



## Francis "Sol" Anthony Salerno

November 23, 1926 - June 17, 2016

Francis "Sol" Salerno, age 89 of Pawleys Island died, Friday July 17, 2016 at the Lakes at Litchfield. He was preceded in death by his wife of 62 years, Myrna.

Born in Cliffside Park, NJ, Francis was the son of the late Mildred Portz. He graduated from Erskine College, with Myrna in the class of 1951. Francis was a U.S. Navy veteran. He had a long career in education pursuing a variety of roles including teacher, basketball coach, assistant principal, and superintendent within the Anderson, Bennettsville, Blenheim and Ossining school systems. Francis was inducted in the Erskine College Hall of Fame for men's basketball in 2002.

Myrna and Francis retired to the Litchfield Beach area. Francis enjoyed improving his golf skills, spending time at the beach, and fishing with his friends and grandchildren. He attended Precious Blood of Christ Catholic Church. Both he and Myrna were avid readers and dedicated members of the Waccamaw Neck Branch Library. He will be remembered for his sense of humor, his love for sharing good meals with family and friends, and his kindness.

Surviving are his daughters, Amy Decola of Alexandria, VA; Laura Lee of New York City; grandchildren Rob, Daniel, and Dale Decola, TyAnn Lee, and great-

grandchild Caroline Decola.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made in Francis' name to Precious Blood of Christ Catholic Church. Sign a guestbook at [www.goldfinchfuneralhome.com](http://www.goldfinchfuneralhome.com). Goldfinch Funeral Home, Beach Chapel is in charge of arrangements.

# Tribute Wall



“ I'm late in adding this, but I didn't want to miss the opportunity. I, also, had respect for Mr. Salerno who had a strong presence but wasn't intimidating, a fair and impressive man. My favorite memory is his patrolling the halls, glancing in classrooms, just being vigilant. During study hall, I was in the library, loafers off while I was studying, when Mr. Salerno walked by, glanced in, saw my sock feet, gave me a look, held his nose in a humorous fashion, and walked on after I put my shoes back on. Every school should be so lucky as to have a man like him. Pepper Sandifer, class of '66

Bill Sandifer - May 16, 2025 at 09:55 AM

SH

“ Sara Moody Killian BHS High'59 lit a candle in memory of Francis "Sol" Anthony Salerno



Sara Moody Killian BHS High'59 - July 06, 2016 at 10:07 PM

RP

“ Mr. Salerno was BHS. A few thousand students are thankful to him for the leadership and guidance he provided. Respect for him was universal and while he certainly was feared by many; he also had a friendly and winning smile. What a wonderful role model he was for all of us.

Randy Potter - June 27, 2016 at 10:32 PM

WU

“ Thanks for your service Sailor  
Wayne Williams  
United States Marine Corps



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Wayne Williams - USMC - June 27, 2016 at 10:09 AM

KS

“ Keith Salvo lit a candle in memory of Francis  
"Sol" Anthony Salerno



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keith salvo - June 26, 2016 at 09:59 AM

AL

“ I remember Mr Salerno as principal during my years at BHS. To me  
he was a giant with a big smile. I am glad I got to see him again at  
my BHS reunion. RIP Mr Salerno..

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Anne Lippard - June 26, 2016 at 09:10 AM

BL

“ Sol was my high school principal at Bennettsville High School. I got sent to his office for talking in study hall the day that John Kennedy got shot.

Sol and my dad, Ross, were fishing and golfing buddies. I have a great picture of Sol with dad holding up a huge large mouth bass that they caught.

Glad Sol is in heaven with my dad. I'll bet they are telling fish stories tonight.

May God bless your family. Know that Sol was loved and appreciated by many.

*Buddy Lindsay, Pawleys Island*

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**Buddy Lindsay** - June 25, 2016 at 07:57 PM

CR

“ Carole Anne Richardson lit a candle in memory of Francis "Sol" Anthony Salerno



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**Carole Anne Richardson** - June 25, 2016 at 07:44 PM

LB

“ Mr. Salerno seemed like a giant to me as I entered Bennettsville as a terrified 8th grader. He turned out to be just that, a giant in stature, in heart, and in positive influence he had on so many.

