



## Anthony R. DiNapoli

May 5, 1948 - October 17, 2021

On October 17, 2021, Anthony R. DiNapoli left his earthly home and was welcomed into his Heavenly mansion by our Father Jesus Christ. He was surrounded by his family as he peacefully took his final breath.

Tony, as he was known by friends and family, was born May 5, 1948 in Passaic, NJ. He is the son of Raphael and Rosaria (Sadie) DiNapoli. Tony was a life-long educator. He began his career in 1970 at Madison-Mayodan High and Middle School in Madison, NC as the band director. He was also band director at Richmond County High School in Rockingham County, NC. Music was one of his greatest passions. As his music education career excelled, he also participated in high school band competitions across the state of North Carolina as an adjudicator. To culminate his career, Tony earned his Masters Degree in School Administration and became a school administrator. Tony served as a School Administrator in Cumberland and Wake Counties. After retirement, his musical passions led to performance as he became a member of the Bayonne Bridgemen Drum and Bugle Senior Corps in Bayonne, New Jersey. He traveled to march in the corps for 5 years. He was also a member of the Raleigh Concert Band for several years.

Tony's dearest passion, however, was his family. He and his loving wife, Catherine (Kitty), were married for 51 years. They were loyal members of St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church. Together they had 2 children and the absolute love of his life, 5 grandchildren. Tony was a loving and dedicated husband, a providing father and mentor, and the best Grandpa any kid could

ask for. He supported every event, every game, every accomplishment of his children and grandchildren and beamed with pride every time. The joy of his life was his family.

Tony is survived by his wife, Catherine (Kitty) DiNapoli of Holly Springs, NC; his children Monica (Luther) Maday of Woodstock, GA and Vincent (Ciara) DiNapoli of Winterville, NC; his grandchildren, Madelynn, Christian, Laila, Sean, and Maia; his sister Francis Van Strien (Martin) of Treasure Island, FL and a special cousin, Camille Cimino of Pt. Pleasant, NJ; his mother-in-law, Ina Carroll Propst, brother-in-law, Craig Cansler, and his sister-in-law, Beverly (Micheal) all of Hickory, NC; and a host of cousins, nieces and nephews. He will be forever loved and remembered by all of his family.

In our Father's house, there are many mansions. We find great comfort in knowing Tony walked into his Heavenly mansion with Jesus by his side, playing music with the angels. Rest easy, Dad. You are so loved.

"I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing."-- 2nd Timothy 4:7-8

# Cemetery Details

## St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church Columbarium

3008 Old Raleigh Rd  
Apex, NC 27502

# Previous Events

## Funeral Mass

OCT **21**. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Andrew The Apostle Catholic Church  
3008 Old Raleigh Rd  
Apex, NC 27502

# Tribute Wall

SS

“ *RIP Tony. Wonderful educator, band director and judge and administrator. Great guy!  
Prayers for all the family for peace and comfort 🙏🙏*

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**Susan Spivey** - October 21, 2021 at 05:52 PM



“ *I would like to send my deepest, heartfelt condolences to Mrs. DiNapoli and family. I had only started band 1 year before Mr. DiNapoli came to Madison-Mayodan Schools. I had the opportunity to spend the next 6 years growing and experiencing the life of a band student under the watchful eye of a wonderful director. I could never express how beneficial the band program was to my life and what an impact Mr. DiNapoli had on my development as an individual. He showed confidence in me as I laid down my clarinet to take on the color guard in the marching band. I remember trips to Wisconsin, Tennessee, and back closer to home in Cary, NC. He put Madison-Mayodan on the map with an award winning band. I remember making an album while playing in the concert band. I still have my album to this day. We worked hard and we were dedicated all because we had such a strong mentor to push us in the right direction. We all have our favorite teachers from school, Mr. DiNapoli is definitely one of my favs. I will never forget you Mr. DiNapoli.....Christine Hayes Mason*

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**Christine Mason** - October 20, 2021 at 11:12 PM

SB

“ Mrs. DiNapoli and family, I want to send my deepest sympathy to each of you on the loss of Mr. DiNapoli. He touched many lives at Madison-Mayodan High School during his work there. He was an outstanding band instructor and took the students to a whole new level of music ability and performance. He was able to build a 100+ member band and color guard that was feared by many when we showed up at competitions in North Carolina. The band would usually take home every trophy presented in our category. The drum major, color guard and drum line scored first place as well. Additionally, we traveled to Wisconsin for a national competition. Band was our school life. We were allowed many opportunities just because of Mr. DiNapoli and his ability and enthusiasm. I know he will be greatly missed. Sondra Knight Beene

Sondra Knight Beene - October 20, 2021 at 09:56 PM

DG

Mr. D was a good friend and great leader. He help to shape my. To all the Madison-Mayodan band members were all blessed to know him. God bless Mr.D and his family.

