



## Michael J. Degnan

September 11, 1939 - June 30, 2019

Judge, Family Man, Yankee Fan

Michael J. Degnan, a retired Superior Court Judge, died early on June 30, 2019, at age 79. Degnan, a resident of West Orange, New Jersey, for most of his life, also lived in Four Seasons in Wall Township and Seabrook Village in Tinton Falls. He graduated from St. Benedict's Prep in Newark in 1957, from St. Peter's College in 1961 and from Seton Hall University Law School in 1964. He worked as a title officer for the New Jersey Realty Title Company for four years and as senior trial attorney in the Office of the Public Defender for thirteen years. Along with his private practice as a partner in Degnan and Degnan, he served as attorney to the West Orange Zoning Board. He was sworn in first as a District Court Judge in 1982 and then as a Superior Court Judge in 1985. He retired from that position in 2002. He also served on the Resentencing Panel. He was a Trustee of the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick and a lifelong fan of the New York Yankees.

Judge Degnan was the beloved husband of Jane (Healy) Degnan for 56 years. He will be missed by his three children, Diana Degnan-LaFon and her husband, Douglas, from Towson, Maryland; Laura Degnan-Kobus and her husband, John, from West Windsor; and Deborah Degnan and her husband, Michael Vencel, from Oceanport. He had six grandchildren: Douglas, Kelsey, Courtney, Jamie, Genevieve, and Julia. His siblings include James and his

wife, Sharon, from The Woodlands, Texas; John and his wife, Mary, from Chester, New Jersey; Peter and his wife, Robyn, from Atlanta, Georgia; and Patti Duffy and her husband, Thomas, from West Orange, New Jersey. He was predeceased by his father, James A. Degnan and his mother, Ann (Gould) Degnan. He had many cousins, nieces, nephews, and friends.

Visitation will be held from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m. on July 5, at Bongarzone Funeral Home, 2400 Shafto Road, Tinton Falls, NJ. A Memorial Mass will be held at 10:30 a.m. on July 6 at Seabrook Village, 3000 Essex Road, Tinton Falls, NJ. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research, Donation Processing, P.O. Box 5014 Hagerstown, MD 21741-5014 or online at [www.michaeljfox.org](http://www.michaeljfox.org). For online condolences, please visit his memorial page at [www.bongarzonefuneralhome.com](http://www.bongarzonefuneralhome.com)

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUL 5. 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Bongarzone Funeral Home  
2400 Shafto Road  
Tinton Falls, NJ 07712  
(732) 918-6200

## Memorial Mass

JUL 6. 10:30 AM (ET)

Auditorium at Town Square -Seabrook Village  
3000 Essex Road  
Tinton Falls, NJ 07753

# Tribute Wall

CB

“ Dear Jane and the entire Degnan family. I am so sorry to learn of Mike's passing. I have always loved and cherished my friendship with Mike. I had planned on attending the wake but wound up at the doctor's office. May Mike rest in peace. God bless you. Please inform the rest of the Degnans of my concern. love. Charley Brady

Charles Brady - July 07, 2019 at 05:44 PM

BH

“ Bongarzone Funeral Home lit a candle in memory of Michael J. Degnan



Bongarzone Funeral Home - July 05, 2019 at 09:11 AM

WK

“ My sympathies to the entire Degnan family and especially to John, my classmate at St Benedict's. You will be in my thoughts and prayers. Wendel Kralovich

Wendel Kralovich - July 04, 2019 at 09:16 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Michael J. Degnan.



July 03, 2019 at 02:08 PM

MR

“ Dear Jane and Family,  
Tom and I are sorry to hear of the passing of Mike. Our condolences to all of you. Tom has fond memories of Mike (and Jane) at Tom and Patricia Regan's home in Verona. We also have fond memories of his parents Jim and Ann. We know Mike is at peace now, and your memories will keep his legacy/life alive. Fondly Tom and Marla Regan.

