



## Dennis "Denny" E. Galka

September 1, 1948 - November 27, 2020

Colonie-Dennis E. Galka, 72, entered Eternal Life suddenly Friday, November 27, 2020. Born and raised in Albany he attended St. Josephs School, Albany and graduated from Guilderland High School. He was the son of the late Alexander and Genevieve Tomlinson Galka.

He worked for 37 years for the City of Albany Fire Department, retiring as the Quartermaster in 2007. He was a life member and former board member of the PACC. Dad was proud to be Polish, enjoying polka dances, events, and listening to the Rymanowski Polka Program on Sunday mornings. He was Past Exalted Ruler of the Albany Elks Lodge. He was the former President of Guilderland Babe Ruth and was quintessential in the building of the clubhouse at Tawasentha Park. He was former President, Secretary, and Commissioner of Assignments of the Capital District Baseball Umpires Association.

Denny had a passion for baseball like no other. When he figured out that he was not able to play any longer, he turned to umpiring. He worked his way through school, completing Harry Wendelstedts School of umpiring, and umpiring games into the Eastern League of Triple A Baseball. Through umpiring he met some of his best friends, including his best man, retired MLB Umpire Edward Montague. Denny continued to enjoy the love of the game

and heat by attending Spring Training in Scottsdale, Arizona where he would meet up with Ed and some of his other retired umpire friends. He spent 55 years of his life officiating sporting events all over the Capital District. In 2014 Denny was inducted into the NY State Baseball Hall of Fame as an umpire, which he held in such high regard. He loved his Los Angeles Dodgers baseball team and was extremely happy to see them win the World Series this year.

Dad loved his family with all his heart and it is bittersweet to us that he went home to the Lord the same day his wife did 8 years earlier. He cherished the times he got to be with his grandkids whether it be at one of the little league games, backyard cookouts or swim time in the pool.

In addition to his parents he was predeceased by his loving wife Esther Jean Herbst Galka, loving daughter Jane V. Galka, and his brothers Joseph Galka and Rev. Paul Galka OFM.

Dennis is survived by his cherished children Amy Jean (Justin) Gershon, Edward M. (Michelle) Galka, Lee D. Galka. Adored Pa to Michael R. Carlin III, Addison Jean Gershon, Canaan and Vaeda Galka; sister in law Josephine Galka; also, several nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Denny's family would like to extend their gratitude for the care he has received over the years from Michael Gardner MD, and The Advanced Heart Disease Clinic run by Reid Mueller MD and his staff there.

Relatives and Friends are invited and may visit with Dennis's Family  
Wednesday, December 2, 2020 4-7pm in the Lasak & Gigliotti Funeral Home,  
208 N Allen Street, Albany, NY 12206.

Please only enter the funeral home from the rear parking lot doorway; mask  
and social distancing required; and 40 visitors at a time will be allowed in the  
funeral home at a time.

Funeral Services Thursday December 3, 2020 10:00 am at St. Pius X Church,  
Loudonville, NY where his Funeral Mass will be celebrated; mask and social  
distancing required; Church ambassadors will be available to help with seating  
and questions; please try to arrive by 9:45 am.

The Rite of Committal will be held in Our Lady of Angeles Cemetery, Colonie,  
NY immediately following the Funeral Mass.

Those wishing to remember Denny in a special way may make a contribution  
@ UmpsCare.com

To leave a message for the family please visit [www.lgfuneralhome.com](http://www.lgfuneralhome.com)

# Cemetery Details

## Our Lady of Angels Cemetery

1389 Central Ave  
Albany, NY

# Previous Events

## Visitation

DEC 2. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Lasak & Gigliotti Funeral Directors  
208 North Allen Street  
Albany, NY 12206  
(518) 463-1566

## Service

DEC 3. 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Pius X Church  
23 Crumitie Road  
Loudonville, NY

# Tribute Wall



“ *Lasak & Gigliotti Funeral Directors created a Tribute Video in memory of Dennis "Denny" E. Galka*



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**Lasak & Gigliotti Funeral Directors** - December 01, 2020 at 04:25 PM

RB

*Dennis it was a pleasure meeting you and having coffee at Stewart's also, I will miss our conversations . All of the people at Stewart's will miss you dearly. May God bless you and your family, rest in peace.*

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**Richard Bushnell** - December 02, 2020 at 07:17 AM

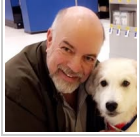
RG

“ *I was sad to hear of Denny's passing. Every time I passed his house he would often be sitting on the front porch and I'd beep and he would wave. Once in a while if I had nothing going on I'd stop and talk to him. Always a great day seeing Denny. Will miss walking into Stewart's and seeing him sitting at one of the tables having coffee. RIP brother.*

*R.W.Goo*

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**Robert Goo** - January 29, 2021 at 11:37 AM



