



## Anthony Sellari

December 30, 1927 - May 31, 2020

Anthony “Tony” Sellari died peacefully in his home in Kannapolis, NC on May 31, 2020, surrounded by his family. Tony was born in Arnold, PA on December 30, 1927 to Alfonso and Nicoletta Sellari. He was a graduate of Ken High School and earned his degree in Secondary Education at Lenoir Rhyne University. He arrived there on a basketball scholarship where he had an illustrious career, was named All-State in 1952 and later inducted into the L-R Hall of Fame in 1981. It was at L-R that he met the love of his life, Doris Plaster of Kannapolis. They married in 1949, and in 1952 moved to Wadesboro, NC where he began his 35-year career as a high school teacher and successful basketball coach, first at Wadesboro High School, then at Burrell High School in Lower Burrell, PA from 1966-1987. He led his teams to numerous championships, was named Coach of the Year by the Pittsburgh Press in 1979 and was inducted into the Allegheny-Kiski Valley Sports Hall of Fame.

Tony was a man of God, leader in his church and community, Navy veteran, a wood craftsman, great dancer, and cotton candy entrepreneur. He loved playing cards, sports, country music, southern cooking, and was proud of his Italian heritage. But he was most passionate about his wife of 71 years, his children, family and friends.

He is survived by his wife Doris; his five children Gary Sellari (Cyndy), Scott Sellari, Anthony Sellari, Nicci Fry (Phil) and Dodi Sellari; his brothers Bobby Sellari (Patti) and Tommy Sellari (Sylvia); His seven grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren; seven nephews and five nieces. He is preceded in death by his parents, his sister Nancy, and brother Alfonso, Jr. (Faye).

A service will be held at St. Enoch Lutheran Church on Sunday June 7, 2020 at 2:00 p.m. Viewing is at 1:00 p.m. with the service immediately following. In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts may be made to St. Enoch Lutheran Church, 701 Campbell Avenue, Kannapolis, NC 28081.

# Events

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**JUN** **Visitation** 01:00PM

**7**  
St. Enoch Lutheran Church  
701 Campbell Avenue, Kannapolis, NC, US, 28081

**JUN** **Funeral Service** 02:00PM

**7**  
St. Enoch Lutheran Church  
701 Campbell Avenue, Kannapolis, NC, US, 28081

# Comments

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“ I played for Coach Sellari in the 70's. It was a privilege to experience his coaching, and as student of his in school, I appreciated and respected how he prepared us for our future. Rest In Peace Coach. I would like to extend my deepest sympathies to the family in this most difficult time.

**Mike Krugle** - June 06, 2020 at 09:33 AM

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“ From 1970 to 1975 I worked with Tony at Burrell High School. I always found him to be a man of integrity, with a strong work ethic, and caring for his students and athletes. My condolences and respect go out to his family. Charlene Tromby Lindner

**Charlene Lindner** - June 06, 2020 at 06:06 AM

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“ I had the honor of playing for Coach in the late 70s at Burrell. He was a great teacher of not only basketball skills but life skills and values. He expected perfection and got the best out of you as a player. Much respect for the man and his legacy. He and Mrs. Sellari raised a great family and my heart goes to the entire Sellari family at this tough time.

Dave Dickerson  
Burrell class of '77

**David Dickerson** - June 05, 2020 at 09:54 PM

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“ Wadesboro North Carolina would be the site of It's A Wonderful Life (The movie) and The Coach would be the George Bailey, making our town great. Had we missed that window of opportunity to be loved and coached by him, we would have been Pottersville USA. Most of all, he was a man after God's Own Heart, never showing his frustration without a righteous explanation. We will meet again! Blessings to the family and friends touched in the heart by "The Coach"!

**Jerry Smith** - June 05, 2020 at 08:14 PM

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“ Warren G. (Jerry) Smith and family purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Anthony Sellari.



Warren G. (Jerry) Smith and family - June 05, 2020 at 08:00 PM

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“ I'm so sorry for your loss.. I will always remember him with a smile.. he will always be with you . I'm remembering you all in my prayers.  
With love & sympathy,  
Denise Bellinotti-Weeter



Denise Bellinotti-Weeter - June 05, 2020 at 07:07 PM

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“ I'm going to miss Mr. Sellari I knew this family since I was 5. Dodi from my kindergarten swimming lessons and Mr. Sellari from gym class and his cotton candy was an annual tradition growing up.

