



George Giannetti

May 13, 1932 - July 25, 2025

George Giannetti May 13, 1932 - July 25, 2025, George Giannetti, a longtime resident of Madison Heights, passed away peacefully on July 25, 2025, at the age of 93. He was the beloved husband of Beverly Giannetti for 69 years, devoted father to Marc (Donna) Giannetti and Vanda (George) Smith, and cherished "Puppa" to five grandchildren: Matthew (Nicole) Giannetti, Steven (Michelle) Giannetti, Eric (Sarah) Giannetti, Danielle (Blake) Wallace, and George (Ana Maria) Smith. He was also the proud "Grand Puppa" to his great-grandchildren: Maisie, Daphne, Lilliana, Giovanni, and Adriano. George is survived by many loving nieces, nephews, and extended family. He was preceded in death by his parents, Noe and Lide Giannetti, and his brother, Lorenzo (MaryAnn) Giannetti. Born on May 13, 1932, in Bagni di Lucca, Tuscany, Italy, George immigrated to the United States in 1946 at the age of 14, reuniting with his father after World War II. He began his American journey in Detroit, where he attended the foreign language school before graduating from East Commerce High School in 1950. He went on to earn a Bachelor of Arts from Wayne University in 1954, majoring in Spanish with minors in social studies, French, English, and Italian. While attending Wayne University, George was an active member of the Spanish Club, taught conversational Spanish at the Detroit YMCA, and served as an accredited university tutor. He also worked as assistant manager of the Studio Theatre in Detroit-a role that not only deepened his love for the arts but also led to meeting the love of his life, Beverly. He later completed a Master of Education in Foreign Language

Education from Wayne State University in 1960. George's passion for languages and education shaped a remarkable career. He taught multiple foreign languages at Ferndale and Oak Park High Schools and led evening classes at Wayne State University. He was known for producing vibrant ethnic shows featuring music, dance, and readings performed by his students. His dedication led him to develop and direct a multilingual Program of Academic Excellence, which was adopted by the Michigan State Department of Education and used across several states and Washington, D.C. He also directed six federally funded grant projects and served on the National Advisory Council on Bilingual Education for the U.S. Office of Education. Over his career, he authored more than 30 publications in the field of foreign language education, many of which continue to be used today. In retirement, George became the Director of Education at the Italian American Cultural Society in Warren, Michigan-later the Italian Cultural Center-where he taught and led Italian language programs for over 15 years. He took great pride in helping students of all ages connect with their heritage and prepare for travel through language and culture. Despite his many professional accomplishments, George remained deeply connected to his family and his Italian roots. He found joy and purpose tending to his large garden, growing fresh vegetables and fruits that he generously shared with those he loved. He also delighted in hosting friends and colleagues for homemade Italian dinners. Above all, his happiest moments were spent at the family cottage in Northern Michigan, surrounded by his children and grandchildren. George's legacy lives on in the lives he touched-as a teacher, mentor, colleague, and most of all, as a loving husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather. Memorial Service A celebration of George's life will be held on Thursday, August 28, with 9am instate until the time of the memorial mass at 9:30am at St. Michael Catholic Church, 40501 Hayes Road in Sterling Heights. Following the service, family and friends are warmly invited to a luncheon at the Italian Cultural Center, 43843 Romeo Plank Road, Clinton Township, MI 48038. In Lieu of Flowers, the family asks that any memorial donations in honor of

George be made out to the Alzheimer's Association at: www.alz.org.

Previous Events

Memorial Instate

AUG **28**. 9:00 AM - 9:30 AM (ET)

St. Michael Catholic Church
40501 Hayes Road
Sterling Heights, MI 48313

Memorial Mass

AUG **28**. 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM (ET)

St. Michael Catholic Church
40501 Hayes Road
Sterling Heights, MI 48313

Tribute Wall

MG

“ Sr. Giannetti, I was your Spanish Language student at Oak Park High School from 1964-1966. You were a fabulous teacher; incredibly dedicated to your profession. I am 77 now, yet you remain in my heart and my mind as one of the best men I've ever had the pleasure of knowing. You will be missed by so many of us. May God bless your memory.

Martin Goldstein, Los Angeles, California

Martin Goldstein - August 27, 2025 at 05:38 PM

LB

“ Mr. Giannetti was my Spanish teacher at Ferndale High school. Our 1960 class graduated as the first to study Spanish for 4 years. I moved to Texas after one year at Albion College. I graduated from Trinity University with a Spanish major, French minor, and teaching certificate in 1964. I taught Spanish in Texas, then moved to New Hampshire to teach until retirement in 2005. I came across some of Mr. Giannetti's teacher additional workbooks which were very helpful. I love Spanish and other languages, thanks to Mr. Giannetti. My condolences, Linda Beaton, née Henning.

Linda H Beaton - August 20, 2025 at 07:04 PM

GB

“ Gerald Bushart purchased the Simply Elegant Sp
athiphyllum for the family of George Giannetti.



Gerald Bushart - August 17, 2025 at 01:30 PM

GB

“ Gerald Bushart planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of George Giannetti.

Gerald Bushart - August 17, 2025 at 01:30 PM

CB

“ Sr. Giannetti was my teacher at Oak Park High School in 1974. He was so kind, and enthusiastic about how languages open up the world. I am glad to read that his retirement was rich in family, culture, and community. May you all find comfort in your wonderful memories.

Cynthia Brody - August 09, 2025 at 01:50 AM

GV

“ Dear Bev, .Marc and Vanda,
We just heard about the death of George. Our deepest sympathy to you and your family. He was a man who was full of life and very dedicated to his profession. I learned a lot from him as a young teacher. We look forward to offer our condolences personally on the 28th.
Fondly, Greg and Mary Vennettilli

Gregory Vennettilli - August 03, 2025 at 08:31 PM

MG

Thanks for your thoughts

Marc Giannetti - August 08, 2025 at 02:20 PM

GB

I remember George as a teaching colleague when I taught at Oak Park High School. He was always friendly, jovial and a pleasure to converse with. My deepest sympathy to his family and friends. May he rest in peace.

Gerald Bushart

Gerald H Bushart - August 17, 2025 at 01:24 PM

EF

“ *Eric's team at F5. purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of George Giannetti.*



Eric's team at F5. - July 31, 2025 at 10:45 AM

EF

“ *Eric's team at F5. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of George Giannetti.*

Eric's team at F5. - July 31, 2025 at 10:45 AM