---

**Marla Regan** - July 03, 2019 at 09:39 AM

SM

“ My deepest condolences to Mike's family. Mike graduated Seton Hall Law School with my husband, John Methfessel, and they were good friends. Now, with God's help, they are together again, making trouble, in heaven. Rest in peace. Susan Methfessel

---

**Susan Methfessel** - July 02, 2019 at 01:36 PM

LM

“ I spent my judicial clerkship with Judge Dios in the adjoining chambers back in 1984-85. Judge Degnan was smart, funny, welcoming, generous with his time, supportive, and fair to all. He gave his clerk Mark and I time to discuss issues and strategies. And when I was sworn in to the Prosecutor's Office, he was kind enough to do that for me in the absence of my judge. I will always be grateful for a wonderful learning experience. Rest in Peace, Your Honor.

---

**Laurie A Melillo** - July 02, 2019 at 12:28 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Michael J. Degnan.*



---

July 02, 2019 at 11:01 AM



“ *May the memory of Mike always be treasured by all. He was a great friend at St. Benedict's Prep and we often worked together to avoid running into Father Dunston Smith OSB, the beloved Dean of Discipline. God bless his family.*

*Don Coullahan MD  
Admiral retired  
San Diego*

---

**Don Coullahan** - July 02, 2019 at 10:29 AM



“ *Dear Jane and all -  
I am so sorry to hear of this loss, which surely is a powerful one.  
Promising prayers for Michael and for all of you at this difficult time.  
Fondly,  
Sr Catherine Waters, OP*

---

**Sr Catherine Waters, OP** - July 02, 2019 at 10:10 AM

TK

“ *The Pennett Family, DJ, Trish, Tyler and Kelly purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Michael J. Degnan.*



---

**The Pennett Family, DJ, Trish, Tyler and Kelly** - July 02, 2019  
at 09:34 AM

MM

“ *My deepest sympathy to the entire family for your loss. During this time of great sorrow and pain, may it be a source of inner strength to know that there's a loving God watching over you and that throughout this time of need, He'll stay close by your side. May you find comfort in your precious memories and love shared. May the words of 1 Peter 5:7 " while you throw all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you" bring the entire family comfort and strength. Please accept my sincere condolences.*

---

**Mercedes Maldonado** - July 02, 2019 at 09:27 AM

VB

“ *God finally took him Home. Wonderful, high character guy, fun to be around, gentleman, sense of humor. Mike is missed. God bless Jane, family.*

*Vince bury*

---

**vince Bury** - July 02, 2019 at 08:39 AM

FD

“ *Dear Jane and family, I'm so sorry to here about Mike.He was a great guy. My Dad always thought of him as a brother. My condolences to the entire family. Frank P. Degnan*

---

**Frank P Degnan** - July 02, 2019 at 05:32 AM



“ *Fairest of All was purchased for the family of Michael J. Degnan.*



---

July 02, 2019 at 05:14 AM



“ *Judge Degnan was a kind man who, with his wife Jane, raised three wonderful daughters. The world is a better place for his having been in it. May he rest well and may his family find peace at this difficult time.*

---

**A. Darroe** - July 01, 2019 at 07:39 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Michael J. Degnan.*



---

July 01, 2019 at 06:54 PM

RE

“ Sincere Condolences to Mrs. Michael J. Degnan & Family. Mike was a dedicated Litigator, learned Judge and wonderful Gentleman He often assisted younger Judges in becoming acclimated to the Bench, to understand the importance of respect and decorum in the Courtroom and the dignity of all litigants. Mike will be missed by his family, friends and colleagues , connected with the Bench, Church and Community. My prayers are with you during this difficult period. May Mike Rest in Peace.  
Renee J. Weeks ( Essex-Retired)

---

Renee Weeks, JSC-Ret. Essex - July 01, 2019 at 05:52 PM



“ Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Michael J. Degnan.



---

July 01, 2019 at 05:51 PM

DJ

“ Please know that the English and Humanities Departments of the Notre Dame Preparatory School Community in Towson, MD hold you and your family in its loving embrace and prayers during this difficult time. We thank God for the gift of Judge Michael J. Degnan.

---

D. Jablonski - July 01, 2019 at 03:05 PM