



# **A. Daniel Messaros III**

JUL 4, 1941 - JAN 7, 2026



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## **A. Daniel Messaros III**

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### **A.** Daniel Messaros III Obituary

A. Daniel Messaros, III of Elyria Township, born July 4, 1941, passed away peacefully with his loving wife by his side January 7, 2026, after a brief illness.

Born in Elyria, he was a 1960 graduate of Elyria High School, the same year he photographed his first wedding. Dan became interested in photography as a high school student, working part time a local photography studio.

Dan enlisted in the U.S Air Force in 1961 and served 4 years in Lincoln, Nebraska. While in Nebraska, he also enrolled in the University of Nebraska as a part-time student pursuing classes in motion picture and television. After returning from the Air Force, Dan graduated from the Winona School of Photography in Winona Lake, Indiana and the Triangle Institute of Photography in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Drawing on his education and experience, Dan began his career photographing school portraits and, in 1973, took a leap of faith by establishing his own studio—Messaros Photography. Through five decades of dedication and perseverance, the studio thrived amid industry changes and evolving trends. Each year, Dan captured approximately 6,500 underclass portraits, 300 senior sessions, and 40 weddings, along with countless church events, commercial projects, family portraits, and other milestones that marked the chapters of his clients' lives.

Throughout his distinguished photographic career, Dan served as President of both the Northern Ohio Professional Photographers and the Certified Professional Photographers of Ohio. He was also a dedicated member of the Ohio Professional Photographers Board of Directors. Dan earned his Professional Photographers of America (PPA) Certification in 1994, followed by a Master of Photography degree in 1996 and the Photographic Craftsman degree in 2003—an accomplishment achieved by only 5% of photographers nationwide. Over the years, he remained actively involved in numerous photographic organizations at the local, state, and national levels.



## Obituary

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Dan—affectionately known as “Danny” throughout Lorain County—has been a devoted supporter of 4-H and the Lorain County Fair since 1972. He first became involved as a 4-H parent, and, true to his profession, was always behind the camera capturing moments. His passion for photography quickly caught the attention of a Fair Board Director, who invited him to photograph the finish line of the horse races and various other events. This opportunity led to his appointment by the Senior Fair Board as the official fair photographer. Dan went on to serve as an appointed Director on the Senior Fair Board for 48 years, dedicating fair week each year to documenting its many events and celebrations. Beyond the fairgrounds, Dan served on the 4-H Endowment Board and was a volunteer 4-H advisor with Elyria family of 4-H’ers for 36 years, mentoring generations of youth. His commitment didn’t end when the fair concluded—throughout the year, Dan traveled to organizations, clubs, nursing homes, grange meetings, and more, sharing the slide shows of his fair photographs. These slide shows became one of the most cherished promotions of the Lorain County Fair. In his later years, Dan remained deeply involved, contributing to the upkeep of the fairgrounds through mowing, painting, and general maintenance—quietly ensuring the grounds reflected the pride and care he felt for the community he served so faithfully.

Dan has been honored with numerous awards in recognition of his service and dedication. His accolades include the Friends of 4-H Award, the 4-H Meritorious Service Award, the Clarie Hill Award, the JVS Appreciation Service Award, Lorain County Metro Parks Award of Appreciation and Lorain County Metro Parks Friend Award, and a special Award of Appreciation from the Lorain County Agricultural and Natural Resources Council. In addition, both the Wellington and Keystone FFA Chapters presented Dan with the Honorary Chapter Farmer Award

Dan was a proud Rotarian, joining the Rotary Club in 1976 and maintaining perfect meeting attendance from his very first year. No matter where his travels took him, he made it a point to find a local Rotary meeting, often returning with club flags and attendance tickets as mementos of his dedication. Dan was honored with the Paul Harris Fellow recognition 3 times during his membership. It was through his involvement with the Elyria Rotary Club that Dan met Barb at the Apple Festival in 1982.

