



Sami Sayegh

October 22, 1943 - May 25, 2025

It is with deep sadness and eternal love that we announce the passing of our dear Sami Sayegh, who was cherished by family and friends around the world. Sami peacefully left this life on May 25, 2025, in Toledo, Ohio, his home for the past 40 years.

Born on October 22, 1943, in Machgara, Lebanon, to Iskandar Sayegh and Nayfe Karam, Sami led a rich and colorful life, living in many places and traveling widely. His life was one of education, elegance, connection, and a fruitful experience of family, friendship and community.

In the 1960s, Sami moved from Lebanon to Haughton, Michigan, where he earned a degree at Michigan Tech in English Literature. He returned to Aitanite, Lebanon where he taught in his home country for two years before he accepted a position with Aramco in Saudi Arabia in 1972. There, he taught English and served as the Director of Student Affairs for 13 years. In 1985, he briefly lived in Houston, Texas where he started a business and made lifelong friends before finally settling in Toledo in 1986 to be closer to his family.

In 1989, Sami and his cousins opened Byblos Restaurant on Reynolds Road, a sister family restaurant to the iconic Beirut and both establishments would become an integral part of his life. By day, Sami could be found overseeing the lunch hour at Byblos, and by night, he served behind the bar at the Beirut,

where he was much more than a bartender pouring an incredibly stiff drink, but a cornerstone of this cherished restaurant. His presence at the bar was legendary and masterful, with his hospitality, wit, and conversations full of banter and camaraderie, drawing people from all walks of life into his inner circle. Both family restaurants, their staff, leadership and clientele will miss him greatly. His daily energy and commitment was a constant source of support for so long to all who knew him. It truly is an end of an era.

Sami was a man of great character, whose warmth, classic style and stature, heartfelt generosity, and sense of humor touched everyone he met. Whether through his interesting stories, ability to listen, or his famous Lebanese coffee, drinks and company, Sami had an extraordinary gift for making his people feel seen and valued. To so many, he wasn't just a friend or family member—he was a confidant, a mentor, and a true companion. His kindness knew no bounds, and his devotion to both family and community was unprecedented.

A proud son of Lebanon, Sami embraced his heritage while welcoming all with an open heart and an inclusive spirit. He truly embodied the definition of Lebanese hospitality rooted in love and acceptance. He will be remembered for his joie de vivre, his unwavering commitment to family, the discretion and humility he showed in his many good deeds, his ability to bring tenderness, humor and intimacy to every conversation and every moment you were blessed to be in his presence.

Sami is survived by his sister, Samia, his brother, Daoud, and nieces Randa, Dania, and Mirna in Lebanon, and his niece Rosie in Switzerland. He is also survived by his nephew, Tony Baroud, a celebrated and well-known athlete and television commentator and presenter throughout the Middle East. Sami was so proud of Tony and stood as best man at his wedding.

Godfather to many, both officially and unofficially, a beloved friend, brother,

and confidant of the Hajjar families, the Abou-Arraj families, the Ajaka family, his community at Gesu Catholic Church, caregiver, Soria Taha, his neighbors and beloved friends: Sami Azar, Gordon Barry, and the late Jeff Lydon, Judy Traver, Bradley Ansberg, and too many others to name here. You know who you are. His network of loved ones extended far and wide—across generations, countries, and cultures—leaving behind a legacy of meaningful and endearing relationships.

His memory will live on in the stories we share, the wisdom he imparted, the laughter he brought to our lives, and the pure love he gave so freely.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests donations be made to the American Friends of Al Younbouh, and organization that supports rehabilitation to children and adults with mental disabilities and special needs. To learn more about their important work, please visit: <https://www.alyounbouh.org> Checks can be made to American Friends of Al Younbouh or directly sent to: Wells Fargo Bank NA, 2535 Highway 98, Daphne, Alabama 36526, Acct Number: 6739510490 in the memo

Friends are invited to visit from 4:00pm to 8:00pm Wednesday May 28, 2025 at Ansberg-West Funeral Home, 3000 Sylvania Avenue, where Trisagion prayers will be recited at 7:30pm. Mass of the Resurrection will be celebrated 11:00am Thursday, May 29, 2025 at Gesu Catholic Church, 2049 Parkside Blvd, Toledo, OH, followed by a burial at Ottawa Hills Memorial Park

"I will both lie down and sleep in peace; for you alone, O Lord, make me lie down in safety." Psalm 4:8

Memory Eternal dearest Sami. You will be missed by so many and carry a special place in our hearts forever.

Cemetery Details

Ottawa Hills Memorial Park

4210 Central Ave
Toledo, OH 43606

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 28. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Ansberg-West Funeral Home
3000 W. Sylvania Ave
Toledo, OH 43613

Trisagion Prayer Service

MAY 28. 7:30 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Ansberg-West Funeral Home
3000 W. Sylvania Ave
Toledo, OH 43613

Mass of the Resurrection

MAY 29. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Gesu Catholic Church
2049 Parkside Blvd.
Toledo, OH 43607

Tribute Wall

NW

“ I am so sorry for your loss, my deepest sympathies to you and your family.