Brenda L Marsh - June 05, 2020 at 05:54 PM

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“ Alle-Kiski Valley Sports Hall of Fame purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Anthony Sellari.



Alle-Kiski Valley Sports Hall of Fame - June 05, 2020 at 01:52 PM



“ My deepest sympathy to the entire family. Cathi (Capizzi) Olinger

**Cathi Olinger** - June 05, 2020 at 01:23 PM

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“ In writing my post in the memory section, I have misspelled Coach's name and when I try to correct the spelling, I somehow get an auto correct of SELLER. THERE IS NOTHING I CAN DO ABOUT IT BUT I WANTED THE FAMILY TO KNOW ABOUT THE PROBLEM. SORRY.

**Charlie Burns** - June 05, 2020 at 01:15 PM

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“ Other than my father, Mr. Sellari was the most influential man in my life. He was a great man who lived by the values he taught to so many. RIP Coach.

**Shawn Clark** - June 05, 2020 at 09:44 AM

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“ Prayers and sympathy to the family, I went to school with Tony didn't know him well but had his dad for gym. Very nice man will be missed.

**Robert Sladisky** - June 05, 2020 at 12:38 AM

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“ Mr selleri was truly a great man. He welcomed me into home with a warm heart! Nicci and i were friends. Condolences to you and your family. My mom is now in heaven too.

**maida piggee** - June 05, 2020 at 12:11 AM

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“ I had the pleasure to be Tony's pastor for several years in the early 80's. He was a man of faith of humor, of kindness, of family. His smile was ever present, and yet he was not shy about making a point to help someone grow.. Even after I left Lower Burrell and Grace community Church for Nebraska, I had the pleasure to perform the marriage of Nicci and Phil.  
I know he will be missed, but I am grateful for the life he lived. Prayers are with each of you, especially Doris.

Kirk Ryckman

Rev. Dr. Kirk A. Ryckman - June 04, 2020 at 11:29 PM

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“ Coach Sellari was a great teacher, coach and role model when I started my teaching/coaching career at Burrell in 1971. Tony was a great man who helped build great kids into successful adults. He will be sadly missed - may his Memory be Eternal!

Bob Kariotis - June 04, 2020 at 10:14 PM

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“ Wendy Aurednik lit a candle in memory of Anthony Sellari



Wendy Aurednik - June 04, 2020 at 09:37 PM

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“ So sorry to hear about Al. He lived by my Mom and Dad on Harvey Ave. Al and Babe Chamrad and was friends with my Aunts and Uncles, the Probels and Sukala's. Everyone always had the nicest things to say about Al. He was such a great guy with a wonderful family. I graduated with Gary Sellari. My sincere condolences and sympathy to all the family. Our thoughts and prayers will be with all of you through this very difficult time. Carol Ann (Chamrad) Szafranski.

Carol Ann (Chamrad) Szafranski - June 04, 2020 at 09:24 PM

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“ Prayers and sympathy to the family. One of my favorite people on the face of the Earth. A role model and a mentor. He helped me with my low self-esteem before that was a thing. I have coached 4 different sports now for almost 40 years and I still use some of the things that he taught me. One of those is that yelling does not work. Education is the key. My quote to younger coaches is "Don't berate, Educate." RIP COACH.

**Bob Livrone** - June 04, 2020 at 09:01 PM

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“ Great memories of playing for Coach Sellari in our little cracker box of a gym at Wadesboro High School. He made playing fun and we could almost forget our mini-gym, dressing for games in a classroom, and always cold showers in our "NBA style" dressing rooms (NOT), noisy backboards, and dodging posts. I remember him telling me one time to know where the "soft" spots in the floor were, then force your opponent to put the ball down on one of the dead spots and be ready to grab the ball. After a puzzled look from me, he grinned and said, "nah, just kidding....but it might work. We also had some fun pickup games during Christmas when his brother Tommy would come and join us. Thanks for the memories, Coach.....Sam Harrell

**Sam P. Harrell** - June 04, 2020 at 06:40 PM

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“ Coach Seller was quite simply "the best". I HAVE PLAYED under some of the greatest coaches in basketball history (Ken Rosemond, Frank McGuire, Dean Smith) and consider Coach Seller their absolute equal. What was so special about him was the fact that not only could he tell you how "TO DO" EVERYTHING, HE COULD DEMONSTRATE PERFECTLY. He was another level in coaching and I was so lucky to have him teach me the game of basketball. I loved him and his family and I looked forward to talking with him once a year at CHRISTMAS. I WILL MISS THE phone calls and him terribly. A great man has left us but we have all been blessed by his presence.

