



John L Celani

June 29, 2025

John L. Celani, 89, a retired public school educator, was an outstanding mathematics teacher and school administrator. Earning his B.S. from California State University of Pennsylvania in 1958, he began his teaching career in western Pennsylvania as a mathematics teacher at West Jefferson Hills school district. While at college and for two years beyond, John was a member of an a cappella singing quartet, the Varsity Four, who patterned its modern harmonies similar to the Four Freshman. He came to New Jersey in 1960, as a secondary mathematics teacher in the Willingboro, NJ school district. He received his M.A. in Mathematics Education from Rutgers University, New Brunswick, in 1962. John attended Glassboro State College (presently Rowan University) and earned his administrative degree in 1972. He was named Willingboro's high school math department chairman in 1965 and was the principal of the adult evening high school for 3 years prior to assuming, in 1975, the position of Director of Continuing Education from which he retired in 1992.

John was active as a community leader and volunteer. In 1982, he founded the Literacy Volunteers of Burlington County, and served on its Board of Directors for 20 years. The program continues to successfully function with offices in Willingboro. John was invited to join the Willingboro Rotary Club in 1975, and was an active member and past president. For many years, John was chairperson of three Rotary committees, including the Scholarship

Committee, Rotary Youth Leadership Award (RYLA) program, and the Sunshine Committee. He had been the director of the Rotary Four Way Test project in the Willingboro Schools for two years and for many years was the club's Vocational Service Director. He served on Rotary District 7500's Ambassador Scholarship committee and as the editor of the Rotary Club's weekly newsletter. John also spent a year volunteering for Habitat for Humanity assisting with the renovation of a home in Burlington City.

John joined the Pine Barons Barbershop Chorus in 1993, where he became assistant director, show ticket chairman, gift card coordinator, treasurer, and a two time president of the chorus. He sang the lead part in the "Titanium" barbershop quartet (previously "The Schoolhouse Four") for over 27 years. In 2011, he joined "4 Ever Young" as their bass singer, and later joined the quartets "Probable Cause" and "The Roadies", the latter singing John's Barbershop arrangements to non-typical Barbershop songs. John also played trumpet in the Moorestown Community Band from 1992 to 2003. He supported and was a member of the Perkins Art Center in Moorestown, Save the Environment of Moorestown (STEM), The Philadelphia Museum of Art, The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, The Philadelphia Academy of Fine Arts, Phi Delta Kappa Educational Fraternity, and Rutgers University and California State University of Pennsylvania alumni associations. In addition to singing and playing the trumpet, John enjoyed carpentry, writing musical arrangements in four part harmony, playing golf, and displaying his creativity in the development of greeting cards.

John lived in Moorestown, NJ with his wife, Marguerite (Seidensticker). He was the father of a son, Jonathan W. Celani (62), who resides in Weare, New Hampshire. He had three grandchildren, Alexandra Celani Campono (34) (Tony). Erik Celani (32) (Debra) and Kristen Celani (29), and three great grandchildren, Troy Celani (20 months), Ryder Campono (1 year) and Ava Celani (10 weeks).

A Visitation will be held on Saturday July 5th 2025 from 9 :00 am to 11:00 am
the

Lewis Funeral Home, 78 E. Main St. Moorestown, NJ.

In Lieu of flowers Memorial contributions may be made to the Pine Barons
Chorus,

Box #1310, 2270 Rt. 70 W STE 2, Cherry Hill NJ, 08002 or online at
https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=2W8JFDLGXP556

Cemetery Details

PRIVATE INTERMENT

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 5. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Lewis Funeral Home
78 E Main St
Moorestown, NJ 08057
(856) 235-0009
lewisfh@msn.com
<https://www.lewisfuneralhomemoorestown.com>

Tribute Wall

SR

“ We have lost one of the great ones.
John was simply a prince.

He was dedicated to so many causes - his career in teaching, the Rotary Club, our beloved Pine Barons Chorus, his family, and of course, his beloved Margueritte.

He supported The Pine Barons Chorus as a bass singer, assistant director, arranger, treasurer, ticket chair, gift card coordinator, intrachapter contest organizer - always without fanfare or fuss, and always with his trademark excellence.

His quiet philanthropy towards our chorus leaves a legacy that we all are forever grateful.

I will miss his resonant bass voice, ever-cheerful demeanor, and sweet smile.

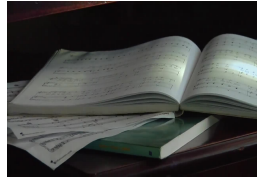
Steven Ritz



Steven Ritz - July 10, 2025 at 02:32 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Slide Show



Lewis Funeral Home - July 05, 2025 at 01:42 PM

BD

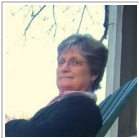
“ *I only have the pleasure of meeting John a few years ago when he was brought into our monthly card game by his good friend Jim Evans. What a superb addition to our little group? Such a fine man and it's easy to see why his former students and current friends think so highly of him. I will miss him very much. Rest in peace John!*

Bill Davis - July 05, 2025 at 07:31 AM

LR

“ *I, and all of my JFK High School friends, had Mr. Celani for AP Calculus. What an excellent teacher and a true gentleman! I placed out of my first year of college calculus due to Mr. Celani's excellent teaching talent. May his memory be a blessing for all the students, family and friends.*

larry rubin - July 03, 2025 at 03:52 PM



“ *Mr.Celani was a wonderful math teacher. I remember him enthusiastically playing his banjo for us in class (in 1967).*

Kathy Maloney - July 03, 2025 at 02:34 PM

JK

“ John gave so much to the chorus and I expect to his family also. He always had a smile and was always involved. I take attendance at rehearsals and John was easy - perfect attendance. John will be missed.

Jeffrey W Knightly - July 03, 2025 at 11:00 AM

CC

“ 1 file added to the album Christmas 2021



Christopher Cook - July 02, 2025 at 09:12 AM

MS

“ Such a warm smile and fun guy to be around. We used to exchange quips about why there wasn't 100% participation in the gift card exchange program? "I mean EVERYBODY food shops! This is a kick back to the chorus with NO cost to any of the guys..." Loved the way he would joke about my magic and his reactions when I showed him a new trick.

Magic Steve - July 02, 2025 at 09:10 AM

SC

“ i enjoy rehearsing with him every monday and he will be missed

Sean P Curran - July 01, 2025 at 08:22 PM