*Lynn Moore Brewer*



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**Lynn Moore Brewer** - June 25, 2016 at 02:39 PM

RB

“ I was lucky to have had him as a teacher and a coach. I have carried his wise counsel with me always and it has made me a better person. Ronnie Bonds BHS Class of 1963

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**Ronnie Bonds** - June 25, 2016 at 02:05 PM

JC

So so true.

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**james chappelear** - June 25, 2016 at 02:18 PM



“ What a terrific man. I worked in the office some while we were in high school and had the honor of seeing him often. I once had an experience with hair color that left me with a "greenish" color instead of the one I had hoped for. He suggested that I try a color that was a little less "flashy". This was in the early '60s. Mr Salerno was a kind and gentle man with a great leadership quality and a smile for most everyone.

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**Wanda Najjar** - June 25, 2016 at 02:01 PM

MS

Mr. Salerno was a man you wouldn't forget soon, he was kind and gentle, but stern when it come down to it. i'll always remember Mr. Salerno. His family are in my thoughts and Prayers. RIP Mr. Salerno.

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**Milton Stubbs** - June 26, 2016 at 09:37 AM

JC

“ Mr Salerno was a great inspiration to me. Even in my adult years I could not bring myself to address him as "Sol" even when he insisted. I simply had too much respect for the man. My world is much better due to the fact he called me his friend. RIP Mr Salerno.

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**james chappelear** - June 25, 2016 at 01:51 PM

CC

“ *Mr Salerno was a good kind man. I graduated Bennettville High School class of 1963 where he was principal at that time. I was blessed to have school days during good times, good teachers and the best principal ever.*

*Carol Herndon Crouse  
Bennettsville SCZ*

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**Carol Herndon Crouse** - June 24, 2016 at 03:53 PM

CC

“ *Carol Herndon Crouse lit a candle in memory of Francis "Sol" Anthony Salerno*



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**Carol Herndon Crouse** - June 24, 2016 at 03:41 PM

TT

“ *Coach Salerno was my Chemistry teacher and basketball coach and an inspiration in my life. He will be greatly missed. Ted Thompson*

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**Ted Thompson** - June 20, 2016 at 03:08 PM

SM

“ *Sara Ellen Munnerlyn lit a candle in memory of Francis "Sol" Anthony Salerno*



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**Sara Ellen Munnerlyn** - June 20, 2016 at 09:49 AM

SM

*Mr. Solerno was a great teacher, principal , and friend to me and others at Bennettsville High School.*

**Sara Ellen Munnerlyn** - June 20, 2016 at 09:52 AM

MY

*I was always more than a bit in awe of Mr. Solerno - learned so much from him. I always had so much respect for him. He made a big impact in the lives of so many - much gratitude to him and for and for him. Love and blessings to his family and friends - thank you for sharing him with so many!*

*MaryElizabeth Awbrey Yates*

**MaryElizabeth Awbrey Yates** - June 20, 2016 at 03:23 PM

AT

*Sol was one of those people that I have always remembered with much affection and respect from my Bennettsville High School days. I, too, was a little in awe of him. I feel lucky to have reunited with him and Myrna by living on the coast and seeing them occasionally. I am deeply saddened by his death.*

**Ann S. Taylor** - June 20, 2016 at 08:44 PM

BC

*I am sadden beyond words. He took me from being kid transferred to B'ville from Connecticut to the man I was to become.*

*He saw in me potential that I had no idea existed.*

*My heart aches.*

*R.I.P.*

*Bill Clark*

**Bill Clark** - June 21, 2016 at 12:45 PM

RS

*Sorry to hear of his passing. Like many others I was in awe and sometimes well deserved fear as he roamed the halls of BHS. But he was always fair and commanded your respect. One of the notable icons in my life.*

*Ray Steele Class of 63*

**Ray Steele** - June 25, 2016 at 04:10 PM

AD

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



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**Amy DeCola** - June 20, 2016 at 09:22 AM

AD

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



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**Amy DeCola** - June 20, 2016 at 09:20 AM

CW

“ *Carolyn Parrish Wasko lit a candle in memory of Francis "Sol" Anthony Salerno*



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**Carolyn Parrish Wasko** - June 20, 2016 at 08:31 AM