



## Michael Parenti

April 29, 1940 - October 1, 2022

Michael Parenti, age 82, founder of Bozo's Army and Navy Store, passed away Saturday, October 1, 2022. Born and raised in Brooklyn, he was the son of the late Rocco and Laura Parenti, and brother to Marguerite, Dominick, and the late Rocco.

During his childhood, Michael was known as a prankster, often starting problems for fun with the neighborhood kids, then leaving his brother to deal with it. He would regularly be found playing baseball with his friends and played for the "WMCA Good Guys" baseball team. At the same time, he was also working for his father and grandfather's army and navy stores. Establishing Bozo's on Staten Island in 1973 after many years owning stores in Brooklyn, "Mikey" as his customers knew him, was the man who not only provided their workwear, but also brightened their day with jokes, and his very frank opinions.

Michael never suffered with an over-abundance of patience in life, as many who knew him would agree. A few salespeople likely even thought he passed years ago, as they were informed by Mike himself, so as not to be burdened with the fruits of their conversation when they called looking for him. Michael had many employees who worked for him over the years, always falling victim

to his antics at any opportunity he saw fit. He loved them all, not just those who were his family. As a fan of baseball, he followed the Dodgers until they abandoned Brooklyn, at which point he became a fan of the Mets. Mike was very proud of sponsoring a championship Bozo's Softball team in the mid-seventies. He also took pleasure in owning several successful racehorses and was known as the family handyman.

He was a man of the highest caliber, serving as a role model for many. In 2018 after working for over seventy years, Michael retired to live in Florida. Uncle Mike will be missed by many loving nieces and nephews. He is survived by his former spouse Grace Parenti, two daughters Laura Parenti-Norden and Theresa Stetson, two granddaughters Katherine and Jacqueline Stetson, and a single male heir, his grandson Paul.

A Funeral service will be held at 9:30 AM on Saturday at John Vincent Scalia Home for Funerals, Inc. located at 28 Eltingville Blvd Staten Island, New York 10312. Entombment will follow in Pinelawn Memorial Park Cemetery, Farmingdale, NY.

The family will receive friends from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM and 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM on Friday, October 7, 2022, at John Vincent Scalia Home for Funerals, Inc., 28 Eltingville Blvd, Staten Island, New York.

In Lieu of flowers should you wish to honor Michael, donations to St Jude Children's Research Hospital or Tunnels to Towers ,would be greatly appreciated.

Via Mail at:

St. Jude Children's Research Hospital

501 St. Jude Place  
Memphis, TN 38105

or online at:

[https://www.stjude.org/donate/donate-to-st-jude.html?sc\\_icid=header-btn-donate-now](https://www.stjude.org/donate/donate-to-st-jude.html?sc_icid=header-btn-donate-now)

Tunnels to Towers via mail:

MAIL: Tunnel to Towers Foundation, 2361 Hylan Boulevard, Staten Island, NY  
10306

or online at :

<https://t2t.org/donate/>

# Cemetery Details

## Pinelawn Memorial Park

2030 Wellwood Avenue  
Farmingdale, NY 11735

# Previous Events

## Visitation

OCT 7. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

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

## Visitation

OCT 7. 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM (ET)

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

## Service

OCT 8. 9:30 AM (ET)

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



# Tribute Wall



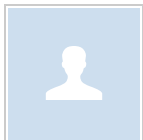
“ *Michael Parenti*

October 04, 2023 at 06:13 PM



“ *Uncle Mike will be missed in so many ways especially for the continuous way he gave to his family and those that were within his midst. I had the honor to work with him at Bozo's in my youth both at the Brooklyn and Staten Island store. I use to look foward to the weekends so I can hang out with Uncle Mike and box with him, listen to his hysterical jokes and his indelible laugh. He had a gift to make you smile and to push you to be a better person. He was truly a role model for me because he was a man of consistency, steadiness and a man with an amazing work ethic. In the Italian American community we have a saying for someone who lives uprightly and with honor. We call that individual a "stand up guy"! Uncle Mike was a stand up guy and those that were fortunate enough to call him family or friend know exactly what I'm talking about. Sometimes we forget the many blessings we have in our life both past and present but I can honestly say I'll never forget the blessing Uncle Mike was to me both in my youth and in my heart today. My Condolences to all those in the famy and and friends who mourn at this time. Love you Uncle Mike, your nephew Anthony*❤️

**Anthony** - October 07, 2022 at 01:25 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Michael Parenti.*



October 06, 2022 at 04:03 PM

RP

“ There is so much I could say about my Uncle Mike(Godfather) I learned so much from him.So grateful for Bozo's.I got to spend many hours with him there.From 10 yrs old to 18 yrs old.I remember all the basement parties we had and an after dinner we would play cards.I remember going to the horse track an won \$500 bucks on Stonegate Count.Great horseHe had a few horses.Im gonna miss him so much.So many great child memories from Chestinton ave.were my cousin's Laura and Theresa lived with Aunt Grace at the time.I know he's in heaven now with my Uncle Rock.I moved to Florida long ago so it was kinda hard to see eachother but he always kept in contact.He helped me out as he helped everyone.He was always joking and just fun to be around.So much more I can say about bout my Unk.All I know is that my brother Dom and I care and will always love and remember you.May God Take you and keep you.Rest in Peace.Love Rocco &Dom

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**Rocco Parenti** - October 06, 2022 at 03:02 PM



“ Wishing we could be with you at this time. I have such fond memories of your dad and the times we went to Meadowlands to see his horse race, getting our picture taken in the winners circle and oh so many times (every weekend for years) visiting and hanging at Bozo's. Sending all of my love to you and your family at this time. Love Holly Davis

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**Holly Davis** - October 06, 2022 at 09:53 AM