



Leonard R. Mirto Jr.

December 14, 1945 - February 25, 2020

Leonard Robert Mirto, Jr., 74, of North Haven, CT passed away peacefully on February 25, 2020 at his home after a courageous battle with colon cancer.

Len was born on December 14, 1945 to Leonard R. Mirto, Sr. and Josephine Guadagno Mirto in New Haven, CT. After graduating from Hamden High School in 1963, he went on to study at Southern Connecticut State College.

Len married his college sweetheart, the late Carolyn Forbes Mirto, and they went on to have three daughters, Paula M. Bleakley (the late William R. Bleakley; Radu Tarta); Denise Sandra Moses; and Jody E. Clouse (Mendy K. Clouse). Len was predeceased by his parents and his wife, Carolyn. He is survived by his brother, Robert J. Mirto (Kathy Messina Mirto); his daughters; his five grandchildren, Liam F. Bleakley, Jacqueline V. Moses, Connor M. Bleakley, Mya J. Clouse, and Sylvia E. Clouse; Christopher Forbes, Matthew Poryanda and a large loving extended family.

For Len, family was most important. He treasured the time he spent traveling with Carolyn, playing or watching sports with his brother Bob, having Sunday dinners with his parents, cheering his daughters and grandkids on from the sidelines, and making everyone laugh at each of these family events.

Len spent many years working in the insurance industry and various forms of

athletics. He sincerely valued his relationships with friends in the athletic departments at Yale University, Quinnipiac University and Hamden High School. He truly considered the people there to be his extended family.

Athletics was a theme throughout Len's life. Playing, collecting, and following sports on many levels - from high school to professional - brought him much joy. He played baseball and softball in Hamden for many years - at times on the same team as his brother and father. Len loved collecting sports memorabilia and had a wealth of knowledge about players, statistics, teams and trivia. His involvement as an announcer, manager and commentator for several semi-pro football teams earned him multiple championship rings.

Len loved to travel. He toured Europe on his honeymoon with Carolyn, as well as brought his family on many trips both in and out of the country. He enjoyed learning about other cultures, meeting people from other places, and sampling foods from around the world. His knowledge of diverse places and cultures made him a fierce opponent in many Trivial Pursuit games.

During the course of his illness, Len felt safe and comforted by caregivers at Smilow Cancer Hospital including Dr. Jeremy Kortmansky, Dr. Michael Cecchini, Dr. Dmitry Kozhevnikov, Kathy Farrelly, Robin Esposito, and Corey Bower. He was grateful for the companionship of Matthew McCluster.

Len opened his heart to many causes. He often contributed to organizations supporting animal rescue, police, emergency responders, Veterans, the US troops, and many health-related charities, including JDRF. In lieu of flowers, random acts of kindness would touch Len's heart.

The family will be receiving visitors at Sisk Brothers Funeral Home, 3105 Whitney Avenue, Hamden, CT on Sunday, March 1, 2020 from 10:30 AM – Noon with an informal memorial service at 11 AM.

Previous Events

Calling hours

MAR 1. 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Sisk Brothers Funeral Home
3105 Whitney Ave.
Hamden, CT 06518
(203) 288-7114
siskfuneral@sbcglobal.net

Tribute Wall

SM

“ Lenny and I used to talk by phone as we were both struggling to recover from chronic fatigue syndrome back in the 1990s. It was good to share that awful experience with Lenny, although he did not have it as severely as I did. We did get together a couple of times, but I lost track of him and was not aware that he moved to North Haven. I was sad to see the obit in the NH Register. Please accept my condolences. Regards, Steve Marsh, Hamden

Stephen Marsh - March 03, 2020 at 10:03 AM

MM

“ Marie Marczak sent a virtual gift in memory of Leonard R. Mirto Jr.



marie marczak - March 01, 2020 at 10:02 AM

NK

“ Today the New England Knights announce with heavy hearts the passing of Len Mirto. Lenny was the one and only team announcer for the Knights and was loved by all. Lenny was also an inductee into the Knights Hall of Fame. Lenny made even the most exciting Knights games more exciting with his feel for the game and the thoughts of those in the stands. Lenny always had the right mixture of knowing the game and knowing how to bring the game to his listeners. From the play by play like no other to the loving nicknames he gave players Lenny was an original. Out of all the things on Lenny's Knights resume his signature call of "GOOOOOO... KNIGHTS!!!" will live forever in the world of the New England Knights.

New England Knights - February 29, 2020 at 03:49 PM

MF

“ To the Entire Mirto Family,
I lived across the street from you for many years and remember you all and your wonderful grandparents. Your Mom and Dad were such nice people and we talked all the time when I was growing up. Your Dad and brother was a very kind outgoing person and I ran into him a few times through the years and he was always the same way. May he Rest In Peace with your lovely Mom.
Fondly,
Mary Sue Smith FitzSimons


Mary Sue Fitzsimons - February 28, 2020 at 07:21 PM

JM

“ Bobby and Family: I am very sorry to learn of Lenny's illness and passing this week. Lenny's joyous personality and boundless humor will give you a wealth of loving memories to keep him present in your lives. I'm sure he's batting clean-up on heaven's team. Jerry & Gayle Mirto

Jerry Mirto - February 27, 2020 at 12:27 PM

CG

“ Tom and I will be there on Sunday. No question, Lenny already has his angel wings. I'm sure he will now be watching over and taking care of all of us.


Carol Gagliardi - February 27, 2020 at 11:06 AM

MM

“ Sending my love and condolences to Lenny's family! He was a long time customer at Tastebuds in North Haven. Cara and I loved when he came in. He will be truly missed! Rest peacefully Lenny!



Melaina Miranda - February 27, 2020 at 09:57 AM

HC

“ Len was a joy to be around who had a great exuberance for life. He was the ultimate straight shooter who told you how he honestly felt about the many topics he had a vast knowledge of. I thoroughly enjoyed our many conversations about sports and will miss our friendly banter back and forth - especially about our ongoing debate whether Mariano Rivera belonged in the hall of fame. He was a man who valued family above all else and was one to always show genuine interest in your family as well. He will be missed greatly by all he touched. My life was enriched by knowing him.

Howard Charney - February 26, 2020 at 04:24 PM

JM

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Jack McDonald - February 26, 2020 at 03:29 PM

JM

“ 2 files added to the album *Len Mirto 2017*



Jack McDonald - February 26, 2020 at 03:25 PM

PS

“ *Denise, Bob & Family:*

It was a sad day when I learned of Len's passing. We go way back (1965) when I married his cousin, Anita. Although we were many miles apart over the years we'd have the pleasure of seeing Len and Caroline at various occasions including when Len worked the Yale basketball games. So many of the family peers have moved on to a better life and a few are at the very outer edge of our life cycle. The Mirto family always has had a strong presence in my life. Len will be sadly missed. My thoughts are with you as you work your way through these next difficult days.

*Pete Sapnar
Fort Myers, FL*

Peter Sapnar - February 26, 2020 at 03:25 PM

JM

“ 2 files added to the album *Memories Album*



Jack McDonald - February 26, 2020 at 03:23 PM

JM

“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



Jack McDonald - February 26, 2020 at 03:21 PM