



## Dr. Lorenzo A. Eli

November 14, 1935 - March 27, 2020

Lorenzo A. Eli, age 84, passed away peacefully on the evening of Friday, March 27, 2020, with family by his side.

Lorenzo was born November 14, 1935 in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic to Nathaniel and Caridad (Rodriguez) Eli. He received his medical degree in 1962 at the Autonomous University of Santo Domingo. In 1964, Lorenzo and his new bride, Melba, moved to New York City to begin his residency before practicing medicine in Massillon, Ohio. A decade later, Dr. Eli became the Medical Director of the New Castle State Developmental Center; he held that title for more than 20 years. In 1998, he retired from the state hospital. Dr. Eli also worked in private practice in New Castle, Anderson and Muncie.

He was a devoted and loving husband, father, and grandfather. He will forever be remembered for his bright smile and infectious personality. Lorenzo never knew a stranger and sincerely cared for everyone who crossed his path.

“Doc” Eli’s biggest passions were sports and music. He loved singing at Christmas Mass at St. Anne’s in New Castle and regularly attended concerts at Ball State University. His family and friends will miss his beautiful opera singing at weddings and birthdays. Lorenzo’s love for baseball inspired him to begin a youth team, appropriately named “The Medics.” He was a beloved

baseball coach and surrogate father to many of his players. He will be dearly missed.

He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Melba (Fernandez) and four children: Arthur (Rebecca), Melba (Timothy) Fox, Robert (Christie) and David (Sarah), as well as, 13 grandchildren. Also left to cherish his memory are his siblings; brothers, James (Nury), Henry (Maritza) and George (Miriam); and sisters, Gertrude and Mary (Diomedes), and many nieces and nephews.

Lorenzo is preceded in death by his parents and brother Nathaniel.

A private service will be held Thursday, April 2, 2020 at Sproles Family Funeral Home. A graveside service will follow at South Mound Cemetery in New Castle. Fr. John Kiefer will officiate. When circumstances allow and gathering restrictions are lifted, a public celebration of Lorenzo Eli's life will be held in New Castle.

You may send the family a personal condolence at [www.sprolesfamilycares.com](http://www.sprolesfamilycares.com).

The Sproles family and staff are honored to serve the family of Dr. Lorenzo A. Eli.

# Cemetery Details

## South Mound Cemetery West Lawn Addition

950 South Memorial Dr.  
New Castle, IN 47362

# Tribute Wall



“ *Sproles Family Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of Dr. Lorenzo A. Eli*



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**Sproles Family Funeral Home** - March 31, 2020 at 01:02 PM

SL

*We are here with you!*

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**Sheldon Lee** - April 02, 2020 at 12:52 PM

TS

*The Sproles Family and Staff are deeply honored to care for Dr. Lorenzo Arturo Eli and service his family during this time. As a young funeral director, I loved to hear “Doc” sing during our funeral masses at St. Anne Catholic Church. The family would feel so blessed that he would choose to sing for their family. He was humble, so friendly, and warm. I regarded him so highly. Tom Sproles*

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**Tom Sproles** - April 02, 2020 at 01:31 PM

RC

*It has been a privilege to share this moment with your wonderful family and to celebrate the life of a great man who touched the lives of everyone he met. May the soul of our beloved Arturo rest forever in peace and may his family be blessed for all generations to come. Love from Rose Marie and Brian in England.*

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**Rose Marie Cartledge** - April 02, 2020 at 03:24 PM

DB

“ To the entire Eli family, I am incredibly sorry for your loss. I never met anyone who ever had a disparaging remark about Dr. Eli. What a good man, and what a loss. May God be with each and every one of you as you navigate your grief. We all have the same fate, but I don't think anyone is ever prepared for a loss this profound. To all, be well and keep your faith!