**Charlie Burns** - June 04, 2020 at 10:13 AM

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“ Coach Sellari had such an influence on his players as he taught us to always work hard and do our best, and at the same time respect others. He taught us to play as hard as we could, but not win at all costs. He had a way of correcting our mistakes without putting us down. Thank you Coach for your great leadership

John Hendley

John Hendley - June 04, 2020 at 07:29 AM

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“ Best coach ever.  
Alfred Randle

Bill (Alfred) Randle - June 03, 2020 at 02:41 PM

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“ Coach Sellari had a big impact on many Wadesboro kids. My thoughts are with his wife and grandkids. Fond memories of playing basketball at their family home. His son Gary was a classmate, teammate and friend! David Covington

David Covington - June 03, 2020 at 01:22 PM

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“ He was one of our great coaches at Wadesboro High School. Everyone loved him. One year he took our basketball team to his family's home in Pennsylvania for a week of playing teams there, parties, and eating pizza for the first time in our lives. A great coach, teacher and friend who will be remembered and missed.  
Calvin Hooks, Class of 1955 at Wadesboro High School

James Calvin Hooks - June 03, 2020 at 08:27 AM

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“ He was a sweet man and always gave the Bump to everyone at church when they got done taking communion i'm really going to miss Tony at church love you Doris, Dori and family

Kelly Wise - June 03, 2020 at 12:02 AM

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“ Anne Tice Morris lit a candle in memory of Anthony Sellari



**Anne Tice Morris** - June 02, 2020 at 11:30 PM

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“ I was fortunate to be a fellow-teacher of Coach Sellari's at Wadesboro High School 1956-1959. He was truly a gentleman educator. He loved his students and dedicated his life to making this world a better place one student at a time. Also, it was always special to me that he had preceded me as a student at Lenoir-Rhyne.

Bob Morgan, Ph. D., Professor Emeritus of French and Mathematics, Gardner-Webb University

**Dr. Bob Morgan** - June 02, 2020 at 11:16 PM



“ Thoughts and prayers to the Sellari family ! We lost one heckuva coach , man and gentleman !

**Roland Scott** - June 02, 2020 at 11:33 PM

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“ Coach taught me how to drive a car

**Marion Watson** - June 02, 2020 at 10:57 PM

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“ This is such sad news. Coach Sellari was such a positive influence on our whole family as well as the entire Wadesboro community. His influence will continue to span generations.

Stokes Clarke

**Stokes Clarke** - June 02, 2020 at 09:53 PM

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“ I spent much of my youth at the Sellari home and Tony and Doris were my second set of parents. God bless all in this family!

**Steve Gaddy** - June 02, 2020 at 09:31 PM

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“ Our love and thoughts are with you Doris and all your beautiful family. Coach taught us both so much. He made our school a better place and a dancing place. Our dance club was all his idea and gave the old gym some glamour!!  
We hold him close in our hearts always  
Kenny and Gail Brower Huggins

**Kenneth Huggins** - June 02, 2020 at 09:16 PM

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“ Ann Taylor Hough lit a candle in memory of Anthony Sellari



**Ann Taylor Hough** - June 02, 2020 at 08:46 PM

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“ Coach Sellari was one of a kind, great coach and teacher. I was lucky to have been in the same class with Gary, the oldest son and we were teammates in school sports. My thoughts and prayers for all the family. Ronnie Ratliffe



**Ronnie Ratliffe** - June 02, 2020 at 08:01 PM

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“ Brenda Pesce Swing lit a candle in memory of Anthony Sellari



**Brenda Pesce Swing** - June 02, 2020 at 07:21 PM

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“ Betty And Preston Kelly lit a candle in memory of Anthony Sellari



**Betty and Preston Kelly** - June 02, 2020 at 06:23 PM

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“ Great coach & teacher - Wadesboro was fortunate to have men like him to lead & teach us. Rick Ratliffe



**Rick Ratliffe** - June 02, 2020 at 04:57 PM