



## Anthony James Bellanca

April 23, 1947 - July 8, 2023

Anthony James Bellanca, 76, was called home to the Lord the morning of July 8, 2023, after a period of declining health. He was a resident of the Guthrie Memorial Skilled Nursing Unit in Towanda, PA.

Anthony was born on April 23, 1947, to Cataldo and Antoinette Bellanca in Pittston, PA. He was a standout athlete at Pittston High School where the locals knew him as “Bobo.” He went on to play college basketball and baseball for Kings College. After graduating in 1968, he accepted a teaching job with the Towanda Area School District where he also coached football, basketball, and golf throughout his tenure. He proudly served in many union roles with the Towanda Area Education Association and was known for his fierce spirit of negotiating. He was also a lifetime member of the Pennsylvania State Education Association.

After retiring from teaching, he worked briefly at Red Rock Job Corps in Lopez, PA as a residential advisor before moving to Jamestown, NY where he made good use of his Master’s Degree from the University of Scranton. He was employed by the Chatauqua Alcohol and Substance Abuse Counsel as an educator and program director. He also served on the New York Council for Problem Gambling.

Tony was a former member of the Towanda Country Club and enjoyed playing golf when his health permitted. Back in the day, he played in the modified softball league in Monroeton, bowled in the Kegler’s League at Starlight Lanes, and shot darts and pool in local leagues. He was an avid sports fan,

traveling to high school and college games near and far with family and friends. He was an avid reader and enjoyed playing games on his phone. Surviving are his daughter and son-in-law, Deborah (James) Philippi of Rome, PA and his grandson who brought him the greatest joy, Michael Wallitsch of Easton, PA. He is also survived by a brother and sister-in-law, Cataldo Jr. (Rosalie) Bellanca of Pittston PA, brother-in-law, Jimmy Bone of West Pittston, nieces and their spouses, Dr. Christie (Justin) Lambert of Duryea and Teresa (Tom) Myers of Orlando, FL, nephews, Charles (Anita) Cumbo, Orlando, FL and Dr. Michael Bone (Conchetta Martorella) Mount Pocono, PA , several great nephews and great nieces, many Italian cousins, a loving Philippi step-family, and his ex-wife and dear friend, Catherine Bellanca of Towanda, PA. He is also survived by his special recovery families in Towanda, PA and Jamestown, NY.

Tony was predeceased in death by his parents, sister and brother-in-law, Carol (Charles) Cumbo of Orlando, FL, sister, Tina Bone of West Pittston, PA, nephew, David Cumbo of Orlando, FL, niece-in-law, Dr. Lorraine Hammel of Mt. Pocono PA, and his best buddy and granddog, Cash.

The family will receive family and friends at 11am on Saturday, July 15th at Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church in Towanda. A funeral and luncheon will follow at noon with Pastor Jira Albers officiating. Because Tony was determined to keep his teaching legacy alive, he selflessly donated his body to Humanity Gifts Registry in Philadelphia to assist in the education of future health care professionals. A private burial will be held at a later date. Memorial donations may be made to the Towanda Area School District Foundation c/o Brian Driscoll, 410 State Street, Towanda, PA, 18848 or Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, 908 Main Street, Towanda, PA, 18848. Arrangements are being made under the direction of Maryott-Bowen Funeral Home, Towanda, PA.

Memories and condolences may be expressed by visiting [www.bowenfuneralhomes.com](http://www.bowenfuneralhomes.com)



# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUL 15. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Trinity Lutheran Church  
908 South Main Street  
Towanda, PA 18848

## Service

JUL 15. 12:00 PM (ET)

Trinity Lutheran Church  
908 South Main Street  
Towanda, PA 18848

# Tribute Wall



“ Anthony James Bellanca

October 22, 2023 at 08:10 PM



“ Anthony James Bellanca

October 08, 2023 at 10:34 PM



“ Anthony James Bellanca

October 06, 2023 at 09:57 AM



“ Anthony James Bellanca

October 06, 2023 at 03:29 AM



“ Anthony James Bellanca

October 05, 2023 at 02:02 PM



“ On behalf of the Board of Directors of the New York Council on Problem Gambling let me express our condolences to the family of Tony. He was a valuable contributor to the the Council for over 15 years. He served as Treasurer, chairman of several committees, and a voice of reason in advancing our mission. Rest in Peace.  
Steve Block

steve Block - August 21, 2023 at 12:31 PM

JJ

“ *Rip mr. Belanca*



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**Jeannie and jim johnson** - July 18, 2023 at 10:08 AM



“ *My prayers are with Tony's family and friends. I knew him as Mr. or Coach Bellanca, a great teacher and coach at Towanda High School and I'm sad to hear of his passing.*

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**Jared Dieffenbach** - July 15, 2023 at 09:53 PM

V.

“ *As my colleague, my friend , and ongoing support to my family I am forever grateful to have had you in our lives. Vicki B . Lakeview will miss you're contribution to our program. Thank you.*

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**V..Brenner** - July 14, 2023 at 11:23 PM

DS

“ *Dear Bellanca Family,  
Sorry to hear of Coach Bellanca's passing. He was a tremendous role model who taught my teammates and I valuable life lessons on and beyond the basketball court. Keeping you all in our thoughts & prayers. RIP Coach Bellanca.  
Dave Scranton and Family*

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**David Scranton** - July 14, 2023 at 12:28 PM

BQ

“ *Ms. Bellanca, Deb & Family,  
So sorry to read the news on Coach Bellanca. Many great  
memories of him from years ago on the court, golf course, and pool  
table. All my best to you all at a very difficult time. God Bless.  
Sincerely,  
Brian Quiggle & Family*

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**Brian W Quiggle** - July 13, 2023 at 08:15 AM

BM

“ *Hats off to you Tony. We know you were the very best! Basketball  
Coach Towanda ever had. And we are so happy he got to play  
under you  
. and we got to know you and you made him a better young man....  
  
LOVE Bill Arlene Christi and most of all Billy Mendler*

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**Bill Mendler** - July 12, 2023 at 08:04 PM

AO

“ *R.I.P. Coach ♡  
Amy O'Rourke*

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**Amy ORourke** - July 11, 2023 at 12:23 PM

SH

“ *I have fond memories of French IV class at Towanda High School  
during the 1968-1969 year with Mr. Bellanca teaching us French  
literature. My sympathy to his daughter and family. (I babysat  
Deborah a few times.) sincerely, Sharon Horinka*

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**Sharon Horinka** - July 11, 2023 at 11:28 AM

BG

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with all of Tony's family! May God Bless!

*Bob & Mary Getz*

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**Bob & Mary Getz** - July 11, 2023 at 10:06 AM

CH

“ RIP Tony  
My deepest sympathy to all of the family in your loss.



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**Claire Holton-Lizon** - July 11, 2023 at 08:51 AM

RJ

“ Rosalie and Jr purchased the Treasured Lilies Spray for the family of Anthony James Bellanca.



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**Rosalie and Jr** - July 10, 2023 at 07:30 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Anthony James Bellanca.

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July 10, 2023 at 07:28 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Anthony James Bellanca.*



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July 10, 2023 at 07:28 PM