- Daniel Brown

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**Daniel Brown** - April 16, 2020 at 04:25 PM

RJ

“ Rainna Jacobs lit a candle in memory of Dr. Lorenzo A. Eli



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**Rainna Jacobs** - April 06, 2020 at 03:33 PM

AC

“ Melba, Tim & family:

*It is great sadness that Carmen and I read about the passing of the beloved "Doc". We will always remember his big smile, his love for family and faith, and his spirit of a true baseball fan.*

*May the Good Lord ease your grief and know that "Doc" is watching baseball in heaven . "Doc" will be in my daily prayers.*

*Ciao,  
Tony*

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**Anthony Joseph Costello** - April 04, 2020 at 04:29 PM

BL

“ *Becky Lair lit a candle in memory of Dr. Lorenzo A. Eli*



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**Becky Lair** - April 04, 2020 at 05:07 AM

NB

“ *Norma Brenneman lit a candle in memory of Dr. Lorenzo A. Eli*



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**Norma Brenneman** - April 03, 2020 at 01:50 PM

RD

“ *My deepest sympathy and prayers to Arthur and Family.. Doc will truly be missed. What a faithful, caring , grateful, dedicated, hard working, wise example of a Godly Man . I will miss your smile & conversations we had . They were brief , but memorable. When you talked with Doc you had his most undivided attention. Fond memory of Doc was in a Babe Ruth game I was hit by a wild pitch in the head, so guess who came to my rescue? Yes, Doc saying ‘Ricky , Ricky do u know who I am and where you are at. He stayed with the whole time . That meant the world to me. So, Doc Eli enjoy singing in that Heavenly Choir!!! I’ll see you on the Baseball Field up in Glory bro.*

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**Ricky Davis** - April 02, 2020 at 08:49 PM

MH

“ Coach Eli, as we knew him was so positive to our baseball players in the Muncie baseball league.. My grandson, Brandon, played on team as Coach Eli's grandson, Andrew Fox ... Coach was a new friend we came to admire and talk to. He always told Brandon to take the first pitch...smiled and chuckled... I admired his love of the kids he just met and made them feel special... Im sure he will be missed by his family as he was a gem of a man...M. Hirons

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**Michael Hirons** - April 02, 2020 at 08:09 PM

AP

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



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**Ana Maria Pichardo** - April 02, 2020 at 06:56 PM

BW

“ I was deeply saddened to hear of the illness and passing of my first cousin Arturo. His father and my mother Isabel were brother and sister. Having heard so much about him and chatted with him on the phone for the past years. I finally met him in person in 2012 when we had our first family reunion. He invited my son Sheldon and I to stay with him at their home in Santiago in the Dominican Republic. We spent many days with him together with Melba and enjoyed meeting the rest of the family in the Dominican Republic. I remember spending many late nights listening to him and sharing my own family story. We spoke a lot about our family in Trinidad and he would tell me how much he enjoyed his visit to the family in Trinidad. Arturo was a warm and hospitable person who had full of love for his family. He always carried a happy mood and full of good humor.

Since then, we kept in contact. We saw each other again at our 2nd family reunion.

My last conversation with Arturo was a few weeks ago and we agreed to travel to England to visit Rosemary. I wish to extend my sorrow and condolences to his wife Melba and his children Arthur, Melba Maria, Roberto and David and their families for the loss of such a wonderful man. My prayers and love are with them at this difficult time. May Arturo rest in peace.

With much love and God blessings to the family.

Bernard Lee Wen

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**Bernard Lee Wen** - April 02, 2020 at 05:58 PM

DH

“ *Dee Dee Howard-Davis lit a candle in memory of Dr. Lorenzo A. Eli*



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**Dee Dee Howard-Davis** - April 02, 2020 at 01:42 PM

AP

“ *2 files added to the album Memories Album*



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**Andres Pichardo** - April 02, 2020 at 01:19 PM

LH

“ On behalf of the Lee family (the late Pearlina Marjorie Elie Lee) I would like to offer my deepest condolences to the family of Dr Arturo Lorenzo Elie ( my cousin). We loved Arturo very much, he was a wonderful, kind and loving person and I'm very proud that his father and my Mom were brother and sister.

My sister Janet, her husband Winston and I were very happy and delightful to have met him and his family at the 1st Elie family reunion in the Dominican Republic.

My fondest memory of him was his kindness and friendliness towards us the first night we all met in Santiago at his home. He and Melba made us feel very welcome and happy. I will never forget his beautiful voice the first night he sang The Ave Maria at one of the events held at the Church in Santiago at the fist Elie family reunion, his voice touched my heart and brought tears to my eyes.

Arturo and his family will be in my prayers and may hi s Rest In Peace. God Bless. 🙏🌹🌸🌺💖



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Lynette (Chulan) Lee Young Harrison - April 02, 2020 at 11:01 AM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Dr. Lorenzo A. Eli.