“ So very sad to hear about Dennys passing. It was my honor to induct him into the New York State Baseball Hall of Fame. He gave a great induction speech, I was very proud of him.....I always enjoyed seeing him at our inductions...Rene LeRoux

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**Rene LeRoux** - December 04, 2020 at 09:26 AM

FD

“ Denny brought many baseball memories to many of us umpires. In all our hearts and feelings we loved the game of baseball and we all chipped in to do our best. It was many years ago you assigned but in many cases it was just last season. God Rest your soul. Thank You for supporting all of us. Frank DeSorbo

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**Frank DeSorbo** - December 02, 2020 at 05:31 PM

TD

“ To the Galka family I'm so sorry for your loss. Denny was truly one in a million. I'll miss those phone calls with "hey kid" but more importantly to me his phone call to me years ago with a very important message is something I will never ever forget! You will be truly missed Denny. RIP and keep calling those strikes and outs.

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**Tyler Desmarais** - December 02, 2020 at 02:47 PM

JH

“ Your father was a good man. I enjoyed talking and sharing stories. He always there for his family and friends. He will be missed, but never forgotten.  
Many prayers, blessings and love to your family.  
Joanne Houser

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**JoAnne Houser** - December 02, 2020 at 05:43 AM

SH

“ I met Denny at stewarts,i use to sit and talk to him ,it funny that he knew the same people i knew ,we had alot of laughs,he always had a joke for me,i will miss him,so sorry for your loss payers for the family

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**ShirleyFreer** - December 01, 2020 at 07:52 PM

MS

“ He was a great father and baseball ump. He took my father myself and son to see the Mets on Father’s Day. His best man in his wedding was the ump for the Mets game. It was a great family day.  
Mark Sheffer

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**mark sheffer** - December 01, 2020 at 07:08 PM

BM

“ Dear Ed Galka, my condolences to you and your family during this time of grief.

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**Bob Malkonian** - December 01, 2020 at 02:36 PM

EK

“ Galka family, My friendship with your dad was like no other. We would have so much fun every time I would visit. Even after I stepped away from baseball we always stayed in touch with each other. I will sincerely miss “Louie” and being called Joe Torre. My thoughts and prayers to the Galka family.

*Ed Kelly*

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**ed kelly** - December 01, 2020 at 02:02 PM

BB

*So sorry to hear of the passing of Denny. I first met Denny on the field when I was playing baseball and he was umpiring. Denny was a really good umpire and I remember our entire team being happy to see him on the field especially if he had the plate where he especially shined. Denny became a mentor of mine with CDUA and always treated me well. I had the pleasure of working with Denny at the Albany Fire Department as he was our quartermaster. I will miss seeing his infectious smile and his easy way that he made people smile. God bless, I know you're calling balls and strikes in heaven!*

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**Bill Bucci** - December 01, 2020 at 04:58 PM

JA

“ *Our sincerest condolences to the Galka family.*

*John Aidala  
(Quail Auto Sales)*

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**john aidala** - December 01, 2020 at 12:17 PM

PG

“ *Dear Eddie, I am so sorry to hear about Denny. We will miss him at the PACC. I had many a good year working with Denny in the Guilderland Babe Ruth league at Tawasentha Park. We were good baseball friends. We actually grew up only a block. . away from each other on third street in Albany. My sincere condolences to you and your family. My prayers are with you and may Denny rest in peace.*

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**phil galka** - December 01, 2020 at 11:43 AM

MK

“ *Dear Eddie, although I didn't know your dad personally in reading the obit he sounds like a wonderful man. My thoughts are with you and your family at this special time. Love and prayers to you  
Maureen F Kelly*

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**Maureen F Kelly** - December 01, 2020 at 10:16 AM

BG

“ To the family of Dennis Galka  
Dennis was a wonderful man to all he came in  
contact with. To Amy , eddy and lee our hearts  
go out to you and your family.



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**bill&ona Gebhardt** - December 01, 2020 at 08:16 AM

KW

“ We share your tears and your love for your Dad ~ Amy & Justin,  
Eddie & Michelle and Lee and your loving “Pa” ~ Mikey, Addison,  
Canaan and Vaeda. Your family and you kids hold such a very  
special place in our hearts. We have shared so many beautiful  
years and life memories as families together from when you were  
each babies, when your Mom & Dad brought you up to Canada and  
we came to visit We can only tell you how much we love you and  
wish we could be there with you right now to hold you so tight 😊 It  
really is so hard for us not to be close to you at this time 😭 and be  
with your Dad/Denny one last time. Happy to know your Dad will be  
with your Mom again, and with Jane. ❤️ Know that we are with you  
in spirit! Love from, Aunt Kim and Uncle Rick

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**Kim & Rick Williams** - November 30, 2020 at 10:49 PM

JN

thank you for the kind words , Denny was always my favorite nephew,  
may he rest in Peace with all our deceased family members. from your  
only Aunt Jean Tomlinson.

