

Denis Castelli

Denis Castelli was born on April 26, 1946 in the Bronx, NY, to the late Pasquale and Caroline (Piacquadio) Castelli.

He graduated from schools in the Bronx and attended Iona College in New Rochelle, NY. Denis served during the Vietnam War in the 1st Calvary and received the Purple Heart for being wounded in the line of duty. Denis married Athena Arvan on October 2, 1982 at Church of Our Savior in Rye, NY. He served as an historian for the County of Putnam for two years as well as historian for the Village of Brewster from 2006 to 2014. As the county historian, he helped spearhead the county's bicentennial activities.

From the late 1970's until his retirement in 2000, Denis had been a computer analyst for Daprex Inc. in Stamford, CT. He lived in North Salem since 1989 and in Brewster since the early 1970's. Denis was an avid photographer displaying his works in both the Applebee's Restaurant in Brewster and the Putnam County main offices and he enjoyed writing articles for the village of Brewster and other towns.

Denis was a trustee of the Southeast Museum for 19 years and a board member for both the Putnam County Land Trust from which he recently received the emeritus award and the Landmarks Preservation Society. Denis was also a member of the VFW Post #672 in Brewster. He also had assisted Congresswoman Nan Hayworth for two years as a veterans advocate. He was also instrumental assisting Putnam County to become the first Purple Heart County in New York State.

On Saturday, April 19th, Denis died unexpectedly . He was 67 years old. Besides his wife Athena of 31 years, Mr. Castelli is survived by his brother Michael Denis Castelli of Venice, FL as well as several aunts and uncles and many friends.

“Today the county mourns the loss of a great man and I mourn the death of a great friend,” said County Executive MaryEllen Odell. “I met Denis over 10 years ago and we have worked on a number of projects together that dealt with the history of Putnam County, the betterment of his beloved Brewster or about bringing awareness, and where we could solutions, to the issues affecting veterans. His spirit and unwavering loyalty will be missed.”

Denis was instrumental in helping The Italian American Club Putnam County Columbus Day Festivities Committee in creating a commemorative

journal in 2012. This edition celebrated the Putnam County Bicentennial as well as the many contributions of Italian Americans to our area. He was a dear friend of our Club and a supporter of its many activities. It is in this spirit that we fondly remember Denis and salute him with this posthumous recognition. Happy Columbus Day Denis.

Gloria in Paradiso Caro Denis!