyone who knew him. Rest in peace Will.

D. McGraw and family - January 05, 2017 at 03:42 PM

A(

“ My thoughts and prayers are with the O'Leary family. I have many fond memories of Will and the good times we all had in our younger, more crazy days.

When someone so young leaves us so suddenly, it is hard to understand and accept.

GOD blessed us with Will for a short while, but now GOD has called him home and has added a beautiful flower to his garden.

We are left with warm and cherished memories that will keep Will's spirit alive in our hearts and soul.

RIP Will

Ann Cox (Horwitz) - January 05, 2017 at 12:49 PM

CR

“ Heart felt sympathies to the O'Leary family and friends. My memory is filled with good times spent together. Rest in Paradise, my friend.

Cori Robohn - January 05, 2017 at 12:08 PM

DM

“ Thoughts and Prayer go out to Willi's family and friends, especially Julie. So sorry for your loss.



Darlene Merritt - January 05, 2017 at 11:47 AM

MC

“ Marybeth Cipperley lit a candle in memory of William James O'Leary



marybeth cipperley - January 05, 2017 at 11:39 AM

MC

With Great sympathy and all our love Your Friends at CRFH

marybeth cipperley - January 05, 2017 at 11:41 AM

VJ

“ Vicky Chalanick & Paul Devane, Jr. lit a candle in memory of William James O'Leary



Vicky Chalanick & Paul Devane, Jr. - January 05, 2017 at 11:38 AM

P(

“ I knew Willie from St. Casimirs. I would see him from time to time in the years that passed. He always was so friendly and kind, like no time had passed. We always had a good laugh about the "old days". God speed Willie, you were one of the good guys. My sympathies to those who loved him.
Patty (Sowek)Tompkins

Patty (Sowek)Tompkins - January 05, 2017 at 11:18 AM

RT

“ I'm so sorry for your lost. Will was one of the greatest and will always be remembered by all. Kip



ray tonnies - January 05, 2017 at 09:39 AM

EK

“ Edward Kowalczyk lit a candle in memory of William James O'Leary



Edward Kowalczyk - January 05, 2017 at 08:32 AM

CO

“ Cori lit a candle in memory of William James O'Leary



Cori - January 05, 2017 at 08:10 AM

TK

“ *im so sorry for the loss of your loved one william,he was one of the nicest people i had the pleasure of knowing!! all my thoughts and prayers!! theresa kelly*

theresa kelly - January 05, 2017 at 07:48 AM



“ *My eyes filled up with tears as I heard the news of our dear cousin Will.
I find myself wishing that it wasn't real
Every time I think about it, pain is all I can feel
Tears fall from my eyes, I can barely see
But my heart tells me that he'll always be with me.. forever in our hearts..
I have such fond memories of you cuz.. with your camera in your hand and a smile that would light up the room.
You were the heart and soul of our family gatherings you will be forever missed..
Your memory will be kept alive through your wonderful photos and the stories that are shared amongst our family and friends..
Sending all our sincere love and condolences to our dear family,
Dina and Sam xxxx*

Dina Nada - January 05, 2017 at 07:29 AM



“ *Kerry Ryan lit a candle in memory of William James O'Leary*



Kerry Ryan - January 05, 2017 at 07:04 AM

DC

“ I think it was Steve Covey who said that the mark of a life well lived was to Love, Learn and leave a Legacy. Willie though taken far to early from us you more than accomplished all three. Through your self giving spirit, you thought us the Biblical meaning of love, Love is generous, love is kind, love is compassionate, love is understanding. You also taught us how to live life well, that each of us matters and that we all have something to offer. Your life was a living Legacy.

We will miss you greatly at family functions, no gathering in Ireland or Albany will be the same with out you. (nor for that matter will De Lacy House, Cork!)You were the glue that held us together.

To His beloved Grace, Uncle Jim, Auntie Maureen, Tim, Ed, Julie, his much loved nephews and niece's to his wagon load of cousin's, his brothers in the Fire House, friends in the Police, who as he used jokingly say are want to be Firemen!! We offer our deepest condolence's.

Much Love, from Denis, Noelle, Nell & Beth.

