



## Robert Joseph 'Bobby' Lonerio

January 2, 1943 - February 17, 2013

Robert Joseph 'Bobby' Lonerio, a Louisiana Hall of Fame Musician and entertainer, passed away on Wednesday, February 17, 2013. Husband of Helen Bengert Lonerio. Father of Nyeema Lonerio Firkell. Son of the late Peter Lonerio and Mildred Munch Lonerio. Brother of Joseph Lonerio and Leela Ann Haydel.

Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend a funeral mass at St. Mary Magdalen Catholic Church , 6425 W. Metairie Ave., on Wednesday, March 6, 2013 at 12:00 noon. Visitation at church from 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAR 6. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

St. Mary Magdalen Catholic Church  
6425 West Metairie Avenue  
Metairie, LA 70003

## Memorial Mass

MAR 6. 12:00 PM (CT)

St. Mary Magdalen Catholic Church  
6425 West Metairie Avenue  
Metairie, LA 70003

# Tribute Wall



“ Robert Joseph 'Bobby' Lonerio

October 15, 2023 at 09:39 PM



“ During a very difficult time in my life, I and 2 more ladies (Johnny Ingram and Robbie Gray) got together and entered contests as "We Three," singing McGuire and Andrews Sisters music. Bobby heard us at one of these performances and decided to make us his backup singers. He took three unexperienced gals and taught us how to sing backup with a band. We then performed with him at Italian-American functions in New Orleans, the 1984 World's Fair in the Italian Pavilion, with Pete Fountain's Band, and many other functions. We also sang backup on an album he produced and starred in. It was the best 3 years of my life and we would have shared those times longer, but one of the gals unfortunately moved away and nobody could take her place. Now that I'm an old lady, I have beautiful memories of those times. Bobby spent countless hours shaping and molding us into the singers he wanted us to be and we had a good rapport with him and his band. He also featured us (usually singing Italian songs) during his shows. Thank you Bobby. May you rest in peace!

Blanche (Melancon) Zamsky - November 04, 2015 at 01:55 PM



“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



nyeema lonero-napohaku - March 10, 2013 at 08:14 PM

BF

*Wonderful picture of Bobby and his daughter Nyeema.*

---

**Barbara Sue Fisher** - December 31, 2014 at 07:12 PM

MM

“ *This is my grandpa although I never met him his music is one of the few things I remember about my childhood. I was singing his song Angelina before I even knew what music was. I am 20 years old now and a United States Marine I have spent my life making myself something my family could be proud of and i never got to meet him. So grandpa may you be at peace and your soul live on forever because your music defiantly will through your daughter and and grand kids. One day ill see you and we will walk together through the eternal bliss of heaven.*

*All my love  
Macie M. Morales  
Corporal USMC*

---

**Macie morales** - March 08, 2013 at 07:11 PM

NL

“ *1 file added to the album New Album Name*



---

**nyeema Lonero-Napohaku** - March 08, 2013 at 01:33 PM

LB

*This is the Bobbie I remember. For several years I traveled with them (my husband was Chipper LaVergne). We left New Orleans sometimes in late 66 or early 67 and went to Hollywood, California. We traveled up and down the West Coast and then did several gigs in Vegas, mostly at Ceasars Palace. I remember after hours going to Louis Prima and Keely Smith were playing and really enjoyed listening to them act out together. These were times that were good. I lost contact with all of them after Chipper and I divorced and my son found Bobbie a few years ago. He told me and I was able to re-establish contact with him and I am glad I did. He was genuinely a nice guy, probably about the nicest of all of them to be truthful. He live the life that made him happy and that was centered around his music and entertaining others. I wish I could have listened to him play one more time but my son did and my son was able to find out a lot about his Dad so I am glad. I smile when I think of him. My condolences to the family. My name is Linda Buckingham now.*

---

**Linda Buckingham** - March 10, 2013 at 03:57 PM

NL

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



---

**nyeema Lonero-Napohaku** - March 08, 2013 at 01:32 PM

RC

“ *I am very saddened to hear about this. I want to thank Bobby for all of the countless hours sitting side by side at the piano when I was a little girl. Also for all of the kindness, and always sticking up for me when I was growing up. Rest in peace Bobby.*

---

**Robbie Carcoba** - March 08, 2013 at 07:58 AM

NL

“ *My dad gave us a great gift, His music. Extrodinary talent, bar none one of the best. RIP daddy, thank you for doin wat you do, making music! Peace*

*I will have you in my heart and my soul forever through your music*

*your daughter,  
Nyeema Lonerer-Napohaku*

---

**nyeema lonero-napohaku** - March 08, 2013 at 01:40 AM

NL

“ *March 06, 2013*

*It is with great regret that i never met bobby...However i have the privilege of knowing his daughter nyeema... for the last 25 years and have heard her speak of him many times...We tried like hell to make it for the services but just didn't have the time...My deepest sympathy to her as she loved him very much...rest in peace.*

~

*Charles Stockwell,*

*Daughters best friend, California*

---

**nyeema lonero-napohaku** - March 08, 2013 at 01:35 AM

RR

“ In my teens, Bobby was one of my music idols and non and then I would "run into him" at Werliens Music store and watch him perform there.

