



## Lawrence A. Christiansen III

January 6, 1949 - October 7, 2017

Lawrence “Larry” Christiansen, age 68, passed away on Saturday, Oct. 7, 2017, at Cooper University Hospital in Camden, N.J.

Born and raised on Staten Island, Larry resided in Robbinsville, N.J., for 15 years before moving to Burlington, where he resided for the past 13 years. Larry was a loving husband, father, United States Army veteran, and avid Giants fan.

Larry served as Director of Bands and Chairman of the Music Department at Monsignor Farrell High School for 35 years, where he was known by students as “Mr. C”. Under his direction, the Farrell Marching band won over 250 first place and special caption awards, including first place at the 2011 US Bands National Championship. In January of 2012, Larry became the first high school Director whose band was inducted into the Walt Disney World “Performers Hall of Fame”.

Larry’s greatest joy was taking time to study the Bible and touched many lives through his faith. He hosted a radio program, “The Anchor of Truth” from 2001-2009 and taught weekly adult Christian Apologetics and education classes at The Fountain of Life Center in Burlington, NJ, for over twenty years.

Surviving are his loving wife, Lynn Halfin-Christiansen; daughter, Sara Christiansen; sister, Susan Friscia (Christiansen); and brother, John Christiansen. Larry is predeceased by his sister, Ellen Marino (Christiansen) . A Memorial Visitation will take place on Saturday, October 14, 2017 Fountain of Life Center, 2035 Columbus Rd., Burlington, NJ. Viewing will be from 12-2 PM with memorial service to follow . In lieu of flowers the family requests that donations be made to International Fellowship of Christians and Jews.

John 14: 1-3 - “Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.”



# Events

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**OCT**   **Visitation**   12:00PM - 02:00PM

**14**

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Fountain of Life Center

2035 Columbus Road, Burlington, NJ, US

**OCT**   **Service**   02:00PM - 03:00PM

**14**

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Fountain of Life Center

2035 Columbus Road, Burlington, NJ, US

# Comments

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“ Nobody taught their students the way Mr. C taught his students. Yes, he wanted his students in his music class to learn about musical theory, but most of all he wanted his sophomores to learn where their true identity came from. At that age of 15-16 years old, we put on all sorts of masks to fool our classmates, our friends, and ourselves. Mr. C saw through all of this, and humbly and gently helped each of us pull away our own masks to see that our true identity is found in Jesus Christ. This wonderful man changed this particular student's life, as well as countless others. Well done, Good and Faithful Servant! Off to your heavenly reward...

**Peter** - November 07, 2017 at 11:28 AM

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“ Being a part of the Farrell Band meant that we performed in unique places and won amazing awards, but thanks to Mr. C, it also meant so much more. Farrell is the home of Vir Fidelis – Faithful Men – and Mr. C walked that walk and helped his students do the same, teaching us invaluable life lessons and helping us become leaders. Having Mr. C as a band director, mentor, and friend changed the lives of many. I, for one, wouldn't be who I am without him. Rest in peace, Mr. C.

**Matthew Izzo** - October 13, 2017 at 11:35 PM

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“ I'm deeply deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Mr "C". I had the pleasure of meeting him very early in his career when I was a young student at Staten Island Academy. Mr C was my music teacher, my band director, my mentor, my friend. He drove to NJ with my father & I and helped me choose my Ibanez Guitar and Fender Twin Reverb Amp when I was 16 so I could play in the High School band. He shared the stage with me many times, Larry on drums & me on guitar (a photo still sits on the piano in my parents home). He taught me how to play jazz rhythms & blues riffs by singing it to me first. We sang harmonies & Doo Wop songs together after class. He was a guest in my home for Sunday dinners. Later in life, and until recently, he hosted his annual Band Dinners wherever I worked. We talked Music, Baseball, Family and Life. When I spoke to him, whether in person or on the phone, he would say a prayer for me. Mr "C" will always be one of the most special people I have been blessed to know. I have so many great memories because of him. My heart goes out to his wife Lynn and daughter Sara. I am devastated.

**Patrick J. Fazio** - October 13, 2017 at 08:15 PM

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“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Lawrence A. Christiansen III.



October 12, 2017 at 09:08 PM

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“ Mr. Christiansen was a great teacher. I had him for music class my freshmen year of high school. He was a very bright soul and had a huge passion for what he did. He will be missed.

