



Robert Arena

August 10, 1985 - October 18, 2021

Robert Arena passed away suddenly on Monday, October 18, 2021 at the age of 36. He is survived by his wife, Cristina, mother Louise, father Fred, brother Michael, step father Joe and his two beloved corgis Enzo and Sofie. Rob was a "larger than life" person, and to know him was to love him. Big heart, big smile, big biceps, big teddy bear. He was a special ed teacher by trade and a phenomenal girls track coach by heart.

A self proclaimed "mama's boy," Robert loved his family with all his heart. His brother, Michael, was his best friend and confidant. Robert met his wife Cristina in 2011. They married July 2016 and lived in Jersey City with their two dogs.

Robert graduated from Rancocas Valley Regional High School in 2003, studied at Widener University receiving a degree in Criminal Justice and continued his education online at Grand Canyon where he received his masters degree in Special Education. Robert was working on another masters in Educational Leadership at NJCU.

It was when he began his teaching career in Jersey City Public Schools that he found his true passion and purpose when he took a position as Assistant Track and Field Coach at Henry Snyder High School. He was humbled and honored to be named the Hudson County Track Coaches Association Coach

of the Year in 2017 and the Snyder High School Coach of the Year 3 times.

Rob was so special and was able to make connections through all phases of his life. He was able to succeed in any role that came his way. The people of Deerwood, Burlington Township Special Services, Liberty Lake, H&R Block, and Spirit of Halloween were fortunate to have met him and experience his aura of awesomeness.

Relatives and friends are invited to attend his viewing on Wednesday from 6-9 PM at Perinchief Chapels, 438 High St., Mt. Holly. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Thursday at 10 AM at St. Katherine's Parish at St. Paul's Church, 223 E. Union St., Burlington. Entombment to follow at Odd Fellows Cemetery, Burlington.

Robert Arena had so much more to give and will be missed by so many. He will live forever in our hearts and through the Robert Arena Memorial Scholarship. In lieu of flowers you can place a donation to: https://www.gofundme.com/f/robert-arena-memorial-scholarship-fund?utm_source=customer&utm_medium=copy_link&utm_campaign=p_cp_guide_do&member=14704691

Cemetery Details

Odd Fellows Cemetery

Route 130
Burlington, NJ

Previous Events

Viewing

OCT 27. 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM (ET)

Perinchief Chapels
438 High St.
Mount Holly, NJ 08060
(609) 267-0399

Mass of Christian Burial

OCT 28. 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Paul's Church
223 East Union Street
Burlington, NJ 08016

Tribute Wall



“ *Robert Arena*

October 29, 2022 at 11:57 AM



“ *Robert Arena*

October 29, 2022 at 09:53 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Robert Arena.*



October 27, 2021 at 10:01 PM



“ *Hi Louise:*

This is Eva Faltas. I am sadden to hear of this fine young men passing. I remember your sons when they were little children. I especially remember Robert being sensitive & gentle. May he Rest in Peace & may God give and your family comfort in his memories.



Eva Faltas - October 27, 2021 at 11:42 AM

JB

“ *Joseph Bruzzese lit a candle in memory of Robert Arena*



Joseph Bruzzese - October 27, 2021 at 11:00 AM

JB

“ *Louise, its Joe Bruzzese from NYC Finance Sales Tax. I just heard the terrible and tragic news from Anna C. So sorry. My heart goes out to you and your family along with my deepest condolences. My sister and I lost both my parents and my aunt (my Mother's middle sister) and uncle within just a few years of each other. Life is so precious and so short. You must saver, enjoy and appreciate what you have and the loved ones you can share it as long as you can! Again, my condolences to you and your family. God Bless. Joe Bruzzese.*

Joseph Bruzzese - October 27, 2021 at 10:59 AM

JG

“ I've known Arena (he told me if I called him "Robert" he'd feel like he was getting in trouble) for such a short time, but in that time he'd become a friend and such an integral part of Innovation High School. He is so important to our students in track but he also served as our Special Education department leader, giving so much dedication and energy to helping our students learn and feel comfortable in class. Being that our department didn't have our own room, even though we didn't teach any classes together I'd see him all the time in the hallways between each class period and in the main office. And each time he'd wave hi or give an understanding nod, a nice pause of camaraderie in an otherwise hectic day.

I feel like I always saw him on his laptop doing work, like he hit the ground running every day and got so much more done than everyone else. And all the while he was also friendly and fun-loving, smiling and cracking jokes. I remember in our first department meeting, I saw he had thousands of unread emails and told him that bothered me. He joked that since he knows that now, he'd always show me how many unread emails he had.

In the short time he's had here, he's made such an impact and his efforts and love for the kids, his coworkers, friends, and family will continue to be felt.

- Janine Ganapin

Janine Ganapin - October 27, 2021 at 08:35 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of Robert Arena.



October 27, 2021 at 07:59 AM



“ *Mr. Arena- Unforgettable...*

I met him briefly this school year as my co-teacher in Physics. Instantly, I recognized the joy and respect students had for him. He brought energy to the class and was always there for the students and myself.

Our last class together, Friday Oct 15, we did a round robin asking students to share how they were feeling. At the end, Mr Arena shared jokingly he was mad that he did not get his empanadas from Ms. Ramirez during lunch for the conclusion of Spanish Heritage week. But most importantly he continued by saying, "other than that I am HAPPY."

We are still in shock with the passing of Mr. Arena. We remember, his smile, his laughter, his lessons and words of encouragement he shared with us all.

He will be missed.

May your soul rest in peace Mr. Arena.

Ms. Mckoy and your Period 6 Physics class.

Stacey McKoy - October 26, 2021 at 07:57 AM



“ *Bountiful Memories Casket Spray was purchased for the family of Robert Arena.*



October 25, 2021 at 03:27 PM



“ *My thoughts and prayers are with you all, throughout this difficult time.*
Fondly,
Cindy, Candy and Jillian Bennett



cindy bennett - October 24, 2021 at 12:02 PM



“ *My thoughts and prayers are without you throughout this difficult time.*
Fondly,
Cindy, Candy and Jillian Bennett



cindy bennett - October 24, 2021 at 11:56 AM