



John Samuel Flaminio

November 22, 1938 - December 14, 2020

John Samuel Flaminio, 82, passed away on Monday, December 14, 2020. He was born in Worcester, MA on November 22, 1938, and was the son of Lenora (Popillo) and Pasquale Flaminio.

John graduated from Notre Dame High School in Fitchburg, MA, in 1957 and following high school, served honorably in the Marines. John graduated from Western Michigan University in 1967, with a Bachelor of Science and a Masters Degree in Physical Education. After graduation, he taught and coached at the elementary, secondary and collegiate levels in Toledo and Michigan. John spent 18 years in sales in the plastic industry.

He was a member of Western Michigan University's NCAA Cross Country championship teams in 1964 and 1965. In 2012 John was inducted into the Aquinas College Hall of Fame, Grand Rapids, MI. While coaching at Aquinas, his teams were very successful. They won Aquinas' first state championship. After leaving Aquinas, John became head cross country and track coach at the University of Toledo, where he coached from 1973-80.

John is survived by his wife of 60 years, Patricia (Valeri) Flaminio; his children, Susan Flaminio and Tony (Michelle); grandsons, Anthony, Michael (Amanda), and Nicholas Flaminio. John is also survived by his sister, Rose Cathcart; brother, Michael Flaminio and many nieces, nephews, and godchildren.

Due to COVID-19, a private funeral mass was celebrated at St. Clement Catholic church. To view the video of John's funeral service, click here (<https://vimeo.com/498787281/63ad4fade5>).

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions, in John's memory, may be made to the charity of the donor's choice. Ansberg-West Funeral Directors, (419) 472-7633.

Cemetery Details

Private

Previous Events

Funeral

DEC 23. 12:00 AM.

A Later Date

Tribute Wall



“ *Ansberg West Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of John Samuel Flaminio*



Ansberg West Funeral Home - January 11, 2021 at 11:53 AM

BK

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



barney keenan - May 28, 2025 at 02:48 PM

 Tracey Johnson

“ *Pat, Susan, Tony and family,
Just heard the news of your wonderful husband/father passing away. Sooo many great memories of him and you all in our little Grand Rapids neighborhood! From grill outs, to sledding at Johnson park, kick ball in Sarnicola's yard, etc. What a great group of families growing up and your dad was always there with a smile on his game face! So fun! I'm so sorry you're going through the pain of losing such a big part of your family. Knowing he was loved by many I hope makes you smile today.*

With love

Tracey (Plakos) Johnson

Tracey Johnson - December 29, 2020 at 05:54 AM

LP

“ Pat, Susan, Tony, and family,
We can all carry some very special memories of this special man forever. So sad it ended too soon, So thankful to have been a friend. God bless you all.
Larry Peck

larry peck - December 24, 2020 at 07:42 PM

TF

“ The Flaminio family would like to thank all of you for your posts on the Ansberg-West Tribute Wall. Your words have provided smiles of memories, warmed our hearts and will fuel us as we heal from our loss.

Thank you, Patricia, Susan and Tony

PS, When the video of the service is finished (approximately 2 weeks) the link will be posted in Dads obituary on this Ansberg-West site.

Tony Flaminio - December 24, 2020 at 03:02 PM

BS

My association with Johnny goes back to my high school days at LHS where I watched him in track. He lived in my neighborhood as a kid and he was one of our idols. I had contact with him last summer and we got caught up on his old friends. It was really nice. Shocked and sad of his passing and so sorry for his family.

Bob Salvatelli - December 25, 2020 at 08:26 AM

MD

“ Truly a remarkable coach and man!

Mike Devereaux - December 24, 2020 at 01:55 PM

TK

“ Tony, Not sure if you remember me from the Industry (Pharma), but I wanted to share my sympathies and condolences on the passing of your father.

Sincerely,

Tom Kelley

Tom Kelley - December 23, 2020 at 06:21 PM

JO

“ Coach It is difficult to say goodbye, for now, to a loved one even when we have a firm faith in Jesus' promise of resurrection. You are a good man. I say are because in Christ in death life is changed not ended. Thanks for being there for me and for so many others in our youth. Thanks for your coaching and for your understanding. You, Wayne and I had some good laughs in those days. You gave as good as you got. From one Italian to another...talking with your hands is normal, right Coach?. It always amazed me how much work you got out of us in exchange for a few salt tablets or neco waffers or whatever it was you gave us at the end of each workout :o). Now that you are with the Lord how fast you drove to and from Out of State meets will remain our little secret. Did me trying to learn to play the harmonica in the team car have anything to do with your desire to get home quickly? I always looked forward to returning to Grand Rapids from New Jersey in the fall mostly to attend the team dinner you and Mrs. Flaminio held at your home. Fun times. So sad we didn't get to see you at the reunion in this strangest of years, 2020. Until we do meet again please pray for us as we will, for your soul, for the consolation that only the Lord can give Mrs. Flaminio and your whole family. Rest In Peace Coach, "you fought the good fight, you finished the race, you kept the faith and now the crown of righteous awaits you" 2 Tim 4:7. Well done good and faithful servant.



