



Emilo Brandolini

January 21, 1924 - October 14, 2020

Another heroic member of the Greatest Generation, Emilio (Brandy) Brandolini, 96, a man loved and admired by all who knew him, died on October 14 of lung cancer while under the loving care of his son Donald and daughter-in-law Sandy, assisted by hospice.

He was born in Walpole, MA, to Pasquale and Onestina Brandolini on January 21, 1924, the sixth of seven children raised in Framingham.

He displayed four great passions: his family and friends, the United States Army, making shoes, and sports, especially hockey. He never spoke a harsh word and was happy to help anyone. He graduated from Framingham Academy and High School on June 12, 1942, and immediately joined the Army, but a childhood injury resulting in the loss of sight in his right eye made him ineligible. However, undeterred, he was able to enlist on May 17, 1943, under a limited service program wherein he would be assigned to Ordinance duties in the United States. Following basic training at Camp Edwards, Cape Cod, his limited service status was mistakenly overlooked, and he was assigned to the 368th Combat Engineer Regiment and shipped to England arriving on November 3, 1943. He participated in all five Northern European battles; Normandy, Northern France, Ardennes, Rhineland and Central Europe, attaining the rank of Sergeant. He earned the Army Good Conduct Medal, the American Campaign Medal WW II, the European-Africa-Middle

East Medal WW II with five battle stars and arrowhead denoting an amphibious landing, the WW II Victory Medal, and the WW II Occupation Medal with the Germany clasp.

Following WW II, he married Virginia (Liberato) in June of 1946 having been pen pals while in Europe after having been introduced by his closest Army buddy who was her cousin. He was the owner of Brandolini's Shoe Clinic from 1947 to 1992 having purchased it from his oldest brother where he would be for 12 to 14 hours daily except Sunday. He played baseball and hockey in high school and both were of lifelong interests. He coached the Framingham Little League Yankees for eight years and then turned his spare time to hockey, first volunteering with the Natick Comets youth hockey program. Following his time with the Natick Comets, he was the prime mover in establishing the Framingham Jets youth hockey program (currently known as the Framingham Jr Stars) being its first president and subsequently became the General Manager of the Framingham Pics. He was a fixture at Loring Arena operating the time clock for 30 years.

Following his retirement, he and his wife, Virginia, moved to Northboro to be closer to their daughter and then to Easton, MD. Virginia, his beloved wife of 71 years, predeceased him in 2017.

He is survived by his son, Donald (Sandy) of Annapolis, MD; his daughter, Beverly Ann (David Branagan) of Milton, DE; his son, Lieutenant Colonel Alan Brandolini, USA Ret (Anne) of Cazenovia, NY; four granddaughters, Leann Brandolini, Diana Gonzalez, Jennifer Brandolini, Lindsey Hoham; and six great-grandchildren, Theresa Brandolini-Bordelon and Casey Bordelon, Nathan Hoham and Isabella, Luciana and Olivia Gonzalez. He is also survived by his brother, Henry, and many nieces and nephews.

His work ethic, community interest and pride of family and country, all

hallmarks of the Greatest Generation, will be mourned by all.

“Brandy” along with his beloved wife will be interred together in Arlington National Cemetery at a future date, a fitting place for a true patriot.

Cemetery Details

Arlington National Cemetery

Arlington, VA

Tribute Wall



“ *Emilo Brandolini*

October 26, 2023 at 06:42 PM



“ *Emilo Brandolini*

January 28, 2023 at 12:44 PM



“ *Emilo Brandolini*

January 28, 2023 at 08:03 AM



“ *So sorry to hear of Brandy's passing. He was a wonderful man and will be missed. We have such special memories of times spent with him and Virginia, and will always remember their kindness and generosity-- as well as fun the parties they generously hosted. All of his friends at Loring Arena felt fortunate to know and have him as a friend. Great memories!! Dick and Jean Rodenhiser*

Janine R Hill - November 17, 2020 at 05:53 PM

PG

“ *brandy you will sorely be missed.. brandy drove auto parts around in his spare time a short story brandy comes up to me at work and asks if he can borrow a truck to go home and do an errand well brandy had a family of baby skunks that moved into his yard and he had trapped one and wanted to relocate it to southboro by the reservoir not knowing if the skunk was going to spray he didn't want the lincoln smelling if it sprayed he covered the skunk in the cage with a towel and proceeded to release it needless to but he we repeated this as often as he trapped them never got sprayed last he had these green and red polyester pants that virginia wanted to throw out but he wouldn't let her.. brandy rest in peace*

paul f galipeau - November 11, 2020 at 04:24 PM

BE

“ *Beverly and David. So sad to hear of the passing of your dad, Beverly. He certainly enjoyed a long life. We will keep your family in our prayers, and hope you are doing well. We miss you up here in MA.*

Bob Evans

Bob Evans - November 03, 2020 at 06:37 PM

BG

“ *Sad to hear of the loss of another of Framingham's All-Time great men. The Loring Arena is still a vibrant part of our community and people like him made it possible.*

Ben Galvani

Ben Galvani - October 25, 2020 at 05:32 PM

MM

“ I was saddened to learn that Brandy had passed and please accept my condolences during this difficult time. I fondly remember Brandy from all the time I spent at Loring arena with my Dad Eddie Merchant. Brandy was a wonderful man and he will be missed.
Mike Merchant

Mike Merchant - October 25, 2020 at 11:05 AM

JC

“ Yes, Mr. B was quite a man! He certainly was loved by my family. Will always remember the laughs Mr. & Mrs. B would have with my Mom & Dad as they spent many a Saturday evening out to a favorite restaurant. A talented man who worked with the upmost precision! Always so busy in the shoe shop but never too busy to stop and flash that smile to make me feel I was important too. How fortunate I feel to have known your Dad (& Mom) and at last our folks are together again reminiscing about the times we were the subject of conversation! May you find peace in knowing that he indeed had a life well lived and was loved by many including us.
Hugs to all, Jan & Rick Capen

Jan Capen - October 22, 2020 at 07:46 AM

MD

“ Alan, Bev, and Donald,
We are sorry for your loss. Your dad was a wonderful, charming, and giving man. I remember him fondly looking down at his work in the shop with his one eye, never missing a beat, and telling me a story of one of your escapades! Today we call it bragging!! He was so proud of each of you. I learned from his example of hard work and love of family, he was a great role model. I also remember the twinkle in his eye when you knew he was up to some mischief. I am sure he is in heaven with that twinkle in his eye as Virginia greets him with her list of new and exciting places to see in heaven, both moving forward pain-free and watching over their earthly clan. God bless you all!
Mark and Jean DeCollibus

Mark DeCollibus - October 21, 2020 at 11:15 AM