



## Salvatore A. Zona

August 5, 1920 - March 8, 2017

Rye - Salvatore “Sal” Zona, of Rye and a former resident of North Hampton, passed away peacefully on March 08, 2017 at the age of 96.

He was born August 5, 1920 in Belmont, MA, a son of the late John and Providenza (Scandurra) Zona.

Sal was a barber’s barber with a capital ‘B’. He also served in the South Pacific in World War II as a medic. He earned his first stripes, though, as a barber in 1938 and cut hair until just after Pearl Harbor. He picked up his scissors again after leaving the Army in 1946 at Fort Devens, Massachusetts, working for his father, John Zona. Sal eventually succeeded John as head of the operation.

In 1956, Sal applied for and was awarded the concession at the Pease Strategic Air Command (SAC) base to run Pease’s four barber shops and one beauty salon. Pease was so new, Sal said, “When I started there, the cement wasn’t dry on the runway”.

At Pease, Sal had three jobs managing his businesses and barbers while still cutting hair. The first 35 years he cut hair as a civilian employee of the Air Force. Next, he cut hair for 15 years as a civilian employee of the NH National Guard. Finally, he cut hair for 7 years as owner of the International Barber

Shop at Manchester Square in Pease International Tradeport.

Sal remained at Pease for 57 years until his retirement in 2013. Most think Sal would still be working if not for an unfortunate car accident that happened when he was 93 while driving home from work. Sal retired shortly thereafter.

At Pease, Sal watched his 'boys' grow up and become high ranking officers. He saw their sons and daughters, too, rise through the ranks among the nations' services. He watched SAC grow and then fade and eventually leave. He was there at another birth, that of the Pease International Tradeport and watched PIT mature. And all the time, he cut their hair and watched local history and the Red Sox and recorded it in his mind.

Some memorable moments in his career were:

He and his crews cut the hair of thousands of Korean War draftees' in 1952 at Fort Devens. One of the recruits, Eddie Fisher, aka 'Princess Leia's father, gave a one song concert, "Oh my Papa", at Sal's request, in an effort to keep his hair longer than the usual Army recruit. Sal generously let him keep an extra 1/8 of an inch. Eddie's wasn't the most famous head of hair he cut. That head of hair belongs to the 41st President of the United States, George H.W. Bush.

Sal and his barbers moved among the men confined in the 'alert area' during the Cuban missile crisis cutting their hair.

Sal estimated 375,000 heads of hair fell 'under the knife' with his scissors during his life. His career lasted 75 years.

Sal was also an amazingly smart and aware man. Having a conversation with Sal was a real eye-opener. His breadth of knowledge of the military, business, local politics, people and of course, the Red Sox, always surprised and

enriched the first time listener. He was a careful observer and recorder and valued his time with the many thousands of his 'folks'.

Sal's beloved wife Marjorie passed in 2015. He is survived by several nieces and nephews. He will be missed by all those who took the time to listen to him as he talked and clipped and watched 'his' Pease family grow and fade and grow again.

Family and friends may visit from 3 to 6 pm on Wednesday, March 15, 2017 in the Remick & Gendron Funeral Home – Crematory, 811 Lafayette Rd., Hampton. Military honors will be held promptly at 6 pm. Sal will be buried privately next to his beloved Marge in the NH State Veterans Cemetery.

# Cemetery Details

## New Hampshire State Veterans Cemetery

110 Daniel Webster Highway  
Boscawen, NH 03303

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAR 15. 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Remick & Gendron Funeral Home - Crematory  
811 Lafayette Road ·  
Hampton, NH 03842  
(603) 926-6500  
[info@remickgendron.com](mailto:info@remickgendron.com)  
<https://www.RemickGendron.com/>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Salvatore A. Zona*

September 18, 2022 at 12:49 AM



“ *In 1975, I first met Sal as a 13 year old kid when my father, an officer at Pease Air Force Base, took me to have a hair cut. At the time, his location was near the Pease Officers Club and on entering the room I saw all the pictures of planes and signed autographs from the various Pease airmen who frequented his barber shop. Over the years, I went from junior high school to high school and onto college where I too joined the Air Force and became an officer. Sal was always there at Pease when I would stop by to get my haircut. I got to know Sal as a good friend who was always interested in listening to a life story and then giving something of his wisdom back. I moved away from New Hampshire and moved west but always when I visited my folks in NH, I would stop by and say hi! Sal last cut my hair at age 88. I knew Sal for some 41 years. All I can say now is God just hired a great barber and the angels will be lining up in heaven to get their haircuts (or whatever they wished cut) and he will tell his stories of Earth and all the great souls he met there. Sal Zona may you rest in peace.*

*David Rowney  
Camarillo, CA  
Formerly of Portsmouth, NH*

David Rowney - March 20, 2017 at 11:53 PM

SS

“ After getting off the treadmill at Planet Fitness in Stratham a couple of months ago, there's this guy sitting in one of the machines in the 30-minute workout section, looking at me smiling, pointing his finger at me. I walked over to this magnetic gentleman and we chatted. Aha, I think this fellow can be a friend. I thought I'd see him again, but like so many, people show up at different times to exercise.