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April 02, 2020 at 09:36 AM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Dr. Lorenzo A. Eli.*



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April 02, 2020 at 08:14 AM



“ *Arturo will always be remembered for his kind gentle heart, love of his family and how welcoming he was to everyone. What a giant of a man....and his amazing voice singing at a family wedding, a family reunion in 2012 all great memories .  
My heartfelt thoughts and prayers go out to Melba and family, and all of his family in the Dom Rep, and may you all find peace and comfort in knowing that there is one more angel in heaven singing and praising God. May he rest in peace.*

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**Cheryl Inkim** - April 02, 2020 at 06:58 AM

RC

“ *The Elie family, in particular the family of Charles Elie, Uncle Charlie, and the Inkim family have had a special relationship and love for Arturo. We remember his great kindness and generosity when our father Charlie fell dangerously ill in 1990, Arturo sent for him and treated him at one of his clinics. For two months, Arturo and his wife Melba hosted my father and mother (Uncle Charlie and Auntie Tommie) at their home. They were able to diagnose the problem. We will always be thankful to Arturo for his help during a very difficult time for us. Our enduring memory of Arturo was his love for singing. He sang at my sister Suzanne's wedding, both at the church and at the reception. It was truly wonderful hearing such a small man with such a rich, powerful operatic voice. I loved his sense of joy and love which encompassed you when you were in his presence. My husband and I are so happy that we were able to see him at our family reunions and on our Christmas holiday in 2016 when we spent a few days with the Eli family in Muncie. I will miss our telephone conversations at Christmas and at other feasts. We shall always treasure those happy moments. I thank God for bringing Arturo to our lives, for the guidance he has shown through the life of Arturo as a model of love and humility. I love you Arturo. You have enriched our lives in so many ways. May God grant you eternal rest in His celestial light. My prayers and love to Melba, Arturito, Melba Maria, Roberto, David and their families. May they always be blessed.*

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**Rose Marie Elie- Cartledge** - April 02, 2020 at 04:59 AM

TH

“ *The family of Gary and Meg Hoke purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Dr. Lorenzo A. Eli.*



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**The family of Gary and Meg Hoke** - April 01, 2020 at 10:18 PM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Dr. Lorenzo A. Eli.*



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April 01, 2020 at 08:28 PM



“ *Dow, Stephanie, Lewis, Leo & Calvin Dellinger purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Dr. Lorenzo A. Eli.*



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**Dow, Stephanie, Lewis, Leo & Calvin Dellinger** - April 01, 2020 at 08:03 PM



“ *Lorenzo was a good friend to our family and to everyone who knew him. He was such a kind and caring man and such a joy to be around. He blessed us in so many ways and we will always remember when he sang at Agnes' funeral. What a lovely man. To Melba and the entire family, we are deeply saddened by his passing and we are praying that God will bring you comfort and peace at this difficult time.*

*Lao-Tabares Family*

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**Elsa Lao** - April 01, 2020 at 07:59 PM

SL

“ The most touching memory is I remember, driving from Santo Domingo back to Santiago, uncle Arturo would fall asleep, then randomly wake up, tell a joke and get us laughing, then fall right back asleep again. He did this the whole way back. When he fell asleep he slept on my fathers shoulder. I snapped this picture from the back seat. We all love him. I mean, if you knew him, how could you not?



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**Sheldon Lee** - April 01, 2020 at 07:36 PM

SL

“ 14 files added to the album Family Reunion



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**Sheldon Lee** - April 01, 2020 at 07:28 PM

LF

“ Lee Wen Family purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Dr. Lorenzo A. Eli.



