



Michael J. Breslin Jr., Esq.

March 29, 2023

Michael J. (“Jerry”) Breslin, Jr.

Oradell - Jerry passed away after osteoarthritis related ailments on March 29, 2023.

Jerry grew up in Rutherford, NJ. He was the son of Michael J. and Kathleen Carey Breslin, and brother of Betty Ruffer (deceased), and Kathy Breslin Verdon.

Jerry’s wife, Mary Heney Breslin, passed on September 25, 2018. Jerry is survived by his son Sean (Terry), daughters Mary Breslin and Kate Crowder (Tobi). His son Michael J. Breslin III predeceased him in 1987. He had 5 grandchildren whom he adored: Michael, Tom, and Kevin Breslin, and Grace and Lily Crowder.

He loved attending their theater and sporting events, and playing golf and discussing various topics with them.

Jerry was a 1955 graduate of St. Mary’s H.S. where he was a 4 year performer in basketball, football (QB), and baseball. He became St. Mary’s 1st basketball player to score 1,000 points, ending his career with 1,054. He was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 1994. Jerry also received the Bergen Record Athlete of the Week honors for basketball in 1955.

Jerry graduated from Fordham University and Law School, which meant so much to him. (He wore his Fordham sweatshirt up until the end). After college, he spent 7.5 years in the Reserves and was a first Lieutenant and platoon leader.

Jerry had a very colorful legal, political, and civic career. He was recognized by various Judges as a top NJ trial attorney. He was President of the Bergen County Bar Association (1977), and was Planning Board Attorney, Borough Prosecutor, and Borough Attorney for numerous towns. He was recipient of Achievement Award in Public Life (Fordham alum, 1979), and Meadowlands Chamber of Commerce Outstanding Public Official award (1982). He also was CYO chair and President of Bergen Council Boy Scouts of America.

Jerry was Bergen County Democratic Chair (1973) but had many Republican friends along the way. He was Bergen County Campaign Manager for Governor Brendan Byrne and Bill Bradley, as well as Finance Chair for Bill Bradley (US Senate 1984). He was a member of the NJ Sports & Exposition Authority and Hackensack Meadowlands Development Commission (at the time Giants Stadium was being built).

Jerry's accomplishments were endless. He was motivated to get things done, achieve justice and help those less fortunate. He was a storyteller, and a fighter and could be intimidating, but behind that exterior was a big heart and a very compassionate and spiritual man.

Jerry asked to be remembered as a family man, rather than for his career. We are so grateful for the family man he was, and for the fun and interesting life he and our mother provided. He simply loved life.

Jerry always had a positive outlook on everything. He never complained about his health (11 surgeries) or other problems. There was never a mountain too high...or a challenge too great. Fighter to the end.

We want to thank all his caretakers at Holy Name, Englewood Hospital, Jewish Home and especially "Joe". Thanks also to our dear relatives and friends for all their support at the end of Jerry's amazing journey.

Viewing will be Friday, March 31, 2023 from 2-7PM, at Volk Leber Funeral Home , 268 Kinderkamack Rd, Oradell, NJ.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Saturday, April 1, 2023 at 10:00 am, at Church of the Presentation in Upper Saddle River, NJ.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donations to: <https://www.oafifoundation.com/en/foundation/>, or <https://give.fordham.edu/fordham-basketball-new-era-fund>

Cemetery Details

Maryrest Cemetery

770 Darlington Avenue
Mahwah, NJ 07430

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 31. 2:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Volk Leber Funeral Home
268 Kinderkamack Road
Oradell, NJ 07649
info@volkleber.com
<http://volkleberfuneralhome.com>

Funeral Mass

APR 1. 10:00 AM (ET)

Church of the Presentation
271 W. Saddle River Road
Upper Saddle River, NJ 07458

Tribute Wall



“ *Volk Leber Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Michael J. Breslin Jr., Esq.*



Volk Leber Funeral Home - March 30, 2023 at 04:01 PM

WM

Yes, from kindergarten through sports through, yes, intimidating in seventh grade when he broke my nose in the school yard. We split in high school while he was accepted at my St. Peter's Prep we were close buddies, still split in college, but his adorable mother wanted him to imitate me (hm?), so we hung out and he groomed me at Sea Girt etc. so I could emulate him with a spouse at Marymount while he scored Mary at St E's.

Lives went on always in political stuff and a magnificent marketing trip to England. We each had/have tough but happy time with kids so it's an easy to rest

*Love ya Jerry
Moose Monahan*

william monahan - March 30, 2023 at 06:02 PM

GC

Our times together at the HMDC were historic. I am forever thankful for our friendship over the last 50 years. You were a mentor and leader and with integrity. Thank you Jerry.

George Cascino

George Cascino - March 30, 2023 at 08:44 PM

MB

A great guy and an outstanding lawyer. Always willing to share a kind word, a story or help a young lawyer. A true gentlemen. Made lunch at Parisi's Deli a good time.

Mike Beatrice

Michael J Beatrice - March 31, 2023 at 12:31 PM

AC

Jerry was a mentor and friend since I began my legal career. He will always be remembered fondly for his loyalty and his principles. He had a big heart and even bigger personality. Many of us in the legal community have a "Jerry Breslin story" (or two) and they always bring a smile. Godspeed my friend.

Andy Cevasco

andy cevasco - March 31, 2023 at 12:32 PM

JS

The condolences of the Sullivan family are with you during this difficult time. God Bless you Mary and your entire family and may your dad rest in peace.

