



## Gerard Christopher Amato

August 26, 1950 - March 12, 2016

Gerard (Jerry) Christopher Amato

Chef/Partner Jerry Amato, age 65, of Mother's Restaurant joins a long list of culinary angels feeding the souls in heaven. He passed peacefully in his sleep from complications of cancer, following a lengthy illness.

He is survived by his loving wife of 33 years , Brenda Ann Maher Amato, and three cherished fur babies, Woollybear, Sugarbear, and Marilyn. They were residents of River Ridge, Louisiana. Chef Amato was born in New Orleans in 1950.

Jerry learned to cook at his family's kitchen counter chopping vegetables with his late Mother and Father, Lucille Guiffria Amato and Jacob John Amato, Sr. His siblings helped out with the Italian family meals too, including Judge Nancy Amato Konrad, John Gerard Amato, the late Jacob John Amato Jr., Lydia Delores Amato, and James (Jimmy) Michael Amato.

Jerry and his brother John acquired Mother's Restaurant from the Landry Family in 1986 and continued to operate it as family business. Prior to that, he worked in various restaurants and hotels in the New Orleans area in food and beverage positions.

He had attained Certified Executive Chef status through the American Culinary Federation, following preparation at the culinary arts program at Delgado Community College. Chef Amato took continuing education at the Culinary Institute of America. Jerry graduated in 1974 from the University of

Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg with a B.S. in Business, and from St. Paul's School in Covington in 1968.

In 1985, Chef Amato won the Jambalaya Cook-Off sponsored by the Rice Council of America at La Fête's National Festival of Food and Cookery. He publicly credited his wife Brenda for growing the fresh herbs and Creole tomatoes that made the winning dish fragrant and fresh tasting.

The Louisiana Restaurant Association named him Restaurateur of the Year in 2003. In 2002, he was awarded the Lindy Boggs Hunger Awareness Award by the local chapter of Bread for the World.

Visitation Wednesday, March 16, 2016, from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. at L. A.

Muhleisen and Son, 2607 Williams Boulevard, Kenner. Visitation Thursday, March 17, 2016, from 10:00 a.m. - Noon at St. Rita Church, 7100 Jefferson Highway, Harahan. Mass to follow at Noon. Interment will be private.

In lieu of flowers, please help support the education of the next generation of local chefs by donating to the Greater New Orleans Foundation, 1055 St.

Charles Ave, New Orleans, LA 70130, designated for the Chef Jerry Amato Mother's Restaurant Culinary Fund. Online: <https://www.gnof.org/give-now/>

All donors will receive an immediate tax donation for their gift.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAR 16. 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM (CT)

L.A. Muhleisen & Son Funeral Home  
2607 Williams Blvd  
Kenner, LA 70062  
(504) 466-8577  
info@muhleisen.com

## Visitation

MAR 17. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

St. Rita Catholic Church  
7100 Jefferson Highway  
Harahan, LA 70123

## Funeral Mass

MAR 17. 12:00 PM (CT)

St. Rita Catholic Church  
7100 Jefferson Highway  
Harahan, LA 70123

# Tribute Wall



“ Gerard Christopher Amato

October 15, 2023 at 09:39 PM



“ Condolences to the Amato family. Our thoughts and prayers go out to your whole family. Psalms 147:3 says God, "heals the broken hearted, and binds up their wounds." May God bring you comfort and peace.

Williams Family - April 01, 2016 at 09:08 AM



“ I was so sorry to hear about your great loss and our city's loss as well. Gerry was such a wonderful man and I am so glad that I knew him. I helped with the permit for the ramp when he first took over the restaurant. I was with the City and of course, once you met Gerry, you became his friend.  
He was so kind and larger than life with a real zest for living and cooking. He will be missed and I will think of him every time that I go to Mother's or pass it. I have hosted a number of parties at Mother's next door and working with Ronnie and Gerry was always such a pleasure. My thoughts are with you.

Sandy Levy

sandy levy - March 18, 2016 at 04:16 PM

MC

“ Jerry aka Tank, hung around with my sister in Harahan. He and several others (Pep, BC, George, Hap, etc. He was in our wedding. He was always laughing and joking around. He was a great guy.

Maureen Cook

Maureen Dennis Cook - March 15, 2016 at 10:20 PM

PJ

“ Brenda, I am very sorry for your loss, my prayers and thoughts are with you.

Paul Juneau

PAUL JUNEAU - March 15, 2016 at 08:35 PM

JD

“ Brenda, Please know that you are never far from my thoughts and you and Jerry have been in my prayers. Mother's will not be the same without him. His legacy will live on. Love and Prayers Tim and Jeannine Dwyer

Jeannine Dwyer - March 15, 2016 at 09:22 AM

MD

Dear Brenda and Amato's family, my thoughts and prayers are with you during this sad time. Definitely, life will be different without Jerry, but he is in God's glory and with no pain and suffering. Blessings and be strong 🙏🙏🙏🙏🙏🙏

Marlene Donovan - March 15, 2016 at 10:32 AM

SS

Ms Brenda & the entire Amato crew, the P & J family sends our love and prayers to you and yours. May Jerry's cherished memories be remembered always! And may Jerry enjoy a heavenly oyster feast with all his friends above! Love from the Sunseri's

Sal Sunseri - March 16, 2016 at 10:28 AM



*Dear Brenda and family, my thoughts and prayers are with you at this time. Jerry was an inspiration as I began my cooking career in 1989.*  
*Rupert Gwaltney*

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**Rupert Gwaltney** - March 16, 2016 at 03:41 PM