Sending prayers

Nancy Willis

Nancy Willis - May 30, 2025 at 07:41 PM

SM

“ Sarah Rockwood Miller lit a candle in memory of Sami Sayegh



Sarah Rockwood Miller - May 30, 2025 at 05:55 PM

SM

Always looked forward to visiting with him at both restaurants always happy and kind

Sarah Rockwood Miller - May 30, 2025 at 05:57 PM



“ some of their family and friends are real shook about it, but it's hard for me to be sad after everything he's done for my family and how much he seemingly had a genuine love for my son. Just... such a genuine and happy soul. Everyone adored him. I'm just glad he is not in pain anymore. One time my dad had said that he liked his shirt and he literally took it off and gave it to him. It was a Burberry button up. My dad had no idea. Took the shirt off his back and gave it to him LITERALLY. If that is not thee most unspoken, genuine gesture. We will miss him terribly and the joy he has brought to so many of my family members - smh- it's just too hard to not celebrate him and all of the memories he has provided for/to us; all of them so full of wit! 😊
Sami IS a TRUE LEGEND WHO WILL FOREVER BE ADORED AND TRULY MISSED



Roberta Sparrow - May 30, 2025 at 08:45 AM

ML

“ I loved dear Sami, a true friend and tremendous source of encouragement and positive reinforcement for many years, changing my life. Marie wrote an accurate obituary, putting to words the indescribable capacity of Sami to connect with people and live love, no matter what happens. I watched the funeral from afar and my heart is indeed heavy. I'm so sad that Sami will never beat the bar again for a heartfelt chat. Rest in peace, my friend. In this heart, your memory is eternal. Now I know why you “friended” me recently over social media. Wherever you are is now a better place because of you.

Miriam Mikhail Lette - May 29, 2025 at 12:07 PM

ML

“ *Miriam Mikhail Lette lit a candle in memory of Sami Sayegh*



Miriam Mikhail Lette - May 29, 2025 at 11:17 AM

RB

“ *Sami's obituary perfectly described him if you did not know him. Yes, the world lost a beautiful person and soul but the memories of Sami will live on forever. Rest in peace*

Robb Brown - May 29, 2025 at 09:51 AM

PB

“ *We have lost a true friend! Always there to say hello, ask about family and friends and always giving of himself. He will never be forgotten.*

Paul Betz - May 29, 2025 at 07:55 AM

DW

“ *May the memories of the love and laughter shared console Sami's family and friends in their sorrow. May Sami rest in peace with our Lord for all eternity...*

Dave & Judy Weaks - May 28, 2025 at 11:34 PM

SA

“ Sami was an amazing person! Always so kind and soft spoken. He was a customer and a friend. I was always amazed when I would call in a lunch order he always knew who I was before I even had to tell him. We had some lovely conversations. He was one of the big reasons you always wanted to go back to the restaurant. May he rest in peace!

SandieZ - May 28, 2025 at 04:05 PM

JF

He was a true friend to have. Sami you will be missed. RIP 🙏

Jackie farmer - May 29, 2025 at 09:37 AM

KP

“ Every "Huskie" is special, and Sami will be missed by the Michigan Technological University family.

Kari L Price - May 28, 2025 at 11:54 AM

BH

“ Our prayers 🙏 are with Sami's family. He was a very special neighbor, and we always enjoyed chatting with him. At times he even brought us food from one of his restaurants. We will miss his smile and kind demeanor. Rest in peace Sami.
Bob and Sherrie Hasr

Bob Haar - May 28, 2025 at 10:46 AM

SL

“ We met Sami through Elias Abou-Arraj; what a delightful fellow! We extend our sympathy to all Sami's family and loved ones. Tom and Susan Lewis

Susan Lewis - May 28, 2025 at 09:38 AM

RK

“ *The sweetest customer I had always bringing me a special treat. He brought me hummus once and ask if I liked it I told him him I never had it before he said you will like this and this is the best in town and it was delicious. I will truly miss seeing you at work. Prayers for his family.*

Rose Krueger

Rose Krueger - May 28, 2025 at 07:51 AM

CR

“ *I was so very saddened to hear of Samis passing. We had a unique friendship at work and at his home, when I cleaned for him. He was humorous, tactful and kind . He never let me leave his home without giving me something! I miss him already , but will see him again in heaven! He’s one of a kind and heaven is better with him! 🥺👉 Sami until we meet again!!*

Candace Rietzke - May 27, 2025 at 11:02 PM

AM

“ *I'm so sorry to hear about the loss of dear Sami. I enjoyed working with him years ago at Beirut and seeing him whenever I came back. Sincere condolences to his family and all who loved him. Alyson Howard Moses*

Alyson Howard Moses - May 27, 2025 at 09:56 PM