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**jean ntomlinson** - December 02, 2020 at 11:12 AM

LH

“ *The Galka Family....*

*There are so many memories over the years of our family spending time with Denny, EJ, and the kids, there is not enough space to talk about them. We were there for each other in the good times and sad times....Denny falling asleep at the drive-in, snoring like a log and we were laughing with EJ was one of our best memories, along with the umpire picnics every year and just going over for a cookout to hang out.*

*We know we can all take comfort in that Denny is so happy to be reunited with EJ and Jane. He missed them so much.*

*Rest in peace, Denny. Give a hug to EJ and Jane for us.*

*Love,  
Lisa and Tom Hart*

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**Lisa Hart** - November 30, 2020 at 11:42 AM

DR

“ *My condolences to the Galka family. The Capital District baseball world has lost a giant. When asked about an umpire's call Denny would always say "I have to see it". What I saw in Denny was a great man who was always fair and considerate. Rest in peace Denny.*

*David Renaud*

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**David Renaud** - November 30, 2020 at 10:45 AM

DR

“ Denny was the #1 reason I became an umpire in 2009. He had a tremendous passion for the game and I am so glad he got to see his Dodgers win it all one more time. Will miss his fiery quips at meetings and on calls, and always loved seeing him bring the whole family out to the Brooks BBQ's we held at Sorensco.

Daniel Renaud - November 30, 2020 at 09:21 AM



“ In Memory - Comfort Candles was purchased for the family of Dennis "Denny" E. Galka.



November 30, 2020 at 06:33 AM

IY

“ Fondly remember my memories of our years, "In Arbor Hill, on the street where we lived...." My sincere condolences to Denny's family; he loved all of you so much. He now joins his heavenly family and friends, but forever remains in our hearts...

Irene Tomczak Yeates

Irene Tomczak Yeates - November 30, 2020 at 06:26 AM

CM

“ My condolences to Denny's family. My husband always thought so highly of him. Now they are together again in heaven, probably talking baseball.

Cindy McCormick - November 29, 2020 at 10:19 PM

SE

“ Our condolences to the Galka family, we are very sorry for your loss. RIP Denny

- Elliott family

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**Sean Elliott** - November 29, 2020 at 07:40 PM

LP

“ Denny we knew each other since 1963 and went to Guilderland School System. I knew of you as a avid Mets fan and played sand lot ball. I still am but loved Dodgers too. I visited you while you were on sand creek road and would chat and you would stop at our house on Ahl Ave. Always thought of you as one of the good guys and very passionate of baseball. May we meet in the hear after. Our prayers for your family during this time.  
Lawrence Walter Petersen.

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**larry Petersen** - November 29, 2020 at 06:49 PM



“ Days of Sunshine Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dennis "Denny" E. Galka.



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November 29, 2020 at 03:17 PM

AB

“ *The Galka family,*

*I knew Denny thru officiating. I didn't umpire baseball but played in the Albany Twilight League for 10 years. I also officiated basketball and football for many years where I would run into Denny on occasion. Denny was a super nice guy who was liked by many and will be sorely missed by all. I will keep him in my prayers and may he rest in peace.*

*Sandy Brousseau Englewood, Colorado*

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**AI Brousseau** - November 29, 2020 at 12:28 PM

ER

“ *To the Galka family,*

*We're so sorry for your loss, and on a special day. I always enjoyed stopping at your front porch to catch up . Denny was always smiling and welcoming, never without a comment to make you laugh. The baseball community lost a great one. May he rest in peace!*  
*The Reinharts*

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**Eric Reinhart** - November 29, 2020 at 11:42 AM

BD

“ *To the Galka family I am so sorry for your loss. I know I will miss him at all the umpire meetings, his passion for umpiring was an inspiration for me. RIP my friend.*

*Bernie*

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**Bernie Daoust** - November 29, 2020 at 10:18 AM

SP

“ To the entire Galka family, we are so very sorry for your loss.  
Sharon and Dave Parkis

Sharon Parkis - November 29, 2020 at 09:01 AM

SH

“ We are so very sorry for your loss! Denny will surely be missed at Sweet Willy's. Our family so enjoyed his company and visits. You are all in our thoughts and prayers. ❤️

Sherry Haas-Russell - November 28, 2020 at 06:15 PM



“ Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Dennis "Denny" E. Galka.



November 28, 2020 at 01:44 PM

PT

“ Heaven has gained a Special Angel. I will miss our drive by visits and happy telephone conversations. Rest In Peace my Lifelong Friend.

Pam Turcotte Tracy - November 28, 2020 at 12:39 PM