



## Brian O'Leary

March 5, 1942 - December 27, 2022

Patrick Brian O'Leary was born on March 5, 1942 in St. John's, Newfoundland Canada to Vincent O'Leary & Margaret O'Leary (nee Snow).

Some fun facts about Brian: He was born and raised in a fishing town, but he had a shellfish allergy and absolutely hated seafood. His family owned the butcher shop in town. Brian and his siblings would ice skate on the frozen ocean water, and laugh in the face of danger on a daily basis. As children we often hear from adults, "when I was little we walked to school in blizzard conditions, up hill and barefoot", but that was mostly true for Brian. Considering Canada never has, and never will know what a "snow day" is.

Brian immigrated from St. John's, NF to Brooklyn, NY in 1958 when he was just 16 years old. Filling out his basic information on paperwork only to come to find out that he and his siblings all had first names that they never knew about! For whatever reason, most of his siblings were all called by their middle names. So, when someone would call for Patrick, he never batted an eye because he didn't know who you were talking to.

Brian proudly served in the United States Army being stationed in Korea from March 9, 1964 to February 25, 1966.

Upon returning home in 1966, Brian created some lifelong friendships. He was

always willing and excited to share stories of the old days and about his friends from the neighborhood, some of who remained close with him for more than 50 years. Brian had an endearing nickname for most of these friendships, they were and will be forever known as "ya snotty bastards".

Brian married his first wife Mary Vincenza Iaquina on April 3, 1969. Their marriage was a happy but short lived one when Mary suddenly passed away on August 20, 1976. Leaving Brian a widow at just 36 years old with two young daughters, ages six & four. With the help of his family they raised Mary Frances & Kerry. A few years later, while working for Western Union as an electrician, Brian was also part owner of a local bar in Bensonhurst Brooklyn where he met his future in-laws, Bill & Kay Whelehan who introduce Brian to their daughter Kathleen. Brian & Kathy began dating, and were married May 30, 1981. Shortly after they purchased a home in the Huguenot section of Staten Island where they added 3 more daughters Shannon, BriAnne & Ryan.

Working at Western Union, then transitioning over to the FDNY Communications Electrician, IBEW Local 3. It is important to note that Brian was indeed color blind. He became an expert at electrocuting himself and teaching himself what color shaded wires NOT to cross.

Brian was a gifted story teller, an extremely hard working family man who was always working 2 jobs to make ends meet. He was a perfect combination of funny, caring, and generous beyond his means. He was happy to help, in any way he possibly could. You never had to ask the man twice for anything. If he had it, and you needed it, it was yours. No questions asked. He was everyone's favorite person, and we are all better for knowing him. Brian was famous for the "Irish goodbye", when he was done, he done. No goodbyes or explanations necessary.

We think it is important for people to know that Brian's favorite life motto was,

"it is what it is". There are some things in life that are just out of our control, and we can't change. Because if we could, Brian wouldn't have had to fight dementia and Parkinson's for the last 5 years and he would still be here with us today. But there are so many stories about him from so many people, that his spirit and memory will live on for many years to come.

Brian wouldn't want you to waste your money on flowers, so please instead send donations to his favorite charity, St. Jude's Children's Foundation and/or the Michael J. Fox Parkinson's Foundation.

The family will receive friends from 4:00 - 8:00 p.m. on Friday, December 30, 2022, at the John Vincent Scalia Home For Funerals, Inc., 28 Eltingville Blvd. (at Eltingville Station), Staten Island, New York. Cremation will be private.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

DEC **30**. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

The John Vincent Scalia Home For Funerals, Inc.  
28 Eltingville Blvd. (at Eltingville Station)  
Staten Island, NY 10312

# Tribute Wall



“ *John Vincent Scalia Home for Funerals Inc. created a Tribute Video in memory of Brian O'Leary*



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**John Vincent Scalia Home for Funerals Inc.** - December 30, 2022 at 10:33 AM



“ *Brian O'Leary*

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October 04, 2023 at 06:13 PM



“ *I'll always hold a special place in my heart for Brian and his entire family. Not only is Mary Frances a very dear friend but Brian was a wonderful friend, as well. He was instrumental in helping me get onto the FDNY Communications Dept. and I remember the many times he "electrocuted" me while sending me power across some wires without my knowledge. I'll always cherish his laughter while watching me shout out and curse in pain. We had so many good times and I will miss him dearly. RIP Brian.*

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**Robert Winters** - December 30, 2022 at 04:21 PM



*Thank you very much Rob. I know he loved you very much in his own way. You were like the son he never had and sometimes wanted. LOL*



