



Paul "Kiki" Chiotti

March 22, 1918 - May 22, 2012

Paul A. "Kiki" Chiotti passed away peacefully Tuesday at his home in Benicia. At 94, he was one of the oldest native Benicians. He was a veteran of the U. S. Navy and the U. S. Coast Guard during World War II.

Kiki worked at the Benicia Arsenal and Mare Island for more than 34 years, retiring in 1975 as a Materials Expediter.

Kiki was a member of the Sons of Italy, Virgilio Lodge #1586, Vallejo Elks Lodge #559, Vallejo Moose Lodge #468, SIRS, Musicians Union Local #367 and NARFE. He was the former Solano County Bugler and will be remembered for playing the trumpet, piano, and the accordion. He was an avid golfer and bocce ball player.

Kiki is survived by his daughters Paula Chiotti of Santa Rosa and Carla Chiotti (Chris Murray) of Washington and his grandchildren Katherine (Ryan) Klett and Michael (Sarah) Murray. He was preceded by his wife Bernice in 2003.

Funeral services will be held 10:00 a.m. Tuesday, May 29th at Passalacqua Funeral Chapel. Burial will follow in St. Dominic's Cemetery. Visitation will be Monday from 3-7 p.m. at the mortuary. Family prefers donations to the Benicia Public Library or the Benicia Vallejo Humane Society. Please visit the online tribute at www.passalacquafuneralchapel.com.

Tribute Wall



“ *Paul "Kiki" Chiotti*

November 29, 2022 at 08:20 PM



“ *We lived accross from KIKI while I was growing up and I know of no one that had a bad thing to say about him! He always treated us kids as his equal and not just kids, many times just sitting on his porch visiting with us.*

Martin Blakesley - June 01, 2012 at 12:24 PM



“ *Chiotti Family,*

I want to send my condolences about the loss of my friend Paul. We all enjoyed his talent and humor at the Sons Of Italy. I was touched when Paul asked me if he could play Taps at my husband's funeral. We were in the mausoleum at All Souls and I said "Of course, it would be just what my husband would be proud of." Paul played and it was very touching. The music echoed and made Taps special. I will never forget that moment. Farewell Paul, you will never be forgotten.

Evelyn Fox

Evelyn Fox - May 31, 2012 at 10:49 PM

CL

“Kiki” and his band played at my wedding reception at the Vet's building in 1967; his band played at our mom/dad's 25 wedding anniversary held at the now gone Benicia Officers club; Many times I was present when he gave his time to play "taps" at funerals for service members (which he was proud to do). The last time we spoke was at Safeway a year ago, he immediately recalled playing at my wedding and at our parents 25th anniversary. He was always smiling and glad to greet you. His family and Benicia have lost a kind, gentle man who set an example of a solid citizen; and asset to Benicia; and a friend to everyone, thanks for the memories, rest in peace. Carl Lucca/family .

Carl lucca - May 28, 2012 at 04:08 PM

DN

“ Kiki was a bright light. His memory will always make me smile.

David Nourot - May 28, 2012 at 10:01 AM

MS

“ Kiki was a wonderful musical friend who lived to its fullest. He was there to entertain our family at a birthday celebration and lightened up our spirits at my brother’s celebration of life gathering. Kiki, Ted, Randy, Doug and I played in the Benicia Band, played for PG&E picnics, and spent time in the Generation Gap. It was a wonderful ride.

May God bring you luck and may your journey be smooth and happy. May the roads rise up to meet you, may the winds always be at your back, the sun shine warm upon your face, rains softly upon your fields and until we meet again and may god hold you keep you in the hollow of his hands.

*Go with peace my friend,
Mitch*

Mitch Slater - May 27, 2012 at 11:05 AM

ER

“ I had known Kiki for 40 years or more, and it was always a pleasure to work with him on gigs or just sharing a glass of Chianti. He was a fine gentleman, and a gentle man. He was not only my friend and associate, but a friend to both my parents and my mother-in-law, and I submit that he was probably a friend to anyone he met.

I remember him saying once that he got the nickname "Kiki" because that's what he was told his first word was, "Kiki." And it stuck with him all his life.

Beyond his musical talent and friendship, he was a contributor to the musical history of the Benicia-Vallejo area, collaborating with the late Midge Lund in compiling a history of early-day musicians, complete with photos and anecdotes. I had hoped to have been able to work with him on a volume dedicated to the area's combos, but that was not to be.

I miss him now as a just and jovial asset in my own life, and will continue to do so until we meet again on that Great Bandstand in the Sky. I treasure each moment spent in his company, and send my sincerest heartfelt condolences to Carla, Paula and their respective families.

God Speed, my friend!

-- Ed Rosenback, Executive Board Member, Local 367 AFM, Vallejo CA

Ed Rosenback - May 25, 2012 at 08:09 PM

SK

“ *Kiki was a very special person. Talented, entertaining, thoughtful and kind.*

One of my happiest memories is of Kiki playing our piano, singing, laughing and improvising wonderful music. He enriched the lives of all who knew him.

My condolences to Paula, Carla and family.

Shirley King

Shirley King - May 25, 2012 at 01:32 PM

PR

“ Kiki was my main man in my Polka Band aptly named the Polka Animals. Ron Garcia our guitar player during one practice session turned to me after about three hours of practice and said, "Don't these guys ever take a break? They're animals!" To which I replied, "Thanks Ron, that shall be the name of the Band, The Polka Animals!" We did 8 gigs for the Benicia Lutheran Church and got paid in Sauerbraten and home brewed beer! Kiki and my Dad (also a squeeze box player from WI) held the group of 15 together as we only had one or two practices before the Gig at the Vet's Hall. We then scattered to the winds til the next year. I still find myself singing 'Oh Marie' but can't seem to get the same lilt to it that Kiki did. Ron Garcia and Carol will treasure 'Carol's Waltz' where Ron got to leave the stage and dance with his beautiful spouse. Kiki and Bernice made fast friends with my family from WI and Benicia that lasted for years. I would give anything to relive the Polka Animals experience with my Dad Bud Roetzer and Kiki leading the charge. Bud and Kiki are in Heaven probably playing "In Heaven There Is not Beer" or "The Kazoo Barrel Polka" and entertaining all of the angels. Kiki's love of music and entertaining of crowds with his simulations of a muted trumpet and TAPS at every military event will live on forever in those folks memories who were fortunate enough to know him. God bless you KIKI!

Pat and Nancy Roetzer and Benicia/WI families

Patrick I Roetzer - May 25, 2012 at 12:24 PM

JC

“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



Jan C - May 24, 2012 at 05:50 PM

DP

“ *Kiki touched my heart and soul when he played Taps at a Memorial Day ceremony at the Military Cemetery. My memory of his humor and Taps are special.*

Donna Parker - May 24, 2012 at 05:24 PM