Dean Gentry - October 21, 2021 at 08:14 PM

SC

“ Prayers for all family and friends. May memories help to sustain you throughout time.



shelley curtid - October 20, 2021 at 08:37 PM

YT

“ *Your USAA Friends & Teammates purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of Anthony R. DiNapoli.*



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**Your USAA Friends & Teammates** - October 20, 2021 at 12:46 PM



“ *Care and Compassion Spray was purchased for the family of Anthony R. DiNapoli.*



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October 20, 2021 at 12:18 PM

VP

“ *Vicki and Billy Perry purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Anthony R. DiNapoli.*



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**Vicki and Billy Perry** - October 20, 2021 at 09:23 AM

SC

“ *I was also a member of the M & M Falcon Band throughout High School. Those are my best memories and Mr. D. gave me a love for music. The DiNapoli's were an important part of my life. Prayers for Kitty and all the family. The music in heaven just got a little sweeter.*

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**Susan Shelton Cox** - October 19, 2021 at 09:33 PM

TL

“ I was another student of Mr. DiNapoli's from Madison-Mayodan High School. As many of my classmates and fellow band members have already posted, one of the proudest accomplishments during my high school years was being a member of the M-M Falcon Band. We were more than a band; we were family. "Mr. D" was instrumental in putting our band, school and community on the USA map. I fondly remember the many band competitions we either won or placed highly in during my high school years, 1976-79. "Mr. D" also nicknamed me "Stretch" which originated from one of the band's picnic softball games. Great memories I cherished, made from knowing a great man. Your family are in my thoughts and prayers.

Teresa K. Lowe  
Eden, NC

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**Teresa Lowe** - October 19, 2021 at 08:03 PM

MM

“ I joined the band in 1970 when I was in the Sixth grade and Mr. D was my band director. It was his first year in the Madison-Mayodan area. Through the years of being in the band we had multiple fund raisers to help buy uniforms for the marching band and concert band. I can remember selling raffle tickets for a handmade quilt to be given away at our Christmas concert. The lady that won the quilt worked in the school cafeteria and she purchased the ticket from me. She still talks about winning that quilt. We had other fundraisers of selling Krispy Kreme doughnuts and I was always the top seller. I remember my sisters car was full of doughnuts in the trunk and backseat. We raised enough of money to get the uniforms and we looked awesome on the field. The last two years of being in high school, the band was the BEST. We had so many to come and watch us perform at football games and competition that we were competing in. We had more fans than anyone. When we were on the field the sound of our supporters was unreal. Mr. D, Mr. Miller and Miss Slate worked us when it came to competition. We practiced three nights a week and we have marched behind Foodlion all day to get ready for competition. The reason for marching behind Foodlion was there was no lines for us to go by like in the football field. We even had to play the songs in a room with Mr. D to make sure we knew how to play them. Our hard work paid off in numerous competitions. We came in fifth in the nation out of 100 bands in Whitewater, Wisconsin. We came in 1st place in Cary and Rockingham NC for the band, Drum major, Drum line, and Colorguard. The Band is what I missed most when I graduated from M-M High School. Mr. DiNapoli was more than a band director, who was a mentor to many. I also played sports and he would want to know how I was doing in the softball game. The day we marched all day behind Foodlion, I had a softball game that night and I pitched a no hitter and bases were loaded and I knocked a home run. When I got to third base I fell to my knees because I was tired from marching all day. My brother was in the stands hollowing for me to get up and run. I got up and almost crawled to home plate. Mr. D and Mrs. DiNapoli always showed interest in the students in the band. The memories I have of the years of being in the band will

*always hold a place in my heart. Every time I see a tootsie roll I will think of Mr. DiNapoli. RIP Mr. DiNapoli.*