James Joseph Sullivan - March 31, 2023 at 12:59 PM

MS

Jerry took a chance and gave me my start as a NJ lawyer. He was a true mentor and always practical! His love of his family, his Church and all people was inspirational. I will always remember you "coach". Thanks for the memories!

Margaret Sherlock - April 01, 2023 at 01:29 AM

JM

Direct, to the point and always honest. Someone I always looked up to, even to this day. He never asked you to do things for him; but always with him. God bless Jerry.

John Molinelli - April 03, 2023 at 10:57 AM

EL

“ *Mr. Breslin gave me my first job. He was an ornery fellow, but a brilliant mind, great lawyer and softer than he let on. ;) RIP.*

Erik L. - October 12, 2023 at 05:05 PM



“ *Michael J. Breslin Jr., Esq.*

October 08, 2023 at 09:59 PM



“ *Michael J. Breslin Jr., Esq.*

October 08, 2023 at 06:27 PM

JA

“ *Almost to the end, Jerry sat at that worn out desk behind mounds of papers doing what he loved; serving people! He was generous to a fault caring little of the benefits to him if any. Never a complaint about his deteriorating health. More concerned about the visitor than himself. A true loyal friend. His passing is the end of a dynasty that served Bergen County for almost a century. He is at peace now with Mary and Michael Jr. At this very moment he's engaged in story telling with John, Roger, Jimmy and Bill and oh what stories they are! You are forever in our memories my dear friend and mentor.*
Jon Auty

Jon Auty - April 01, 2023 at 02:39 PM

DC

“ Jerry was a great friend who loved his family above all else. Adored and Respected by all who knew him. I will forever miss our lunches discussing politics, his great stories from times long gone, Arthur Ave dinners before his beloved Fordham basketball games and so much more. RIP my friend; you made a difference in the world and will forever be missed.

Dan Callahan - March 31, 2023 at 02:23 PM

PB

“ Mr. B gave me my first legal position as a summer associate when I was in law school and directed me to a Judicial Law Clerk position with Judge Cassidy. His guidance led me to a successful career as a trial attorney and ultimately become the Hudson County Assignment Judge. Thanks for being an excellent Mentor Mr. B! Peter Bariso, Jr.

Peter F Bariso - March 31, 2023 at 12:41 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Michael J. Breslin Jr., Esq..



March 31, 2023 at 10:29 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Michael J. Breslin Jr., Esq..



March 31, 2023 at 07:50 AM



“ *Dreams From the Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Michael J. Breslin Jr., Esq..*



March 30, 2023 at 06:08 PM



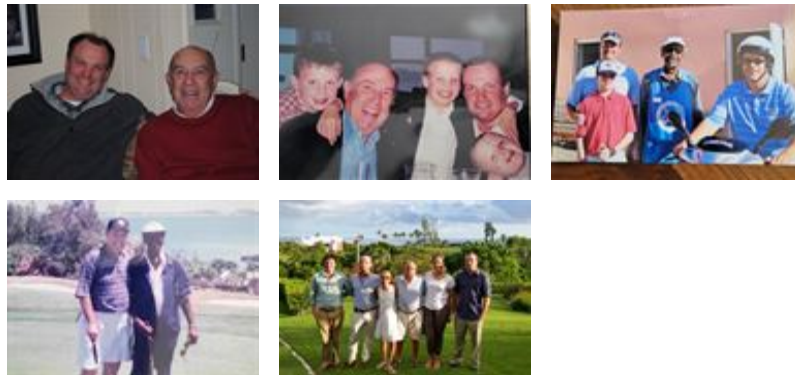
“ *Fairest of All was purchased for the family of Michael J. Breslin Jr., Esq..*



March 30, 2023 at 06:04 PM



“ *130 files added to the album Life Tributes*



Volk Leber Funeral Home - March 30, 2023 at 03:56 PM



“ *Serenity Wreath was purchased for the family of Michael J. Breslin Jr., Esq..*



March 30, 2023 at 10:59 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Michael J. Breslin Jr., Esq..*



March 30, 2023 at 10:55 AM



“ *Ray and Phyllis Flood purchased the Fairest of All for the family of Michael J. Breslin Jr., Esq..*



Ray and Phyllis Flood - March 30, 2023 at 09:09 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Michael J. Breslin Jr., Esq..*



March 30, 2023 at 07:46 AM



“ Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Michael J. Breslin Jr., Esq..



March 29, 2023 at 11:32 PM



“ Jerry was a good friend, Cornerstone brother and a great inspiration to me and all our brothers. He kept me on the path .

Bill - March 29, 2023 at 08:15 PM



“ JERRY was A GREAT FORDHAM MAN !! JERRY ALWAYS SUPPORTED FORDHAM, especially, our athletic teams ! I LOVED BEING WITH JERRY, especially, on the golf course ! JERRY will be missed but not forgotten! JERRY AND HIS FAMILY are in OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS. RIP

Frank McLaughlin - March 29, 2023 at 05:01 PM



Thank You!

Kate Breslin Crowder - March 30, 2023 at 09:02 PM



Jerry didn't know me well but I met him as a young attorney and he was a great Fordham grad and a wonderful, friendly person! There aren't too many people of his stature who would have been so nice to a nobody in the profession like me-he really rolled out the red carpet, showed me his office and all of his awesome photos, etc. It is something you never forget, even though it happened more than 30 years ago. His family will always have those wonderful memories of him and his great smile and positive energy. God bless him!!

Peggy Sheahan Knee - March 31, 2023 at 01:13 PM