Carmine Malandro

Monsignor Farrell Alumni Class of 2010

**Carmine Malandro** - October 12, 2017 at 01:50 PM

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“ As a young teenager, I sang in Mr. C's choir at Staten Island Academy, and in his first year at Monsignor Farrell, where he recruited female voices from other area schools. Even then, his professionalism and love of both music and his students left a lasting impression. Everybody loved Mr. C. May he rest in peace. My condolences to his family and friends.

Susan Loring Crane

**Susan Crane** - October 11, 2017 at 06:24 PM

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“ I am so thankful that I got to know "Mr. C" over the past decade. Both my children got to experience his leadership, wisdom, work ethic and Christian faith in the marching band, along with more than a generation of young musicians. Both shared with him the thrill of that 2011 championship. We also saw him several times in "He Is Alive!" So both Monsignor Farrell and Fountain of Life have lost an 'institution.' Yet now Larry is making a joyful noise in Heaven with his Lord.

Bill Anderson

**Bill Anderson** - October 10, 2017 at 09:55 PM

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“ My condolences to the family.

I met Larry in the 70's with the Holy Child Marching 100 Drum and Bugle Corps. We became good friends and had lots of laughs. He would look at me and say "cornball", (one of his phrases), I would crack up hearing him say that.

Lots of good memories!

It's reassuring to know he is with our Lord now even tho he is missed here.

Larry, you will be forever in my heart!

Carl Divito

**Carl Divito** - October 10, 2017 at 02:13 PM

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“ My daughter, Ariel, joined the band when she was 13 and still in middle-school. She became part of the color guard and throughout her over 6 years there she became devoted to Mr. C and the band. Mr.. C demanded a lot and at times she would get frustrated but she never quit. Eventually he made her co-drum major, which was a great honor for her as Mr. C trusted her with memorizing dynamics as well as tempo in order to provide proper direction and cues. When she went to college she kept in touch with him and after her graduation in 2011, he called her to lead a new group of young girls, which she is continuing to do, knowing that his legacy for discipline, respect for others would continue with her. Thank you Mr. C for all that you have done for my daughter and all students. Rest assured that what you instilled in their young lives has shaped them for the better and they will pass it forward.

Love,

Roe Marcus



**Roseann Marcus** - October 10, 2017 at 10:50 AM

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“ Mr. C had a profound impact on our entire family. He helped mold the fine young sons we have today. We admired and respected him as a person, teacher, band director and friend. We enjoyed our numerous talks on religion and scripture, politics and how we could change the world to make it a better place. We admired the way he could see potential in a young adolescent that others couldn't and just a few short years later, that young man or woman would grow into a mature, respectful, intelligent young adult. Both our boys Gino and Salvatore have demonstrated in both word and actions what they learned from Larry. Just last week Gino said something I thought was so insightful and spot on, that I knew he believed with all his heart. I complimented him and he said " well its a Mr. C " Wisdom Key . " Our son Salvatore truly admired Larry and he learned so much with him on, and they had many spirited discussions on such an array of topics. He told me a few days ago that he had a voice mail from Mr. C that said he respected him and considered him a friend. I know he will always cherish it. I know that my husband had many quiet long discussions with Larry and they both enjoyed the time spent with each other. For me, my favorite memories are when Larry would lead us in prayer, I would finish with the sign of the cross. Larry would say " Over and out, are we good now ? " Our deepest condolences to Lynn and Sarah. We loved your Dad, respected him and will miss him greatly. May he rest in eternal peace. I know he will be always close to you in your hearts and always watching over you. Love, Rachel, Sal, Gino & Salvatore Volpe

Rachel A Volpe - October 09, 2017 at 06:23 PM

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“ This was a man of true conviction and commitment. He loved the Lord as well as his family with all his heart. Farewell, Larry. You were a blessing.

Jeanne Sigler - October 09, 2017 at 05:31 PM

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“ Larry was a wonderful example of a Christian. He walked what he preached. He will be very missed!



Cindy O'Neill - October 09, 2017 at 04:21 PM

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“ I will always remember Uncle Larry! My favorite memory is when we would play the game Balderdash! Another favorite memory is watching the NY Giants the year they won the Super Bowl and we all held hands and stood around the television! We had a victory cheesecake waiting in the fridge just in case and sure enough they won! And then You called a random bar from the opposing team's town and left this long message of us all screaming Go Giants!! I think it ended up being a bakery not a bar...to think of the baker the next morning hating that message!! Thank you for loving my boys Dom and Cary! They will never forget their special trip to Disney with you. They loved their visits with you and Lynn and Sara! Cary loved playing madlibs esp! This is not goodbye but see you again one day!! We will always be part of your family.

**caroline peterson** - October 09, 2017 at 02:54 PM