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**Lee Wen Family** - April 01, 2020 at 07:25 PM

SW

“ 13 files added to the album *Eli Family Reunion*



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**Sheldon Lee Wen** - April 01, 2020 at 07:11 PM

MP

“ *RIH Dr. ELI*



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**Michelle Poe** - April 01, 2020 at 07:03 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Dr. Lorenzo A. Eli.*



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April 01, 2020 at 06:40 PM

MM

“ *Doc was a remarkable man and always made those around him feel like family. The McDonald family send their love!*

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**matt mcdonald** - April 01, 2020 at 06:27 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Dr. Lorenzo A. Eli.*



April 01, 2020 at 06:00 PM



“ *I will never forget learning to drive with Arturo. Not many can say they learned in a Mercedes convertible, but Arturito just didn't want to take a nap in an uncomfortable car. LOL. He would just TRUST me to drive him to Manchester to visit Melba Maria. So blessed to have had him in our lives. The man with a voice bigger than himself, the wonderful example of fatherhood and husband. Arturo was a simple man whose pleasure came from his family. His loving wife, his kids and grandkids. His loyalty to friends was unparalleled and my family will always be grateful to have him in our hearts. We love you Arturo, Melba, Arthur, Robert, Melba Maria and David. Arturo was a gem. Speaking from experience, the pain of loosing a parent is unlike any other but he will always remain with you in your hearts. I know my dad received him with a smile and they are probably listening to Opera non-stop in heaven!*

**Lilly Dollenmayer** - April 01, 2020 at 03:58 PM



“ *Joanna Heshher lit a candle in memory of Dr. Lorenzo A. Eli*



**joanna heshher** - April 01, 2020 at 03:18 PM

JH

“ My heart breaks for all of you. Lorenzo was a fine man and a wonderful husband and father. He was never too busy to help a friend. Thank you for sharing him with us.

*Joanna Heshner*

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**joanna heshner** - April 01, 2020 at 03:16 PM

VM

“ Our sincere sympathy to your family in your loss of a wonderful man. A faithful husband, father, citizen, supporter of Trojan sports, always a joy to be around. A great memory was hearing him sing the National Anthem at the Trojan basketball games. We were blessed by his life and friendship. Love and prayers for each of the family. Sincerely Vance and Lynn Meier

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**Vance and Lynn Meier** - April 01, 2020 at 02:25 PM

GC

“ Sending much love to the family. A fond memory of Lorenzo was his beautiful singing voice and taking comfort knowing he is now singing with the angels! Keeping you in our prayers. Kenny, Gina, Carson, Grady and Bailey Cox.

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**Gina Cox** - April 01, 2020 at 10:31 AM

PT

“ This is such a sad time for your family. Lorenzo was a force of nature. He and my Dad had so many adventures! Living next door to the Eli's was a great joy for us. I can remember hearing him singing in your house- when I was in the kitchen! I'm heartbroken for you.

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**Pam Tower** - April 01, 2020 at 10:14 AM

EC

“ i remember when Lorenzo was involved in the New Castle Breakfast Optimist Club and Babe Ruth Baseball. I have known many many people in my lifetime and there is a small percentage of them that i can say, "it was truly a JOY to be around them." I liked most people but to find one that "it was a JOY to be around" that person was your husband, your dad, your grandfather, Lorenzo Eli. We actually met very briefly, at a funeral calling, not too long ago, we spoke very briefly, Lorenzo hadn't changed a bit, "it was a JOY." so, sorry for your loss. *Everett Cole*

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**EVERETT COLE** - April 01, 2020 at 09:49 AM

CH

“ I worked with Dr. Eli at the State Developmental Center for several years. He was such a caring provider. A gentle man with integrity and grace. Never an unkind word spoken. Although his light on earth has dimmed Heaven just got a whole lot brighter. Rest In Peace friend. Prayers to the family. He will be missed. *Carolyn House*

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**Carolyn House** - April 01, 2020 at 12:18 AM

JS

“ Jewell Smith lit a candle in memory of Dr. Lorenzo A. Eli



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**Jewell Smith** - March 31, 2020 at 09:18 PM

JS

“ I worked with him at New Castle State Hospital for a long time. He always had a smile for staff and clients. He always had a glowing personality Prayers for his family. I know he is singing with JESUS and the Angels. He will be missed.

Jewell Smith - March 31, 2020 at 09:17 PM

BB

“ I worked at the New Castle State hospital when he worked there. Such a caring nice man. Loved his singing.

Brenda Baker - March 31, 2020 at 07:47 PM

JO

“ I would take moment to say what a wonderful man he was. And a wonderful friend. I can remember him trying to get to go to school in the Dominican Republic and he would tell I could take with his family. I'm a better person for knowing him.



Jose - March 31, 2020 at 03:54 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Dr. Lorenzo A. Eli.



March 31, 2020 at 02:02 PM