



## Dominick D'Ambrosio

August 16, 1922 - February 10, 2019

Dateline Jasper, Indiana

Dominick (Dom) D'Ambrosio, age 96, of Jasper, passed away at 12:11 a.m., on Sunday, February 10, 2019, in Northwood Retirement Community in Jasper.

Dominick was born August 16, 1922, in Kayford, West Virginia, the son of Italian immigrants, Rosella Amareno and Gerardo D'Ambrosio, a coal miner and shoemaker. He grew up in Cincinnati, Ohio, where he married the love of his life, Mary Becker, on June 22, 1946, in St. Paul's Catholic Church. Married 63 years, until Mary passed away in 2009, Dom moved to Jasper in 2015 to live with his daughter, Nancy Habig.

In 1942, D'Ambrosio was working at the General Spring, Co. in Cincinnati to put himself through night school. He soon dove into a nascent organizing effort there, becoming president of his Local 820 union at age 19. He worked at the company until 1946, while studying at the University of Cincinnati Evening College, the Radio and Speech Department of the former Cincinnati College of Music, the Berlitz School of Languages and the Ohio College of Applied Science. Upon graduation, he became a radio DJ, specializing in jazz and classical music, in Ohio, Kentucky and West Virginia. He returned to Cincinnati in 1949 to devote the rest of his career to the labor movement.

D'Ambrosio quickly rose through the ranks of the Allied Industrial Workers (now part of the Steelworkers), serving as Director of Region 4 from 1957-1970 and International Secretary-Treasurer from 1970-1975. He was elected to serve four terms as International President of the Allied Industrial Workers from 1975-1991 in Milwaukee, WI, one of the youngest presidents of an AFL-CIO union at the time. D'Ambrosio was known for leading the nationwide union to embrace progressive strategies and build coalitions with other unions representing workers in common industries. Among the many accomplishments of his tenure, he co-chaired the Wisconsin Labor-Environmental Network, a coalition of labor and environmental groups that effectively lobbied for the state's landmark recycling legislation. He also championed the union's involvement in coalition-building with the

religious community to better the lives of all residents. He was a vocal critic of income inequality, advocating for higher wages, stronger pensions, and better conditions for workers throughout his career.

Dom was an avid jazz, classical music, theater, art, and opera lover. He had a passion for singing and reciting poetry, which he did till his dying day. He was also an excellent athlete, despite a childhood accident that left him with a disabled left hand. Besides going to movies, plays, and concerts, and discussing politics and pop culture, Dom and Mary loved to dance. They were jitterbug champions in competitions on The Delta Queen and other venues throughout Cincinnati.

In addition to his wife and parents, he was preceded in death by his brothers, Phillip, Dominick, and Anthony (Dolores) D'Ambrosio, and sister, Philomena (Jefferson) Cram.

Dom is survived by his beloved daughter, Nancy (Doug) Habig, Jasper, IN, three grandchildren, Lauren (Ethan) Lowe of State College, Pennsylvania, Josh (Jennifer) Habig of San Diego, California, and Jill (Addisu Demissie) Habig of Oakland, California, and four great-grandchildren, Aidan, Graham, and Alexandra Lowe, and Elise Habig.

A visitation will be held from 12:00-4:00 p.m. on Sunday, February 24, 2019, at the Becher-Kluesner Downtown Chapel in Jasper, Indiana, with a memorial service at 2:00 p.m.

Burial will be in St. Joseph's New Cemetery Association in Cincinnati, Ohio, at a later date. A second Memorial Service for Dominick D'Ambrosio will be held in Neidhard-Minges Funeral Home in Cincinnati, Ohio, on Saturday, April 6, with details to be announced later.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Sisters of Saint Benedict in Ferdinand, Indiana, the Cincinnati Opera, or the Wisconsin Labor History Society.

Online memorials may be made at [www.becherkluesner.com](http://www.becherkluesner.com).

# Events

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**FEB** **Visitation** 12:00PM - 04:00PM

**24**

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Becher & Kluesner Funeral Home - Downtown  
214 East 7th Street, Jasper, IN, US, 47546

**FEB** **Memorial Service** 02:00PM

**24**

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Becher & Kluesner Funeral Home - Downtown  
214 East 7th Street, Jasper, IN, US, 47546

# Comments

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“ Thoughts and prayers for all the family. RIP

**Delphine Neukam** - February 19, 2019 at 12:10 PM

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“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



**Mark Catlin** - February 19, 2019 at 08:50 AM



“ My condolences to Dom's family. He hired me in 1981 for my first union job in health and safety and has been an inspiration ever since. This video is of Dom addressing the 1990 AFL-CIO Health and Safety Conference in Milwaukee, WI.

**Mark Catlin** - February 19, 2019 at 09:59 AM

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“ Nancy, you know better than most how much I truly loved both your parents. We had such a great time together when we all were together doing various things for the kids all the way from individual performances, through Jill's wedding in California. In all cases, both your mom and dad were truly great friends and wonderful to me and my family. I, like you, will miss them tremendously, and of course, you know that if there is anything that either Michael or I can do for you, all you need to do is ask. My prayers, thoughts, sympathies, and love are with you now, and always. Stay well, my friend, and know that you're in my prayers.  
Caroline

**caroline jones** - February 19, 2019 at 07:20 AM

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“ Dear Nancy,  
I remember your dad from Delridge, St Williams and Seton as a kind man who was always so proud of you and all your achievements. I had no idea of his activism which clearly has been passed down through generations, nor of his jitterbug accomplishments with your sweet mom.  
You and your family are in my prayers for grace to sustain you when you're missing him most, and treasured memories to keep you smiling.

Love,  
Sue VanWassenhove

**Sue VanWassenhove** - February 18, 2019 at 10:29 PM



“ Dear Jill's Mom, Nancy.

May God truly bless you now and forever. Although, our family members live a rich beautiful lengthily life, it still makes us sad. May God always warm your heart with memories of your Dad. Please accept our deepest sincere condolences!

Tony and Beatrice Ramos.

West Gwillimbury-Bradford, Ontario Canada.

Prayers

**Beatrice Ramos** - February 19, 2019 at 01:17 AM