



## Mr. Gennaro Michelangelo "Jinx" Principe

May 6, 1930 - December 18, 2024

Gennaro Michelangelo "Jinx" Principe, a long-time Pittsfield public school teacher and teachers' union leader, passed away December 18, 2024 at the age of 94. Gennaro was born in Pittsfield, MA on May 6, 1930, the son of Italian immigrants Matthew and Maria Masulli Principe. He grew up in an Italian neighborhood on Fenn St in Pittsfield, attended local schools, was an altar boy at Mt. Carmel Church, and spent his summers at Camp Russell where he acquired his lifelong nickname "Jinx". He was a 1949 graduate of St. Joseph's High School where he was a standout football player. He continued his education at North Adams State Teachers' College, spent a year serving in the U.S. Army, and graduated from North Adams State in 1954.

Mr. Principe spent his entire 45-year teaching career in Pittsfield beginning at Rice Elementary School (1955-1957). He taught math at North Junior High from 1957-1981 and then at Pittsfield High School from 1981 until his retirement in June 2000. He continued to serve as a ticket taker and site manager at PHS athletic events for several years thereafter.

Mr. Principe was a member of the Pittsfield Federation of Teachers, serving as its president from 1972-1989. He also was a board member of the Massachusetts Federation of Teachers for many years.

Jinx was gifted with a quick wit, an irreverent sense of humor, and the ability to tell a story. He was happiest when he had an audience and the classrooms

of the Pittsfield schools and the local bars provided him with a stage throughout his life. He seemed to know everyone (or everyone knew him!) and when he traveled would invariably run into a former student in a foreign country.

In his retirement Jinx enjoyed traveling, was a regular patron of Barrington Stage theater productions, and enjoyed years of Sunday night pizza at the East Side with his buddies. He was a faithful supporter of his grandchildren and great-grandchildren in their athletic, artistic and scholastic endeavors.

Jinx is survived by his daughters – Elizabeth Principe, Judith Dobson (Dean), Frances Maillet (Richard Mendez), and Joanne Hayes (Richard), and his son Robert Principe (Lynn). He was a devoted Grandpa to Sharon Dobson Wong, Lisa Dobson, Michael Dobson, Daniel Maillet, Robert Hayes (Talia), James Hayes, Caroline Hayes Basore (Nicolas), Andrew Principe (Valentina) and Claire Principe. He was Great Grandpa Jinx to Kara, Abbey, Brooke and Caylee Wong, Jackson Bagnera, Brock Schilling, Carter Smith, and Reyden Hayes. He also leaves his sister-in-law, Mary McSweeney Smith, and his brother-in-law, Roger Bowlby, along with several nieces and nephews and many friends.

Jinx was predeceased in June 2000 by his wife, the former Elizabeth McSweeney, whom he married February 23, 1957, his brothers Louis and Joseph Principe, and his sisters Libera Duryea and Rosemary Doucette.

Funeral Notice:

Funeral services for Gennaro Michelangelo “Jinx” Principe will be Saturday, December 28, 2024, with a Liturgy of Christian Burial at 11 am at Sacred Heart Church, celebrated by the Rev. Steven Montesanti, Pastor. Burial will be private and at a later date.

Calling hours will be Friday, December 27, 2024, from 3pm to 6pm at the Dwyer Funeral Home, 776 North Street, Pittsfield, MA, 01201.

If friends desire donations in Mr. Principe's name may be made to any of the following organizations that Jinx felt made a positive impact on his life – The Boys & Girls Club of Pittsfield, The Sisters of St. Joseph, and the Supportive Day Program at the Ralph Froio Senior Center. Donations may be made in care of the Dwyer Funeral Home.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

DEC **27**. 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Dwyer Family Funeral Home  
776 North Street  
Pittsfield, MA 01201  
(413) 442-5094  
info@dwyerfuneral.com  
<https://www.dwyerfuneral.com/>

## Service

DEC **28**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Sacred Heart Church  
191 Elm St.  
Pittsfield, MA 01201

# Tribute Wall



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mr. Gennaro Michelangelo "Jinx" Principe.*



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December 27, 2024 at 05:55 AM



“ *Uncle Jinx was definitely 'his own man.' As a child I recall him in his blue convertible. He said he didn't put the top up as it was torn (or was it the rear window?)....My perception is that he really loved that car.*

*In my mind, Jinx loved his family and had friends everywhere. As I grew into an adult, I was never surprised to find Jinx in the same group of people I with. Always with a witty remark.*

*When I was in 5th grade, he graciously included me and my girlfriend with his wife and 5 children for a vacation on Cape Cod (Brewster!) I have so many moments of that trip I remember – traveling with the kids and be allowed to stay up after they went to bed to chat and play a game. So ... 9 people on a teacher's salary .... A lifetime memory.*

*Bob and I share our sadness but know the family has a lifetime of funny stories and memories to tell when a chuckle is needed or a situation needs lightening up. Sending hugs to each of you.*



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**Debra Schilling** - December 26, 2024 at 09:05 PM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Mr. Gennaro Michelangelo "Jinx" Principe.*



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December 25, 2024 at 06:00 PM



“ *Elaine Bowlby sent a virtual gift in memory of Gennaro Principe*



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**Elaine Bowlby** - December 25, 2024 at 12:47 PM



“ *There are so many memories I shared with Uncle Jinx and family. I especially cherish the visits at Christmas time. Although they were full of political debate and arguments, there was always good cheer. We were always left with a smile on our faces!*

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**Elaine Bowlby** - December 25, 2024 at 12:40 PM

RH

“ Grandpa you were someone I not only admired but someone I learned an incredible amount from. I never got the chance to see you in your youth, or even much in your career, but seeing how much you lived life in retirement and never let age be anything more than a number was inspiring. Your humor, kindness, intelligence, and story telling were just some of the many aspects you shared with every single person you came across. You might be gone, but your lessons you taught everyone that knew you will carry forward for generations.