**Mitzi Moore** - October 19, 2021 at 07:47 PM

MU

“ *I am so thankful to have had this man in my life. When I met him he told me he already had enough saxophones. He looked at my gap between my two front teeth and said I may need braces and asked if I might be interested in playing another instrument that wouldn't interfere with fixing my teeth. I left upset and determined to play sax. I came back from the Summer break with no gap in my teeth because I had tied floss around my teeth every night until it closed up. He made me work for it! He was an amazing band director. I was the class of 94' and still playing. Blessed to have experienced his influence! Fly high Sir.*

**Mandy Barnes Unger** - October 19, 2021 at 07:35 PM



“ *Basket Full of Wishes was purchased for the family of Anthony R. DiNapoli.*



October 19, 2021 at 07:19 PM

WW

“ I agree with many of these sentiments. I too have said Mr D was highly influential in my life and career. Although I didn't go into music as a career, I still (at the age of 60+) play! More importantly, I use techniques for motivating others I learned on the field and in band from Mr.D. I married a band director, and we raised 2 band kids. One of them is a music teacher...all this from the rich heritage and love for music from this one inspiring man!

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**Wesley Wall** - October 19, 2021 at 05:40 PM

SS

“ Mr. D was one of the most influential people in the trajectory of my life. I was a member of the color guard in 1976 and it was the best part of high school! I returned to watch the band the following year in competition. There was a moment in Send in the Clowns when the entire band turned away from the audience and then slowly turned around with instruments building to full volume ..it was the most magical moment ever. I have had a long career in the performing arts as a director, and I try to have a Mr. D moment in each show. It is the special moment when the audience is so swept up in emotion that they are forever changed. He sure changed my life. My condolences to his family and friends and please know that he will live on in the hearts of so many.

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**Sylvia Burton Schnople** - October 19, 2021 at 05:10 PM

 Kitty DiNapoli

Thank you so much.  
Mrs. D

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**Kitty DiNapoli** - November 15, 2021 at 05:07 PM



“ *Gracious Lavender Basket was purchased for the family of Anthony R. DiNapoli.*



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October 19, 2021 at 04:52 PM



“ *I was one of Tony's students at Madison Mayodan high school. We went on many band competitions and it is fond memories. Sorry to hear of your loss. God be with you.*

*Regina Knight Pegram. Stokesdale NC.*

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**Regina Pegram** - October 19, 2021 at 11:29 AM



*Thank you.  
Mrs. D*

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**Kitty DiNapoli** - November 15, 2021 at 05:07 PM



“ *I love you, Uncle T. I'll miss your witty banter and sense of humor. Thanks for adding excitement to our family. You're one of a kind and will be missed.*

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**April Hawkins** - October 19, 2021 at 08:19 AM



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**Kitty DiNapoli** - November 15, 2021 at 05:07 PM

EB

“ Dear DiNapoli Family,

*The Brickhouse Family mourns with you and celebrates your patriarch's transition to his heavenly home with our Savior, Christ Jesus.*

*Mr. DiNapoli was always kind, loving, and supportive and will be fondly remembered and cherished by those who were privileged to have known him.*

*We may that God will strengthen you for the days ahead. You are in our thoughts and prayers.*

*Lovingly yours,*

*Eboni Brickhouse and Family*

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**Eboni Brickhouse** - October 19, 2021 at 05:28 AM

MW

*I was a trumpeter inspired by Tony DiNapoli. He and Kitty were so kind to me (known as a high school band student as Sue Knight). Tony never let an opportunity go by to Pick on Me and to encourage me to play JAZZ. For that I will forever be grateful. My parents also loved Tony as they were as involved in the high school band as Tony. I pray for your family during your loss. He was truly LOVED.*

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**Melinda Webster** - October 19, 2021 at 12:43 PM



*Mr. D was the shaper and molder of so many of us small town kids through his passion for music and the ways he pushed us to do and to be our best. I echo what so many other here have shared. He did, indeed, help put our little towns on the map!*

*I credit him with the discipline I have carried throughout my higher education and work, as well as my posture.*

*The world is a much better place for his having lived and helped mold so many young lives.*

*My prayers and condolences go to his family.*

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**Amy Alberty Walton** - October 19, 2021 at 08:26 PM



*Wonderful memories. Thank you all so much. Mrs. D*

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**Kitty DiNapoli** - November 15, 2021 at 05:08 PM