John J. Oleck - December 21, 2020 at 06:19 PM

KK

“ My sincere condolences to the Flaminio family.
Ken Katafias

Ken Katafias - December 21, 2020 at 07:35 AM

RS

“ Pat, Tony and Family, Connie and I were in shock to hear of John's unexpected passing. He certainly left a wonderful legacy as verified by the comments left by those that knew him. You and your family are in our thoughts and prayers. Randy Scott

Randy Scott - December 20, 2020 at 10:09 PM

TM

RIP JOHN
Godspeed

Tony Mifsud - December 23, 2020 at 12:15 PM

SA

“ Mrs Flaminio,
My deepest condolences to you and your family. I will keep you in my prayers. (I'm not sure if you will remember me, but not saw your last name and instantly remembered you. My 4th grade teacher. My FAVORITE teacher ever.) God bless, Sarah Dermer- Auger

sarah auger - December 20, 2020 at 10:03 PM

CK

“ Pat,

Sorry for loss. You and your family have our prays.. We will miss him.

Bud and Carole

Carole Ann Keating - December 20, 2020 at 06:58 PM

SR

“ Pat, I'm sorry about your loss. You and your family are in our prayers.

Sister Toni Rode

Sister Toni Rode - December 20, 2020 at 01:51 PM

JG

“ As expressed in the heartfelt comments from my former teammates, I also was inspired by the life lessons I learned from Coach. These lessons i have shared with my children and know they carry them forward as well. He was always a gentleman and preached discipline and effort. He set high expectations and we did our best not to disappoint. A coach for life. We all continue and honor his legacy. Jerry Gumbleton, Aquinas '75

Jerry Gumbleton - December 20, 2020 at 12:47 PM

CX

“ We send our heartfelt sympathy to all of you in Flaminio family. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

Sincere condolences from HOA friends.



Chang Xia - December 20, 2020 at 12:40 PM

PO

“ Pat, sending hugs to you. I think of you often. Polly

Polly - December 20, 2020 at 11:31 AM

DS

“ I ran for Coach for 4 years at the University of Toledo. He instilled in me that with hard work and dedication success would follow. His advice has helped me through my whole life. My thoughts and prayers are with him and his family. He will be missed.

Dennis Stefanich

Dennis Stefanich - December 19, 2020 at 04:24 PM

WS

“ I am so grateful that Coach came to Aquinas and that i had the privilege to get to know and run for him. He was a true Coach. A coach is a vehicle that takes someone from where they are at the moment to where they want to go. Coach lead so many of his athletes on their journey to a successful track / cross country career but more importantly his life lessons taught us to be successful in life. Thank You Coach! RIH

Wayne Stefanich Class oh 72

Wayne Stefanich - December 19, 2020 at 03:55 PM

 Mike Devereaux

When I was at Aquinas our cross country coach was to be replaced. We all wondered who would be our next. In comes Coach Flaminio who ran for Western MI. We held our breath. A Bronco!!!? But soon realized that he was a committed coach who brought out the best in us. I do remember that he once tried to run with us during practice. Didn't work out to well for the former Bronco. But the fact that he ran with us tells a whole lot about this man. He was a great coach AND a good man.

We love you coach!

Mike Devereaux - December 19, 2020 at 08:22 PM

TB

“ Had the privilege of coaching with John at Aquinas and later seeing him inducted in the Aquinas College HOF for his efforts. A great coach but a greater gentleman, mentor, and friend. Being Italian he was great at “talking with his hands” for which he was constantly kidded about. RIP friend— you have ran the good race.
Terry Bocian. Aquinas College Athletic Director Emeritus.