*I told you this myself in your house the last time I saw you in person. You knew my wife Talia, getting a number of chances to meet and spend time with us both throughout our dating, engagement, and marriage. When we got pregnant the first name took us a while to pin down, but the middle name took seconds. That's the impact you had. We couldn't help but want our son to be like his grandfather.*

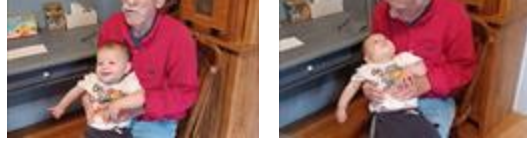
*We came to your house that day in the summer of 2023. All three of us. You knew all of our names, but when we introduced you to Reyden your face lit up. I asked if you wanted to know his middle name. You said absolutely. I told you his middle name was in honor of his favorite great grandpa. You smiled and he looked up at you and laughed.*

*He might not have been old enough to understand, and he will only have the videos and pictures I took while on that visit, but I swear to you that he will remember you just like we all will.*

*Love you Grandpa Jinx*

*Talia, Robert, and Reyden Jinx Hayes*





**Robert Hayes** - December 23, 2024 at 09:45 PM

RT

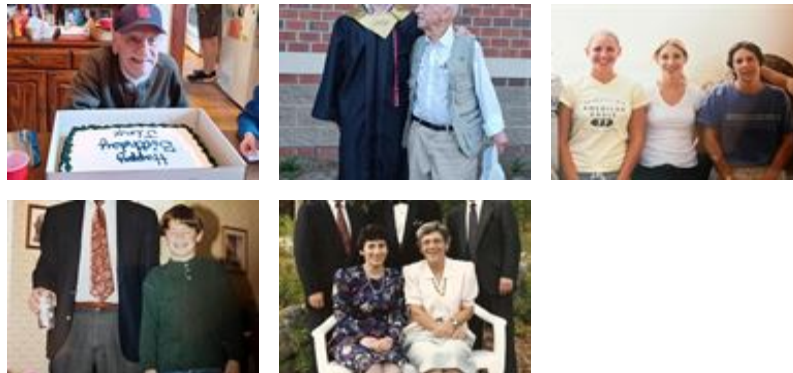
“ *My condolences to the family. Jinx was a dear friend of mine. I always enjoyed adding another postcard from his travels to my fridge... Sundays at East Side and many adventures. Since his visit to Oregon all my friends still ask about how he is and if he'll be back...he touched many and will be missed. He certainly lived a full life full of love and laughter* ❤️



**Rita Timpane** - December 23, 2024 at 02:37 PM



“ *23 files added to the album LifeTributes*



**Dwyer Funeral Home Inc.** - December 23, 2024 at 10:51 AM

JD

“ *Deepest condolences to entire Principe Family.  
It was always nice to see Jinx, he was a happy, fun loving man and  
liked to share many stories with the “Creatures of the night”...RIP  
Paisan*

*Jamie DiMassimo*

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**Jamie DiMassimo** - December 22, 2024 at 07:36 PM

SC

*My favorite teacher back in the day at North Jr High! The kind of  
teacher you never forget, who definitely inspired and encouraged all  
his students.  
And a great person! Loved seeing him out and about, he was a  
delightful person!  
RIP Jinx❤️✨  
Sheila Connelly*

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**sheila connelly** - December 23, 2024 at 10:05 AM

GC

“ *So sorry for your loss. Always loved seeing Jinx. His stories and  
words of wisdom are memorable. The students who had him as a  
teacher were very fortunate.*

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**Gary Clarkson** - December 22, 2024 at 06:28 AM

RB

“ *Sending my condolences. I never had him as a teacher, but saw  
him around town many times "back in the day" and always such a  
pleasure to talk to. As solid as they come.*

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**Ryan C Brown** - December 21, 2024 at 04:57 PM

MB

“ My condolences to Liz and the family. I was a parochial schooler so I didn't get to benefit from Jinx's traditional schooling, but I benefited from his lessons and humor in night classes in a few non traditional classrooms. Cheers Jinx!

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**Matt Barbas** - December 21, 2024 at 03:34 PM

TM

“ RIPJinx



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**Terri Massacani** - December 21, 2024 at 02:03 PM

CP

“ My math teacher at North Junior High many moons ago! Always one of my faves! Condolences to his family. RIP Mr. Principe ❤️🙏

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**Carla Mazza Prendergast** - December 21, 2024 at 10:46 AM

JB

“ Jinx was such a fun teacher and person. He will be missed. My condolences to all his family, may he rest in peace.

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**Jill DiMassimo Bean** - December 21, 2024 at 09:24 AM

DF

“ To the family of Jinx Principe,  
Your family lost a great person, a man with a quick wit and a great sense of humor. I'm sure the entire family will miss him as well as his many friends. David Fiedler, retired PHS faculty member.

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**David Fiedler** - December 21, 2024 at 08:56 AM



“ 79 files added to the album Life Tributes



Dwyer Funeral Home Inc. - December 20, 2024 at 01:47 PM



“ The Basore Family purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Mr. Gennaro Michelangelo "Jinx" Principe.



The Basore Family - December 20, 2024 at 10:50 AM



“ The Basore Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mr. Gennaro Michelangelo "Jinx" Principe.

The Basore Family - December 20, 2024 at 10:50 AM