



## James Kogamihalis

December 31, 1928 - June 15, 2012

James (Dimitrios) Kogamihalis, age 83, went home to be with the Lord on Friday, June 15, 2012. Mr. Kogamihalis was born in Frederick, Maryland. As a young man, he worked for the HVAC Corp. and later as an inspector for the State Highway Dept. before his retirement in 1985. He was a renowned jazz collector in the United States, Europe, Australia, England, India, and all over the world. He was actively involved in his church being instrumental in the coffee hour, festival, youth sports activities, summer camps, youth groups, also AHEPA President, Young at Heart-attended both Bible studies, and mailing coordinator.

Mr. Kogamihalis is survived by his sister, Despina (Della) Savopoulos; and brother-in-law, Basil (Bill) Savopoulos; nieces, Deborah Savopoulos Sartin and husband Nimrah, Kathryn Savopoulos Heil and husband Gary; nephew, Sotiere Evan Savopoulos and wife Susan; close cousin, Helen Karablacas and her children, Virginia and Stanley; grandnieces and grandnephews: Alexia Sartin Coppola and husband Vincent, Rachael Savopoulos, Sarah Heil, Evan Savopoulos, Nathanael Heil, Alexander Savopoulos. He was preceded in death by his parents, Evangelos and Katina Kogamihalis; sisters, Helen Kogamihalis DeLello and Maria Kogamihalis.

A visitation for family and friends will be held on Wednesday, June 20, 2012 in Strano & Feeley Family Funeral Home, 635 Churchmans Road, Newark, DE 19702 from 6pm-8pm with a service beginning at 7pm. A service in celebration of James's life will be held on Thursday, June 21st in Holy Trinity

Greek Orthodox Church, 808 N. Broom Street, Wilmington, DE 19806 at 11am. Burial will be in Silverbrook Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorial contributions to the church. For directions and to express an online condolence, visit [www.strano-feeley.com](http://www.strano-feeley.com).

# Cemetery Details

## Silverbrook Cemetery

3300 Lancaster Avenue & DuPont Road  
Wilmington, DE

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUN 20. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Strano & Feeley Family Funeral Home  
635 Churchmans Rd  
Newark, DE 19702  
(302) 731-5459  
info@stranofeeley.com

## Service

JUN 20. 7:00 PM (ET)

Strano & Feeley Family Funeral Home  
635 Churchmans Rd  
Newark, DE 19702  
(302) 731-5459  
info@stranofeeley.com

## Service

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JUN 21. 11:00 AM (ET)

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church  
808 N. Broom Street  
Wilmington, DE

# Tribute Wall

SD

“ I met Dimitrios only a year ago when a mutual friend told me his memories of the Wilmington jazz scene would be helpful in my writing my biography of Wilmington jazz musician Lem Winchester. I interviewed Dimitrios and he had a lot of great stories to tell me because he and his family knew Lem Winchester, as Lem was a cop in Wilmington. Dimitrios's parents had a restaurant at 2nd. & King Streets in Wilm., and he told me many stories about Lem and the time when his parents had the restaurant, in the early 1950s. . I plan to use many of the stories in my book. A week before Dimitrios passed away, he told me he had found a photo of the inside of his parents restaurant, and that I could pick it up and copy it to use in my book. That was the last time I spoke to him. After the first time I interviewed him, I also found time to come and hang out with him, as it was so much fun to talk to someone who knew so much of jazz history. He would play me some records, talk about various jazz musicians, and we had a great time. For jazz fans it can be lonely, as most people have no interest in jazz, but it is always a joy to speak to a real jazz fan who knows so much about the music and it's history. My visits would go on for over 3 hours sometimes, and I always had to cut it short as I thought I was wearing him out. I regret that I only knew Dimitrios for about one year. He was one of the nicest, most generous, open people I have ever known. If there are any family members who read this, I want to know if anyone is interested in having a copy of the recordings I made of my interviews with Dimitrios. Any family member interested in preserving their family history should probably convert my cassette tapes to a CD. Dimitrios also lent me a book(Pictorial History of Wilmington) , and I have no idea who to return it to. It would also be nice to be able to copy the photograph of the inside of his parent's restaurant, and if any family members want to let me copy any other photos, I am looking for a 1950's photo of Dimitrio's parents and of Dimitrios if possible. It is strange to ask about this here, but I don't think Dimitrios would mind. He was excited about my book, and that a small part of his families history was going to be in it. My contact information is: Scott Davidson, 1608 Sunset Lane, Wilm. DE 19810. 302-529-1081 & scodavdrum@aol.com

**Scott Davidson** - June 21, 2012 at 03:14 PM

KR

“ *I honestly have very few childhood memories at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church without Mr. Michaels! He was an amazing man who loved his church and gave endlessly to it and its youth. Rest in peace, Mr. Michaels, and may your memory be eternal!*  
*With fondest memories,*  
*Kathy Manis Rose (Ewing, NJ)*

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**Katherine M. Rose** - June 21, 2012 at 12:23 PM

AG

“ *To James Kogamihalis*  
*May His Memory Be Eternal,*

*Jimmy was a dear friend. We knew Jimmy for over 50 years. I remember Jimmy when he would come into the Church office and we would talk about his record collections - boy! what memories he would bring up. He was a gentle soul and he would help in any way he could. As a member of the monthly Bulletin group, Jimmy would bring his music along and it made the afternoons a wonderful experience. We shall miss Jimmy very much, especially when we play the Greek old time music.*

*Our prayers and our condolences go out to his Brother Basil and to Della, and to Kyria Eleni and Virginia and Stanley Karablacas. And finally to Jimmy: Gerry and I shall miss you very much! God Bless!*  
*Anna & Gerry Giannatos*

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**Anna & Gerry Giannatos** - June 21, 2012 at 10:16 AM

CL

“ *Mr. Michaels will always be an icon of my childhood. Great memories of him coaching GOYA basketball, camp counseling, youth advising, hard working and dedicated to the youth of the community of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church. He was one of my father's (John Sitaras) dearest friends. Mr. Michaels was a selfless, giving person who exemplified the Christian spirit. We will keep his memory eternal.*

*Christina & John Lazopoulos, Jr.*

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**Christina Lazopoulos** - June 19, 2012 at 02:40 PM

KK

“ *So sorry to hear about the passing of Jimmy! Please extend our condolences to the family. We wish we could be there but please know that we there through our prayers for you. It was my honor to work with him in AHEPA, at Summer Camp (the BEST memories) and to know him as the giving person he was. May his memory be eternal!*

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**Kathy & Michael Klezaras** - June 19, 2012 at 07:12 AM

CL

*Mr. Michaels will always be an icon of my childhood. Great memories of him coaching GOYA basketball, camp counseling, youth advising, hard working and dedicated to the youth of the community of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church. He was one of my father's (John Sitaras) dearest friends. Mr. Michaels was a selfless, giving person who exemplified the Christian spirit. We will keep his memory eternal.*  
*Christina & John Lazopoulos, Jr.*

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**Christina Lazopoulos** - June 19, 2012 at 02:39 PM