



## Henry S. Golis Sr.

December 26, 1918 - April 22, 2014

Henry Golis of Albertson NY passed away on Tuesday, April 22. He was 95-years-old and had a long career as both a musician and as a teacher. He was a trumpet player for over 70 years and was considered a legend in the ethnic music genre, especially in polka, although he was also an expert in German and Scandinavian music. Mr. Golis graduated from Julliard and has a Master's degree from Columbia University Teacher's College. While at Julliard, some of his classmates included Miles Davis, Tito Puente, Edie Adams and Van Cliburn, with whom he later worked performing the 1812 Overture concert at Madison Square Garden in the early 1960's. He also studied with Del Staigers, Harold Mitchell and William Vachiano, and in his prime, he was considered one of the top trumpet players in the world. Some of the labels he worked on from the 1950's through the 1960's, included Warner Brothers Records, Coral Records, Epic Records, RCA, and ABC-Paramount, to name a few. He also worked with major producers of that era including George Avakian and Sid Feller. During that time, he played at the major resorts including the Pines Hotel as well as the Concord Hotel, working with such acts as Morey Amsterdam, Alan King, Leslie Uggams and Vikki Carr. He also played every Monday and Saturday night at the famed Roseland Ballroom in New York City during the 1950s, with additional live solo performances on the NBC Philco Show on NBC, during that same period of time. In the 1960's and 1970's, he worked with and recorded with the Jimmy Sturr Orchestra. That band also backed up Bobby Rydell and Jo Ann Castle at the Orange County Fair. In 1964 and 1965, he played every day at the Lowenbrau Pavilion at the World's Fair in New York City. As a teacher, he taught at St. Mary's Elementary School in Roslyn Heights from 1960 to 1970 as well as the Blessed Sacrament in Valley Stream. He also taught Brass at the Garden City Schools in the 1980's at the Garden City High School and at Stratford High School. In addition, he also taught at the Herricks School District, at Searingtown School and at the Shelter Rock School. Some of his private students went on to play in bands themselves, which included Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons, Mitch Ryder and the Detroit Wheels, Jay Black and the Americans, Buddy Rich and Tito Puente. Mr. Golis was a World War II veteran and served in the US Army in Guadalcanal. During the War, he played in bands and later on he became a member of the John Phillip Sousa American Legion Band (Local 802). Originally, his family came from New Castle PA and

eventually moved out to Los Angeles, CA. He had two brothers, Bill and Ted, who were also involved in music as songwriters and as composers. He lived in Albertson with his wife Eleanor and his son Henry Jr., who, along with his sister, Mildred, of California, survive him. The wake took place at the Roslyn Heights Funeral Home at 75 Mineola Avenue, in Roslyn Heights, N.Y. Mass was held at the St. Aidan's Church, Willis Avenue, in Williston Park, N.Y., followed by interment at the Calverton National Cemetery in Calverton N.Y.

# Previous Events

## Visiting

APR 28. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Roslyn Heights Funeral Home  
75 Mineola Ave  
Roslyn Heights, NY 11577  
(516) 621-4545  
roslynheightsfh@gmail.com  
<https://RoslynHeightsFH.com>

## Visiting

APR 28. 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM (ET)

Roslyn Heights Funeral Home  
75 Mineola Ave  
Roslyn Heights, NY 11577  
(516) 621-4545  
roslynheightsfh@gmail.com  
<https://RoslynHeightsFH.com>

## Funeral Mass

APR 29. 10:00 AM - 10:45 AM (ET)

St. Aidan's RC Church  
505 Willis Ave  
Williston Park, NY

# Tribute Wall



“ *Henry S. Golis Sr.*

November 16, 2022 at 07:31 PM



“ *Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of Henry S. Golis Sr..*



April 28, 2014 at 07:11 AM



“ *Our heartfelt condolences, thoughts & prayers to the family of Henry Golis. He was a great polka musician with the Eddie Gronet Orchestra. I have featured his music on my polka radio show and I certainly will play it on my show this Sunday in his memory. God Bless his wife, Eleanor ....and grant Henry a special place with the Lord in Polka Heaven.*

**Charles & Helen Szubzda Curtin** - April 25, 2014 at 10:21 PM