



Dr. Michael V. Namorato Jr.

September 4, 1947 - February 7, 2026

Coleman Funeral Home of Oxford

Dr. Michael V. Namorato Jr., 78, passed away on February 7, 2026, at his residence surrounded by his loved ones.

The visitation will be held on Friday, February 13, 2026, from 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church (403 University Ave, Oxford, MS 38655). The memorial mass will immediately follow on Friday, February 13, 2026, at 3:00 p.m., also at St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church.

Dr. Namorato was born on September 4, 1947, in Brooklyn, New York, to the late Michael Francis and Filomena DiGruccio Namorato.

Born with a deep intellectual curiosity, Dr. Namorato began his academic journey at Iona College before earning his Ph.D. at Michigan State University. In 1973, he moved to Oxford, Mississippi, where he joined the faculty at the University of Mississippi (Ole Miss) and began a remarkable teaching career that spanned four decades. Over 40 years, Dr. Namorato inspired and mentored thousands of students, sharing his love of history and his passion for learning.

Dr. Namorato's impact extended far beyond the classroom. A prolific author,

he enriched his field with numerous books. He taught history, and his classes were renowned for their depth, warmth, and wit. He was deeply committed to helping others, always offering support to students and colleagues in times of need.

Dr. Namorato's devotion to his Catholic faith was evident in all aspects of his life. He taught many classes on various elements of the Catholic faith at his dearly loved church, St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church, guiding young people and adults alike in their journeys of faith.

Those who knew Dr. Namorato remember his boundless curiosity and joy for life. He found peace in reading, and music was his constant companion—especially when he played his beloved guitar or banjo. Some of his happiest moments were spent playing guitar with his son and attending Ole Miss baseball games with his daughter and grandson, creating cherished memories that will live on in their hearts.

Dr. Michael Namorato will be remembered for his generosity, his unwavering faith, and his profound impact on the lives of countless students and friends. His legacy will continue to inspire all who had the privilege of knowing him.

The family would also like to express their gratitude to Baptist Hospice and the staff. They are forever thankful for the care that was given to Dr. Namorato by the nurses and caregivers.

He is survived by his loving wife, Karen Fahey Namorato of Oxford, MS; his daughter, Rachel Phillips (Chris) of Oxford; his son, Michael John Namorato (Rachel) of Oxford; his grandson, John Robert Phillips of Oxford; his brother, Carmine Namorato (Angela) of Long Island, NY; his two sister-in-laws, Linda Fahey of Oxford and Madeline Namorato of Brooklyn, NY; and a host of extended family members.

Dr. Namorato is preceded in death by his parents, Michael Francis and Filomena DiGruccio Namorato; his sister, Rose Marie Namorato; his brother, Cono Namorato; and his sisters, Raffella Daniele and Palmina Hasselberger.

Instead of flowers, contributions can be given in memory of Dr. Namorato to the Benevolent Fund at St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church, which serves the poor and needy in the Oxford area. Click on the following link to be taken to the online giving page <https://tinyurl.com/45ra7kwp> .

The staff at Coleman Funeral Home of Oxford is honored to serve the family during this challenging time. Condolences may be expressed online on his Tribute wall at www.colemanfuneralhomeox.com

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 13. 1:30 PM - 3:00 PM (CT)

St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church
403 University Ave
Oxford, MS 38655

Memorial Mass

FEB 13. 3:00 PM (CT)

St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church
403 University Ave
Oxford, MS 38655

Tribute Wall

WF

“ I just learned of my dear friend Michael's passing a couple of months ago, and I'm heartsick. What a wonderful man, caring friend, down-to-earth academic and devout man of faith. I'll treasure our friendship forever, and so glad I got to visit with him this past summer when I was in Oxford. He was one of kind, and leaves behind thousands of friends and former students lucky enough to have known him. My heart goes out to Mikey, Rachel and Karen, and all his other friends and family. Never met a finer man in my life.
Mark Franks
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho

William Mark Franks - May 02 at 01:51 PM

JA

“ Gave me an oral final in his history class just so he could give me a B... Now I'm a full professor at a R1 university. He taught me how not to be a professor.

James - April 28 at 07:02 AM

JH

“ The university and St. John's were fortunate to benefit for so many years from Michael's friendship and dedicated service. He has been missed on recent Sundays when poor health prevented him from joining a congregation that was inspired by his presence. With much sympathy to his beloved Karen, Rachel, Mikey, and family.

Joan Wylie Hall - February 12 at 06:40 PM



“ *Small Garden Dish was purchased for the family of Dr. Michael V. Namorato Jr..*



February 11 at 04:03 PM



“ *Linda A. purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Dr. Michael V. Namorato Jr..*



Linda A. - February 11 at 10:28 AM



“ *Professor Namorato taught me American History 1865-1890 in 1978. I took it as an “easy” elective to learn a little about “the Industrial Era” that was only lightly taught in my high school, and did he ever teach me history! One of the toughest courses I had, and I majored in Accounting. Years later, at Ron Bourne’s tailgate, I had the opportunity to tell him how much I respected him for his devotion to his profession and making certain I had actually learned the material. I may not remember much from my days at Ole Miss, but I do well remember Professor Namorato and American History 1865-1890. Sayonara, Sensei.*

*Jimmy Sledge Jr.
Houston, TX/Oxford, MS*

Jimmy Sledge Jr - February 10 at 10:34 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Dr. Michael V. Namorato Jr..*



February 10 at 08:38 PM



“ *The Webb family purchased the Enduring Grace for the family of Dr. Michael V. Namorato Jr..*



The Webb family - February 10 at 02:21 PM