*I forgot his name but not his face and personality. I was stunned to see his image on the obituary page last Sunday.*

*Rest easy Sal, sorry I missed out on you.*

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**Stephen L. Snow** - March 17, 2017 at 12:14 PM

AP

“ Sal Zona greatly enriched my Pease AFB experience from 1974 to 1980. Great haircuts, shaves, too (a great experience), and even greater friendship. He will be greatly missed.

*Al Philpotts, Lt, Col, USAF (Ret)*

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**Al Philpotts** - March 16, 2017 at 09:07 AM

KL

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



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**Karen Longcrier** - March 15, 2017 at 10:58 PM

AL

“ The Ladrie family,Rye Nh,I remember when I was young,sal used to cut my hair and my brothers.Sal & Marge always came to our house to see my mom,Dorothy and my dad William. They were very good friends.Sal we will miss you a lot.Our thoughts and prayers are with the family.Sal rest in peace with,your wife Marge.Thank you,Lanny&Dorothy Ladrie.

Alan Ladrie - March 15, 2017 at 10:54 AM

FW

“ Sal first cut my hair 41 years ago. He was the "go-to" guy for information and knew all the right people. Thanks for all the great hair cuts and conversations Sal. Rest in peace in that beautiful NH Veterans Cemetery.  
Frank Wilson, Strafford,NH

Frank Wilson - March 14, 2017 at 04:20 PM



“ Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Salvatore A. Zona.



March 14, 2017 at 12:51 PM

JS

“ 1 file added to the album Scanlon



Jay Scanlon - March 13, 2017 at 10:36 PM

JS

“ A rock, this man, my wonderful Aunt Marjorie's wonderful husband. Sal never seemed to age - had the same irrepressible energy when he joined our family as he did near the end.

Sal loved cars, beautiful cars. My brothers and I often kidded him about the big Lincolns he favoured. One family reunion he parked that car out front, as usual. Door un-locked we left a big old marijuana joint in the ashtray. We thought this was hysterically funny and would really set him off. We mis-calculated: Sal did not afford us even the slightest satisfaction by ever mentioning it. Probably there was no prank that Sal had not either seen or heard about, and he was way too cool to be provoked - by his clients, skeptical family, irritating neighbours, or even by Marjorie's mischievous nephews.

Uncle Salvatore was a class act all around. You'll be missed, Man. Rest in Peace, Uncle Sal.

-Jay Scanlon, Christchurch New Zealand

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Jay Scanlon - March 13, 2017 at 10:32 PM

TJ

“ 6 files added to the album New Album Name



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TJV - March 12, 2017 at 03:04 PM

TJ

“ *Uncle Sal, you are everyone's favorite uncle. Your kindness, humor, and generosity will always be remembered by all who knew you.*

*Tom Ventresco*

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**TJV** - March 12, 2017 at 03:00 PM

MH

“ *Sal, so many conversations; so much friendship. Rest in peace my.*

*Maynard (Abe) Honesty*

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**Manard Honesty** - March 12, 2017 at 10:18 AM

TF

“ *The Durant Family purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of Salvatore A. Zona.*



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**The Durant Family** - March 12, 2017 at 09:13 AM

BD

“ *I met Sal shortly after our family moved to North Hampton 20 years ago. Sal had a little barber shop inside the Pease base exchange. He was instantly gracious and helpful to my son, Brian and I, and remained close friends over all the years. He was especially close to Brian, giving him advice and encouragement on career decisions and opinions about the current Red Sox teams. Sal will be greatly missed.*

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**Bob Durant** - March 12, 2017 at 08:22 AM

BP

“ Marge and Sal were great neighbors. I spent many times with them at their home on Pine Road in North Hampton. Sal could always be counted on to help remove snow with his snowblower. He was a legend at Pease.

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**Barbara Preston** - March 11, 2017 at 02:08 PM

FD

“ Will never forget Sals last apperance at a 100th Bomb Wing reunion in Columbus, Ohio. Phil Johnson and I drove to the reunion with Sal in the backseat. I think he thought he was Andrea Bocelli because he spent a lot of time singing. What a trip! At the reunion, I presented him with a New Hampshire Citizen of the years award from the governor....well deserved...Sal and I go way back...will miss you old friend. Frank Davis

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**Frank Davis** - March 10, 2017 at 12:48 PM

MB

“ Thanks for all the great conversations. I'll never forget the advice that you gave!  
Rest easy, Sal.  
Mike Berry



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**Michael berry** - March 09, 2017 at 01:04 PM