Dan was a member of the Leadership Lorain County Class of 1994 and served on the board of the Murray Ridge Center. In recognition of his lifelong dedication and impact, he was inducted into the Elyria Schools Alumni Association Hall of Fame in 2024. Beyond his professional and civic commitments, Dan was also an avid collector and enthusiast of Coleman memorabilia and spent



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20 years as a member of the International Coleman Collectors Club, traveling across the United States and Canada to attend annual conventions and connect with fellow collectors.

Despite his full schedule, Dan always made time for others—offering whatever they needed with a generous heart. Thoughtful, kind, caring, and genuinely helpful, he left a lasting impression on everyone he met. In Lorain County, Dan touched countless lives, often behind the lens, capturing the most cherished moments of families, friends, and community events. As avid travelers, Dan and Barb journeyed together to every state in the continental United States and Hawaii.

Dan is survived by his wife of 42 years, Barbara R. (nee Klingshirn); son, Albert Daniel Messaros IV; granddaughter, Rebecca; sisters, Myra Porter and Molly Brotherton; brother, John and several nieces, nephews and great nieces and nephews who lovingly called him “Unkie”.

He was preceded in death by his first wife, Betty in 1973 and parents, Albert and Rosella Messaros and a brother, Gerald.

Friends will be received Sunday, January 11, 2026 from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm at Dicken Funeral Home & Cremation Service, 323 Middle Avenue, Elyria. A funeral service will be Monday, January 12, 2026 at 10:00 am at Church of the Open Door, 43275 Telegraph Road, Elyria with Pastor Jason Russ officiating. Burial will follow in Brookdale Cemetery, Elyria where the Amherst Veterans Military Honor Guard will present military honors.

Memorial contributions may be made in Dan’s honor to the following organizations:

Friends of Lorain County Jr. Fair – c/o Sue Malik [222 14th St. Elyria, OH 44035]

Moody Bible Institute [820 LaSalle Blvd. Chicago, IL 60610] OR

Lorain County Metro Parks, 12882 Diagonal Road, LaGrange, OH 44050, In Memory of Dan Messaros

To send flowers  
to the family or plant a tree



## Obituary

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in memory of A. Daniel Messaros III, please visit our floral store.

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## Tribute Wall

**A. Daniel Messaros III**

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ES

**Expression Of Sympathy** posted:

A Memorial tree was ordered in memory of A. Daniel Messaros III. Plant a TreeMemories of our high school junior year live in my heart and I would like to share the song "oh Danny Boy" for you. Rest in peace old friend. Thanks for the memories. Will see you later per "John 5:28 & 29".

April 22 at 8:55 AM

RB

**Rod And Lynda Brown** posted:

A Memorial tree was ordered in memory of A. Daniel Messaros III by Rod and Lynda Brown. Plant a TreeDan my friend, you will surely be missed! I will always remember our times together with the P P of Ohio, The Ohio Society of photographers and our landscape photo trips together. RIP Dan !!!Rod and Lynda Brown

April 22 at 8:55 AM

ES

**Expression Of Sympathy** posted:

Rainbow of love was purchased for the family of A. Daniel Messaros III. Send Flowers

April 22 at 8:55 AM

CF

**Cousins Mike, Andy And Nancy Messaros And Families** posted:

Purple radiance was purchased for the family of A. Daniel Messaros III by Cousins Mike, Andy and Nancy Messaros and families. Send FlowersDearest Barb,Dans kindness never aged, it was always there, steady and sincere. Dan will be missed, may he rest in peace.With love and sympathy,Cousins Mike, Andy and Nancy Messaros and families

April 22 at 8:55 AM

DF

**David, Eileen, And Christopher French** posted:

Memory lane was purchased for the family of A. Daniel Messaros III by David, Eileen, and Christopher French. Send FlowersWe were so saddened to learn about the loss of Dan, a trulyartistic and kind man who brought joy to everyonr hr met. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family.David, Eileen, and Christopher French

April 22 at 8:55 AM



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PO

**Penn, Wilks And Lamb Family From Oklahoma** posted:

Small spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of A. Daniel Messaros III by Penn, Wilks and Lamb family from Oklahoma. Send FlowersWere so sorry for your loss.Your family is in our thoughts and prayers. Carl, Keri and Jaxon Wilks, Jake Penn and Linda LambPenn, Wilks and Lamb family from Oklahoma

