



Dr. Frank R. Pomilla

October 1, 1926 - July 8, 2017

Dr. Frank R. Pomilla, 90, of Annadale, Staten Island, passed away peacefully on July 8th, 2017, at Addeo Hospice House, surrounded by his loving family. Born October 1, 1926 to Antonio and Carmela Policano Pomilla, he grew up in the Bedford-Stuyvesant section of Brooklyn.

Frank was salutatorian of his Boys High School graduating class, and received his BS, MS, and PhD, in Physics from Fordham. He was on the faculty at St John's University for 15 years, serving for a time as Chairman of the Physics Department, and then was a Professor at York College (CUNY) for more than 20 years, where he served as its first Chairman of the Department of Natural Sciences. He also had a faculty appointment at the Graduate School of the City University of New York.

He interrupted his academic career for three years to work at Grumman Corporation as a research scientist on NASA's Apollo Project for the first moon landing. In that capacity, he did seminal work on a prediction model for the distribution of contaminants from the Lunar Module into the lunar atmosphere. He authored over 15 papers on atomic scattering and planetary atmospheres, and was co-author of a textbook on wave mechanics. Over the years, he won more than 20 grants from federal, state, city and private agencies, including the National Science Foundation (NSF). The first of those was a three-year (1969-71) NSF grant called Project Beacon: Physics for the

Disadvantaged, and was among the earliest attempts in the nation to encourage underrepresented minorities and women to pursue careers in science and math.

Frank married Clara Rose Mercurio in 1953 and together they raised four children, initially in Queens Village, and then in Elmont, NY, where he served for many years on both the elementary and high school boards of education, serving as Chairman for a period of time. In retirement, they moved to Staten Island to be closer to children and grandchildren. He was a parishioner and faithful communicant at Our Lady Star of the Sea, in Eltingville.

Frank enjoyed reading, travel and keeping up with current events. Most of all, he loved spending time with his family. He is survived by his four children, Anthony (Anne), Dr. Mary Nasso Galletta (Anthony), Frank (Dr. Hong-Ling Wee), and Dr. Paul Pomilla; grandchildren Julius, Theresa, Frank, Anthony, Christine, Veronica, Mary, Madeleine, Caroline, and Grace, and great grandchildren Adriel, Dominic, Arianna, Julius Jr., Christien, and Marcel. He is predeceased by his beloved wife Clara, to whom he was married for more than 50 years, and by his sister, Josephine.

The funeral is being arranged by Scalia Funeral Home, 28 Eltingville Blvd, Staten Island. Friends and family may visit Thursday from 6-9, and Friday from 2-5 and 7-9. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Saturday 10 AM at Our Lady Star of the Sea, 5371 Amboy Rd. with interment to follow at Holy Rood Cemetery in Westbury. Memorial donations may be made to the York College Foundation (for the Professor Frank Pomilla Award for Science Teaching), Office of Development and Alumni Affairs, STE: AC-2H03, 94-20 Guy R. Brewer Blvd, Jamaica, NY 11451, or by calling 718-262-3810, or on the web at <https://york.cuny.edu/pomilla>.

Cemetery Details

Holy Rood Cemetery

111 Old Country Road
Westbury, NY 11590

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 13. 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM (ET)

John Vincent Scalia Home for Funerals, Inc.
28 Eltingville Blvd
Staten Island, NY 10312

Visitation

JUL 14. 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

John Vincent Scalia Home for Funerals, Inc.
28 Eltingville Blvd
Staten Island, NY 10312

Visitation

JUL 14. 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM (ET)

John Vincent Scalia Home for Funerals, Inc.
28 Eltingville Blvd
Staten Island, NY 10312

Service

JUL **15**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Our Lady Star Of The Sea Church
5411 Amboy Rd
Staten Island, NY 10312

Tribute Wall



“ *Dr. Frank R. Pomilla*

October 04, 2023 at 06:13 PM



“ *Having sat at the table with Mr.Pomilla at Wedding events, Anniversaries, and Graduations, it seemed to me, that it felt that all blood lines were temporarily suspended, and he became everyones' grandfather or Uncle. I will always pray for him and have gratitude that he crossed our path in life, as a wonderful father-in-law for my sister, Anne, and a friend of our family. He was always down to earth and easy to talk with. Rest in Peace Mr. Pomilla!*
Sincerely,
Nick Heidenberg

Nick Heidenberg - July 20, 2017 at 04:13 PM



“ *I will always remember get family get togethers at Uncle Frank's and Aunt Clara's. Anthony, Frank, MaryAnn and Paul please accept my deepest condolences and prayers. I know your dad is in God's Light now and sharing life again with Clara. Love, Cousin Stephen*

Stephen Mercurio - July 13, 2017 at 07:42 AM



Sorry to hear of my beloved professor Frankie Pomilla

Paul Crooks - June 19, 2023 at 03:41 PM

YF

“ *Your TestTakers Family. purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Dr. Frank R. Pomilla.*



Your TestTakers Family. - July 10, 2017 at 01:33 PM