Denis Mac Carthy - January 05, 2017 at 06:15 AM

AW

“ I remember Will from St. Casimir's, we were a small school, so you don't tend to forget the kids you went there with...I occasionally ran into Will later on in life, though admittedly I have not seen him in quite some time, but I have only good memories of a young man with a ready smile and great attitude. ...

My sincerest condolences to his family and friends, I hope your memories of will help bring some light in these darkest of days

Amanda Zabek (nee Wiczorek) - January 05, 2017 at 01:43 AM

CH

“ 4 files added to the album *New Album Name*



Carole Hackett - January 04, 2017 at 09:20 PM

DB

“ *Will, you were one of the nicest people I ever knew, thanks for your friendship and compassion. From our childhood to the NYC days and the rest of time, I always knew you had my back. May you Rest In Peace with your fellow angels. Thanks for everything. I love you cuz.*

Denis W Burke - January 04, 2017 at 09:08 PM

PM

To one of the best man I know. Always there with a kind word, or to help a friend, for that matter to help anyone who needed it. A hard working fun loving person. He spread joy where ever he was. He is my son Sean's godfather. Sean was lucky to have worked for Willie last year. They did yard work, painting and work around the yacht club. Sean learned so much from Uncle Willie. Memories can never be taken from us. Family was always top priority to him. He loved his brothers and was his sister Julie's protector. Julie Grace was the love of his life. He would do anything for her. He talked so often of his firemen family, they meant so much to him. To my family he was someone you could always count on. A friend until the end. Slipping my kids money and then tell them don't tell your mom. You have no idea the hole we all have in our lives. We will be missed by everyone until we meet again RIP my sweet cousin. The world just got a little darker but heaven just got a lot more fun. And when Sean says he wants to be a firefighter just like Uncle Willie I will be the proudest moment. Auntie Maureen and Uncle Jim you should be so proud of your family. You did a great job raising them. Our lives have changed forever but we are all better people just from knowing your family. RIP William James.

Pam Motler - January 04, 2017 at 09:36 PM



Michael
Edwards

I only knew him socially, met him at the Sandpiper back in our youth, he was a standup guy even then. We lost touch over the years while careers and family took the space. Last summer we reconnected at O'Brien's and it was like the seventies had never ended. This is was such a shock to see, just the few times we spoke, I could tell that he lived life on his own terms, passionately about everything he did, professionally and recreationally. RIP my friend.

Michael Edwards - January 05, 2017 at 01:43 AM

AR

I too first met Will at the Sandpiper and then later at Kirkir's with Denise Burke. You were always kind to me and acted so happy to see me. My prayers are with the family, the memories are in my heart

Anne Reed - January 05, 2017 at 08:06 AM

TF

Out deepest sympathies to the entire O'Leary Family and Gracie. Will just was top notch and will not be forgotten. We pray for strength for all his family and friends.

The Browne Family - January 06, 2017 at 11:31 AM

JC

Grace, we loved Will as well as many others...we love you as well. Will was a true teacher of what a human being is all about. He showed us all how to love and give of our selves as he did every waking hour of his short life. He will be missed so much. So sorry for yours and the entire O'Leary family terrible loss. Our deepest sympathies. Jim & Chris

Jim & Christine - January 07, 2017 at 12:30 PM

JJ

Grace and the O'Leary family- our deepest sympathies. Willie was a dear friend to me and my family. We shared an apartment during our bachelor years and had many fun times. Willie was always there then and after to help in any way he could. I could always count on him. We will always remember him and miss him.

Jim Joyce - January 08, 2017 at 08:30 AM

CA

*My deepest sympathies to Jim, Maureen and the rest of the O'Leary family. I was saddened to hear of Willie's sudden passing. He was a good lad, always so cheerful. Sorry that I was unable to attend the service. Keeping you in my thoughts and prayers.
Chrissie Arnold*

Chrissie Arnold - January 09, 2017 at 11:55 AM

MO

To Jim , Maureen and family . Our heartfelt condolences on the devastating loss of William James . In our thoughts and prayers . Masses offered . Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam

From Dan & Nell O'Leary and Family , Cork City Ireland

Miriam Duff (nee O'Leary) - January 10, 2017 at 11:24 AM