



Querino (Tony) Anthony Lelli, Jr.

June 23, 1930 - June 27, 2024

Querino (Tony) Anthony Lelli, Jr. passed away peacefully on June 27, 2024, after

94 years of life with his family by his side.

Born June 23, 1930 in Steubenville, Ohio to Querino A. Lelli, Sr. and Nicolina (Mangiamele) Lelli, Tony grew up in Steubenville along with his two brothers, Raymond and Geno.

Tony regaled his family with many stories of growing up in the same neighborhood

as Dean Martin. From running numbers as a young kid to quarterbacking for Big

Red (Steubenville H.S.), Tony had many accolades as a standout athlete despite his

short stature. Tony was a graduate of Steubenville H.S. Class of 1948. He was a

star quarterback and earned varsity letters in football, basketball and baseball where he excelled as a catcher. A highlight of Tony's sports adventures was getting

a chance to try out for the Chicago White Sox minor league team shortly after high

school. He thought it was a godsend that he didn't make the team as the salary at

the time was paltry and you had to pay for everything. He then decided to

head

west to a small school in Klamath Falls, Oregon to play football and baseball for

Oregon Technical Institute (OTI). There he met the love of his life, Billie June (June) Neely, and they married on December 15, 1951, in Klamath Falls, Oregon.

Thus began a union that lasted 70+ years and produced 5 children.

Tony and June went back to Ohio after Tony had finished school, but after a couple

of years they found their way back west to Klamath Falls again. Tony was hired as

a surveyor for Pacific Power and Light and started out working on the COPCO Dam on the Klamath River along the Oregon/California border. At PP&L, Tony and the family moved several times as he advanced in his career. Each move had to

have the whole family's approval so he would always ask them if they were ok with it. His moves took the family from Klamath Falls to Medford to Mt. Shasta, CA, to Roseburg OR, then to Alturas CA, where he spent 37 years. Tony and June

made their final move to Bend OR in 2010 to be closer to family..

Tony was very active in his church and the community regardless of where he lived. Tony was a lifelong Rotarian and a member of the Elks. He served on the

Alturas City Council for many years. Tony retired in 1988 at the age of 58 and spent his retirement golfing, attending local high school events, traveling with friends and visiting with kids and grandkids. He always found time to attend his

grandkids' sporting events no matter where they took place. Tony loved his family

more than anything and every vacation while the kids were growing up was spent

either traveling across the country with all of them in tow to visit grandparents or

later, camping with kids and grandkids. His most favorite times were when the whole family came home for Christmas or spent a week camping in Oregon.

Tony is survived by his wife June and his 5 children, Charla (Mark), Steve (Kim),

Shirley (Dennis), Linda (Nate) and Cheryl (Jeff). Tony was also blessed with 10

grandkids and 4 great-grandkids.

Services will be held on July 10th, with a mass at 10:30 a.m. at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, NE 27th St., Bend, OR. Burial will take place at noon at Deschutes Memorial Gardens with a reception to follow at 1:00 p.m. at Sunrise Village Lodge, 19560 Sunshine Way.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St. Jude's Children's Hospital or Shriners

Children's Hospital of Northern California.

On a side note, a few years ago, Tony worked on a story of his life with one of his

daughters and created this book. Hope you enjoy it as much as they enjoyed writing it... <https://bit.ly/3VZWkb3>

Cemetery Details

Deschutes Memorial Gardens

63785 N. Highway 97
Bend, OR 97701

Previous Events

Memorial Mass

JUL 10. 10:30 AM (PT)

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church
2450 NE 27th St
Bend, OR 97701
(541) 382-3631

Burial

JUL 10. 12:00 PM (PT)

Deschutes Memorial Gardens
63785 N. Highway 97
Bend, OR 97701

Tribute Wall

MR

“ I will always remember seeing Tony with his bride dancing at the Senior Center. They were regulars and you could tell they had been dancing together for many years. Such a beautiful couple and an inspiration for us all.
My sincere condolences to his family for their loss.

Monica Rotzien - July 08, 2024 at 06:12 PM