*When I turned 18, I would go watch him play songs like "That Old Black Magic", etc...*

*And at 19 we both ending up playing guitar for the other National Guard members in our barracks in our "boxer shorts" underwear.*

*I would "catch" him playing here and there, and always admired his "style" and would "pick up" a thing or two that he would be doing in his guitar playing.*

*Last time we played music together... several years ago was riding in a Mardi Gras parade in the Art Ryder parade truck.*

*Bobby was an excellent vocalist, guitarist, entertainer and friend... he will be missed.*

---

**Richard Rowley** - March 06, 2013 at 10:15 AM

BR

“ *Bobbie Roy lit a candle in memory of Robert Joseph 'Bobby' Lonero*



---

**Bobbie Roy** - March 05, 2013 at 09:16 PM

BW

“ Bobby and I performed together as kids on the Leon Kelner Show, Travelling Theater with Nord (Uncle Juan) and later teamed us as young adults singing and performing together around New Orleans I was the dancer/singer; he, the great guitarist/singer. Also, we briefly had a young romance at 17. Although our paths went in different directions after that, I will always hold a special place in my heart for him. My memory of him both musically and personally will always hold great joy for me.

*I extend my condolences to his family and hope you will find peace and joy in the music he created and left behind for all of you to hear over the years. That should bring some consolation and eventual joy and peace.*

*Warmest thoughts and sympathy,  
Bradley Wise Walthall  
Mandeville, La.*

*P.S. Don't understand why the Times Picayune didn't have a special article on Bobby's musical life in New Orleans, Vegas and elsewhere. He deserved that honor. Just my opinion.*

---

**Bradley Wise Walthall** - March 05, 2013 at 09:06 PM

BR

“ Bobby was such a great friend of mine for about 25 years. We dated for a few months and I had a wonderful time with him and all the wonderful people I have met through him. We always stayed friends no matter what. He would always sing "Lost In The Fifties" for me and specially for me. It hurts so much that this has happened to him. I truly love and miss you Bobby.

---

**Bobbie Roy** - March 05, 2013 at 09:01 PM

ED

“ *I grew up with Bobby in the neighborhood when we were teenagers. I would see him play when he was in St. Bernard Parish. I am going to miss him and his music. He is now playing his music in the Garden of Heaven with Jesus.*

*Elaine Baudier Drewes*

---

**Elaine Drewes** - March 04, 2013 at 04:01 PM



“ *Ocean Breeze Spray was purchased for the family of Robert Joseph 'Bobby' Lonero.*



---

March 04, 2013 at 02:07 PM

NL

“ *2 files added to the album New Album Name*



---

**nyeema lonero-napohaku** - March 04, 2013 at 09:57 AM

ER

“ Bobby had the extraordinary gift of intuitive musicality, which can never be taught but always teaching and touching the hearts of those who listen.

*My prayers and sincere condolences to the family.*

*Eddie Rocco Russo*

---

**Eddie Russo** - March 04, 2013 at 09:24 AM

LM

“ My prayers are with the family and friends of Mr. Robert Joseph "Bobby" Lonero.

*"May the angels watch over Bobby's family and friends. May the Lord hold Bobby in his loving arms and keep away all the pain. With God all things are possible. For the Lord is good and can heal, in Jesus' name I pray.....Amen"*

*Bobby, your memory and your music will live on, forever in our hearts.*

---

**Loretta Vicknair Matherne** - March 04, 2013 at 01:13 AM

LW

“ Linda Woods lit a candle in memory of Robert Joseph 'Bobby' Lonero



---

**Linda Woods** - March 03, 2013 at 10:10 PM

KL

“ Bobby, You were always a friend to me and a Wonderful musician and I will cherish the memories of those gigs we played together and the good times. I remember when your big Album came out years ago and we all went down to the Royal Sonesta for the big release party. You were so excited. I still have the Album you gave me. RIP my good friend. Kenny L.

---

**Kenny Lachney** - March 03, 2013 at 09:52 AM

SM

Thank you Bobby for being YOU! A multi-layered, very talented entertainer. Bobby lit up a room with his music, whether in a group or solo. He was especially happy doing his roots Italian heritage music. We shared many laughs and a few cries. You will always be in our memories. Enjoy your well deserved rest with the Angels. We will truly miss you! God Bless!

---

**Steve J. Mortillaro** - March 03, 2013 at 12:29 PM

JM

Bobby would come to our house and jam with my brother or just came and hung out. Those were good times. Bobby you will be missed. And I to wonder why they didn't have more in the paper.

---

**Jane Sciambra Miceli** - March 06, 2013 at 09:44 AM