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**Mary Frances** - December 30, 2022 at 09:52 PM



“ 61 files added to the album Life Tributes



John Vincent Scalia Home for Funerals Inc. - December 30, 2022 at 10:31 AM

NS

“ Dear Mary

*I am so sorry to hear about the passing of your dad. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family in this very difficult time. Although he is no longer here physically he will always be in your heart and mind. As a family remember all the wonderful times you had together and they will always make your heart smile.*

*I am going to St Patrick's on January 5th. I will light 2 candles one for dad and one for your lovely family.*

*Thinking about you and sending you lots of hugs and kisses.*

*Nadia Small*

Nadia Small - December 30, 2022 at 07:21 AM

Mary Frances

*Thank you for your kind words and lighting the candles. My family and I truly appreciate it. Love you.*

Mary Frances - December 30, 2022 at 09:53 PM

ZW

“ Through your wonderful daughter, Mary Frances, I have known of you the past 15yrs. Through some tough times and some truly loving times. May you rest in peace and be eternally remembered. My thoughts and prayers are with all your family. Zoe (UK).

Zoe Waters - December 30, 2022 at 02:56 AM

Mary Frances

Thank you Zoe, we truly appreciate it. ❤️

Mary Frances - December 30, 2022 at 09:55 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Brian O'Leary.



December 29, 2022 at 09:48 PM



“ Rose Tribute was purchased for the family of Brian O'Leary.



December 29, 2022 at 03:58 PM

MO

“ 40 files added to the album Patrick B O'Leary



Mary OLeary - December 29, 2022 at 12:01 PM



“ Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of Brian O'Leary.



December 29, 2022 at 11:57 AM



“ Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Brian O'Leary.



December 29, 2022 at 11:44 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Brian O'Leary.



December 29, 2022 at 06:36 AM



“ *Basket of Memories* was purchased for the family of Brian O'Leary.



December 28, 2022 at 10:34 PM



“ *Serene Retreat* was purchased for the family of Brian O'Leary.



December 28, 2022 at 08:16 PM



“ *Theresa Hagan* purchased the *Ocean Breeze Spray* for the family of Brian O'Leary.



**Theresa Hagan** - December 28, 2022 at 05:31 PM

BO

“Daddy,  
My love of early mornings and all things carbs are directly from you. My favorite memories growing up were us being the only 2 who got up early in the morning to go out and get breakfast for everyone. You taking us to the baseball field in Brooklyn on Sundays to watch the P. O’Learys play ball and then those epic end of the summer BBQ’s for the entire team and their families. Being your daughter has been the greatest gift I could’ve ever hoped for. You were caring and kind and it took A LOT to piss you off. Considering you were a father to 5 girls, you had the patience of a saint! And believe me, we all know I tested those patience more than anyone else! You were happy to just hear from us, and I’m sorry these last few years didn’t turn out the way we all hoped they would. You were loved beyond comprehension and will be missed more than you’ll ever know. Please don’t be afraid to visit, I’m forever open to just one more hug ❤️ I love you.

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**BriAnne O’Leary** - December 28, 2022 at 12:19 PM

 Mary  
Frances



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**Mary Frances** - December 30, 2022 at 09:55 PM

VO

“Uncle Brian time has moved by so fast for all of us. Growing up you were always there for us and always loved being with you. Always made Paul and me feel so special. You always looked out for us and forever will cherish your memory in my heart. Time has gone by so quick and makes me realize the things I took for granted and the time we spent I will always remember with the best of love and memories. I will Love you forever and remember the Good times there were many many. Love You Always Kiss My Dad for me. RIP  
LOVE YOU - Your Nephew Vinny XOXO

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**VINCENT O’LEARY** - December 28, 2022 at 12:14 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Brian O'Leary.*



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December 28, 2022 at 09:09 AM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Brian O'Leary.*



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December 28, 2022 at 07:36 AM



“ *Uncle Brian Love you forever! You were always there for me growing up and never forgot it. You were a special person always loved seeing you and sharing a laugh and playing pool in your bar as a kid . Time goes to fast can picture you driving your Cadillac like it was yesterday. I remember going to get Mary and Kerry's ears pierced like it was yesterday with you my mom and me and Vinny. Love you forever and ever kiss my Father Nanny Grandpa and Uncle Paul for me. Your in great company! Watch over us all ❤️❤️  
❤️🙏🙏🙏❤️❤️❤️RIP❤️ In my heart forever xxxxx- Paul*

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**Paul O'Leary Nephew** - December 27, 2022 at 08:27 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Brian O'Leary.* ”



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December 27, 2022 at 08:01 PM