



Dr. Anthony S. Papalia

March 6, 1932 - September 6, 2024

Dr. Anthony S. (Tony) Papalia, age 92, was born in Warren, Pennsylvania to the late Frank and Carmela (Rositano) Papalia. He graduated from Warren Area High School and went on to receive a Bachelor's degree in teaching from Oberlin College. While at Oberlin, Tony was in the ROTC program where upon graduating he entered in to the U.S. Air Force as a second lieutenant. While also at Oberlin, he met his future wife, Ruth Wickersham. Tony was an airtraffic controller while in the Air Force and finished his military career at the rank of captain. Tony then taught social studies at Beaty Junior High School in Warren for two years. He later received a Master's degree in college counseling from Penn State University and a doctorate from State University of New York at Albany and spent 36 years as the director of counselling services at State University of New York at Cortland.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Ruth; a daughter, Mary Papalia-Clarke (Milo); a grandson Andrew DeHart; four brothers, Ralph, Carl, John, and Joseph; and two sisters, Rose Loomis, and Nancy Dorotics. Tony is survived by three daughters, Jean Papalia (Michael Beatty), Anne Papalia (Jerry Berardi), and Martha Berry (Phil); grandchildren Naomi DeHart, Samantha Berry (Kevin Steiner), Willa Thielen (Matthew), Zoe Papalia-Beatty, Jessica Berry (Isaac Neve), Ava Papalia-Beatty, and several nieces and nephews.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Wednesday, October 16, 2024, at 10:30am at St. Anthony of Padua Roman Catholic Church followed by a lunch. The family will receive friends from 4pm to 6pm in the Chapel of Riccardi Funeral Home, Cortland, N.Y. on October 15, 2024, and at St Anthony's prior to the Mass from 9:15 am-10:15 am. For additional information contact www.riccardifuneralhome.com in Cortland, N.Y.

In lieu of flowers, the family invites contributions to the Anthony Papalia and Ruth Wickersham Papalia Scholarship at The Cortland College Foundation or Catholic Charities of Cortland.

Tribute Wall

BC

“ *Barbara Chitwood-Mittelstadt lit a candle in memory of Dr. Anthony S. Papalia*



Barbara Chitwood-Mittelstadt - December 04, 2024 at 02:53 AM

BC

“ *I woke up this am and I had a strong feeling to look up Dr Papalia, only to find he had passed. I cannot say enough of what he did for me during my time at SUNY Cortland when my mother passed away. He was a support that believed in me and helped guide me when my world was shattered.*

He was there to guide me like a loving grandfather. He wisdom and ability to communicate in such a way to uplift others was amazing. I did a summer internship with him and loved working in the office.

Every year since 1993 (except last year), I would receive a Christmas card with a personal note from him. His words were heartfelt and personal. He made me feel important. I will miss those notes, but know I was blessed by an earthly angel.

Barbara Chitwood-Mittelstadt - December 04, 2024 at 02:52 AM

B-

“ *May God bless Dr. Papalia and his family.*

Until we meet again.

Love,

Barbara/Jack-----/-



Barbara/Jack -----/- - November 29, 2024 at 12:07 PM

BW

“ *Tony changed my life! I always knew who he was because I want to Saint Anthony's and I saw him there all the time.*

Tony came into Smith Corona where I worked and help me get my bachelors degree and fought for me every step of the way!

When I got laid off from Smith Corona, Tony helped me get my masters degree in teaching and I became an Earth science teacher at South Jefferson, high school in Adams, New York.

I've got a few of his Christmas cards that he sent to me and I'll always treasure them. They'll never be another man like him! I love this man like a father! Thanks for everything Tony. I'll miss you.

Bruce Wasilenko - October 25, 2024 at 11:45 AM

KW

“ *Karen M Williams lit a candle in memory of Dr. Anthony S. Papalia*



Karen M Williams - September 30, 2024 at 06:43 PM

DW

“ When I began my ministry in Cortland, I set up a lunch date with my new colleague, Father Ed O’Heron. Over the years Fr. O’Heron gave me many gifts, but the greatest was that he invited Tony to join us for that lunch. What a precious gift he was. Over the years he had immense influence over my life and ministry, with his insights, support, and love. Although, when he decided that the campus needed its own doctor in the Health Center, he stole mine, Dr. Nancy Sternfeld, who, of course, became an outstanding resource for our students. I forgave him for that. My love and condolences go out to his family and to all that were blessed to have him in their lives. Don Wilcox

donald wilcox - September 27, 2024 at 11:22 AM

DD

“ My favorite memory of Tony is from my 9th grade year. He had me an aptitude test one weekend at his office; it revealed that I’d be a good cartographer. When I asked what that is, he smiled and said map-maker. Nope, I thought, not for me. Here I am, decades later, an environmental engineer dealing regularly with GIS, maps, etc! Well done Tony! Rest in peace. Many condolences to the family

Doug Daley - September 21, 2024 at 05:05 PM

SN

“ Tony once counseled me on my study habits. I wasn’t exactly a stellar student at the time. I spent a great deal of time at their home. I was welcomed like one of the family. I am eternally grateful. Condolences to the sisters and extended family.

Scott Goodrich Toms River NJ - September 21, 2024 at 03:22 PM

LG

“ *Mr. Papalia was possibly the kindest man I knew growing up. So involved in family and campus life!*

Linda Brownell Glover - September 19, 2024 at 11:16 AM

BS

“ *What wonderful memories I have of working with Tony for years at SUNY Cortland. He always had a smile!*

Breta C. Sisson - September 18, 2024 at 04:46 PM

AP

“ *What a great life!!Dr.Papalia was for Cortland and St.Anthony's Cortland an icon unmatched. He, 10 years younger than Mom and more than for Dad was a pillar in our community. Fond memories. May he soar high. To his family, your special man was awesome!!Eternal rest. ❤️❤️❤️*

Amy Tutino Piatak - September 18, 2024 at 09:37 AM

TW

“ *I'm so very sorry; prayers; he was such a wonderful man.*

Terri Semeraro Woodford - September 18, 2024 at 09:34 AM