Terry Bocian - December 19, 2020 at 02:17 PM

H1

“ My condolences to the family. Coach Flaminio had effect on my outlook on life. As a returning Vietnam Veteran wanting to attend Aquinas College, Coach secured financing for to attend school. As track man he never allowed to give up on myself, even when classes became difficult on this soldier returning to academia. Never give up. In jest I referred to him as the Flim-Flam man, always convincing us all that we could always do more, no matter how exhausted we were at practice or a meet. Honor and integrity were his.

Herb Dunmore, Class of 1972 - December 19, 2020 at 02:12 PM

DL

“ Coach Flaminio was more than a Coach. He was a Friend, he was a Mentor. He prepared each of us to succeed in Life. He taught us discipline and hard work, respect and responsibility. He was one of the finest people I've ever met.

David Leighton



David Leighton - December 19, 2020 at 02:04 PM

MS

“ Words fail me. Coach Flaminio recruited me to run hurdles for Aquinas starting in the fall of 1970. He had a tremendous positive influence on my life and his memory will continue to inspire me.

My sincere condolences to the Flaminio family.

Mike Sweeney

Michael Sweeney - December 19, 2020 at 01:22 PM

MS

“ Pat, We are so very sorry to hear of the passing of John. John was such a kind man.

Please know we are keeping you and your family in our prayers.

Mike & Dianne Skotynsky

Mike & Dianne Skotynsky - December 19, 2020 at 01:12 PM

TC

“ I had only one year under Coach Flaminio, for which I am grateful to have. My favorite non coaching memory was during practices coach walking through the field house on his way to the distance runners, smiling while singing "Mack the Knife".

Tom Carr - December 19, 2020 at 12:48 PM

PH

“ Coach will be sorely missed. He was a very big part of my life and instilled values I continue to use everyday.

Philip Hinck

Philip Hinck - December 19, 2020 at 10:32 AM

SW

“ Mrs. Flaminio and family,
I am so incredibly sorry for your loss. Please know our whole family
is continuously praying for you!!

The Korcsog Family

Stephanie Whitehead - December 18, 2020 at 09:24 PM

BS

“ To the Flaminio Family,
So sorry for your loss and a loss to so many more. Most difficult
time ever to loose somebody. Wishing we could give you a hug and
share memories to help make you smile. Whitmer Graduating Class
Members with Tony and Michelle 1982.
Sincerely, Brad and Kerri (Fink) Sorrell

Brad and Kerri Sorrell - December 18, 2020 at 06:30 PM

TF

“ 119 files added to the album Memories Album



Tony Flaminio - December 17, 2020 at 08:29 PM

BM

*Pat, Tony, Susan, So sorry to hear this sad news. Kay and I our sending
our sympathy and prayers.*

Bill Miller - December 18, 2020 at 12:27 PM

MS

“ Coach Flaminio was hired by the University of Toledo midway through my junior year. His coaching and guidance helped me to reach my potential in my last collegiate track and cross-country seasons. From him I learned that if you wanted to succeed you needed a plan and you need to stick to the plan and that sometimes success requires a lot of work. An honorable and a caring man, I am a better person having known (and been guided) by him.

Mark V. Stender

Mark Stender - December 17, 2020 at 04:41 PM

SB

The most soft spoken gentlest gentleman I had ever met. God bless Mr. Flamingo. YOU WILL BE MISSED

Sharon Bishop - December 17, 2020 at 09:06 PM

BD

*Pat, sympathy and love to you and your family at this difficult time. I fondly remember our time together at St. Clement.
Beth Dieringer*

Beth Dieringer - December 18, 2020 at 08:32 AM

KW

Coach you will be missed!

Kevin Westrick - December 18, 2020 at 09:16 AM

MS

*Dear Tony and family, I am sad to learn of your dad's passing. John and I worked together during his later years at UT I hope that the many memories that you all share help you through this difficult time. . My he Rest In Peace.
Mark Schreiner*

Mark Schreiner - December 18, 2020 at 12:17 PM

AL

So sorry about the loss of your father, Tony. May perpetual light shine upon him. Ann (Hojnacki) Link

Ann Link - December 18, 2020 at 08:59 PM

BF

Your father had a great smile Tony, and of course you have the best and most pictures to share. I will gladly donate to YAY Bikes in honor of your dad, it is a cycling advocacy organization. Prayers for you and your family.

Bertie Fields - December 19, 2020 at 12:36 AM

BP

*You and your family are in our thoughts and prayers!
Betty Pelton and family*

Betty Pelton - December 20, 2020 at 10:30 AM

JG

*Pat, so sorry.
Janet Gardner*

Janet Gardner - December 20, 2020 at 11:14 PM