

CARL PARLATO

Mr. Carl Anthony Parlato, lovingly known as "Pop-Pop," passed away peacefully surrounded by family, on March 9, 2025, in Atlanta, Georgia, at the age of 84. Born on February 15, 1942, in Buffalo, New York, Carl lived a life filled with love, hugs, thoughtful acts of service, and an enduring passion for his family, friends, and community.

Carl was known for his warm smile, big heart, and signature "Carl-sized" hugs that left everyone feeling loved and appreciated. With his sense of humor and sincere ability to connect with people in every room he entered, he was a friend to all who knew him. Carl built a life centered around family and community, embodying a spirit of service that extended into every aspect of his life.

Carl graduated from Syracuse University in 1966 with a Bachelor of Arts degree. During his time at Syracuse, he was a proud member of the university's rowing team—a sport that became a lifelong passion. He also rowed with the Westside Rowing Club in Buffalo in high school and post college, and later joined the Atlanta Rowing Club in the 1980s. His dedication to rowing spanned decades and reflected his commitment to discipline and teamwork. He served his country as a reservist in the U.S. Coast Guard.

For over 30 years, Carl was a cherished member of North Decatur Presbyterian Church in Atlanta, where he formed lasting friendships and contributed to the church's vibrant community. Carl's humor, warmth, and love will be deeply missed by all who knew him. In his memory—and as he would have wished—take a moment today to call or text someone you miss, give a compliment to a stranger, make a child laugh, or share one of those unforgettable "Carl-sized" hugs with someone you love. And don't forget: "See you later, alligator."

An avid reader, aficionado of all things Italian, and talented cook, Carl found joy in making and sharing meals with loved ones and his wide community of friends. He was a devoted animal lover whose affection for dogs, especially Golden Retrievers, was especially heartwarming. Alongside his beloved wife Cheryl Lunceford Parlato, Carl enjoyed traveling the world and attending classical music concerts—moments that brought them both great happiness.

Carl is survived by his loving wife Cheryl; his daughter Cathy Parlato; his son Ben McKenzie; daughter-in-law Karen McKenzie; four grandchildren—Robie, Charlotte, Addison, and Brady—who brought immense joy to his life; his sister Marion Zumpano; his first wife, Tricia Piper Parlato, and a large extended family whom he loved dearly.

In honor of Carl's compassion for animals and dedication to making the world a better place, donations can be made in his memory to: LifeLine Animal Project (Atlanta, GA) at www.lifelineanimal.org or The Guide Dog Foundation (Smithtown, NY) at www.guidedog.org.

WITNESS TO THE RESURRECTION

CARL ANTHONY PARLATO

February 15, 1942 – March 9, 2026



April 11, 2026

2:00 PM

NORTH DECATUR PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
611 Medlock Road
Decatur, Georgia

ORDER OF SERVICE

PRELUDE Huu Mai

WELCOME Rev. David Lewicki

*CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 100)

One: Know that the Lord is God! It is God who made us and we belong to God.

All: We are God's people, and the sheep of God's pasture.

One: Enter these gates with thanksgiving, and these courts with praise!

All: For our God is good, whose steadfast love endures forever, and faithfulness is to all generations.

*HYMN *Great is Thy Faithfulness* Glory to God #39

GATHERING PRAYER

Eternal God, before you we acknowledge the uncertainty and fragility of our lives. We are given but a handful of days, a span that seems nothing in your sight. All flesh is grass; our beauty is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades. But your Word is forever. In you we have our hope, for you are our God. Even in the valley of the shadow of death, you are with us.

Speak to us today a message about life and death. Help us, each day, to live as those who are prepared to die, knowing that when our days here are ended, we die as those who go forth to live. For in life and death, we belong to you.

SILENT PRAYERS

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

REMEMBRANCES

Cathy Parlato
Ben McKenzie
Matthew Berger
Paula Gross

READINGS Matthew 11:28-30
Psalm 73:26
Isaiah 40:31

HOMILY Rev. David Lewicki

SONG *Blessed Assurance* Glory to God #839

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER Rev. Mary Anona Stoops

Our [Divine Parent] in heaven, holy is your name. Your kin-dom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread, and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Yours is the kin-dom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

COMMENDATION

*HYMN *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* Glory to God #366

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Please allow the family to depart first.

** Please rise in body or spirit.*

The family invites you to join them for a reception following the service in the Fellowship Hall.

Participating in today's service:

Rev. David Lewicki, pastor, North Decatur Presbyterian Church
Rev. Mary Anona Stoops, pastor, North Decatur Presbyterian Church
Huu Mai, Music Director, North Decatur Presbyterian Church