April 22 at 8:55 AM

JE

**Jose, Kelly, Emily** posted:

Autumn morning was purchased for the family of A. Daniel Messaros III by Jose, Kelly, Emily. Send FlowersTo our friends who are more like family, we are praying for your comfort through this loss. May God bless you and keep you while Grandpa Dan enjoys a view prettier than any National Park. Much love.Jose, Kelly, Emily

April 22 at 8:55 AM



**Anonymous** posted:

Medium basket garden was purchased for the family of A. Daniel Messaros III. Send FlowersFrom your Professional Photographers Society of Ohio friends. We will miss you!

April 22 at 8:55 AM

DF

**Denise Fuller** posted:

A Memorial tree was ordered in memory of A. Daniel Messaros III by Denise fuller. Plant a TreeI'm so sorry for your loss, he was a sweet wonderful person.Denise fuller

April 22 at 8:55 AM

MB

**Mary Sawzin And Myles Barnard** posted:

Barb Danny and Rebecca Dan was the most genuine man with a set of humor that would put a smile on anyone's face Heaven has gained an Angel with a Golden Camera to capture the events in paradise Too many memories that my list would be a mile long to post I was honored to be apart of Dan and Barb wedding seemed like yesterday and Dan photographing Myles and I wedding along with my sisters not to mention when I graduated from Lorain Business College Well Dan God is with you now in a better place uniting with the loved ones before usGod bless you all

January 14 at 2:12 PM



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DW

**Darlene Waters** posted:

I grew up a foster child with very little. He did my Senior pictures for me and I graduated from oberlin high school. He only charged me for a sitting fee. He was very kind. Rest in peace ❤️🙏

January 12 at 3:39 PM

PL

**Peg & Rex Lavoie** posted:

Wishing you peace to bring comfort, courage to face the days ahead and loving memories to forever hold in your hearts. Helping build a forest for Dan.Peg & Rex Lavoie

January 12 at 2:14 PM

RL

**Rita Tite Lockhart** posted:

Almost 37 years ago, on April 22,1989, at the Wellington Methodist Church, Dan photographed my wedding to Barton D. Lockhart. I will always cherish the beautiful artistic photos that Dan took of the church ceremony, the bagpiper "piping us out of the church", and the reception at Spring Valley Country Club. Since he had previously photographed my sibling's weddings, Dan felt like our "personal photographer". I'm sure he made all of his many subjects feel just as special. Dan will live on in the memories and photos of everyone he encountered. I wonder how many people still have the Wooden Nickel tokens he passed out at the Fair. His life was truly "A Life Well Lived". Condolences to all who knew and loved him.

January 11 at 9:57 AM

SL

**Sharon Trimmel Longstaff** posted:

So sorry to hear of Dans passing. Barb, you and his son are in my prayers. He was very talented and did many of my family's weddings! He left wonderful memories for many people with his beautiful photography, and service to Lorain County.My Dearest Sympathy,

January 11 at 9:18 AM

KB

**Kim And Tim Benetto** posted:

Dan was a part of so many people's lives, in so many wonderful ways. His obituary beautifully captures who he was. Barb, Tim and I extend our deepest condolences to you and your family. He left beautiful memories. May peace be with you all.

January 10 at 3:05 PM



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ES

**Expression Of Sympathy** posted:

I remember meeting Uncle Dan at school during picture day. He was always making us laugh to get the picture he wanted. I got to spend time with him and Aunt Barb over the Christmas season this year and got to laugh with them, share stories and share his lunch even when I pushed for him to eat it all. I will treasure this time and all our memories. I pray for peace for Aunt Barb and his family.

January 10 at 2:31 PM

KP

**Kimberly Mealwitz Pausa** posted:

My sincere condolences to Mr. Messaros's family. From school pictures, church directories, graduation portraits and wedding photographs...our family knew ( and loved) him quite well. Rest in peace... He lived a great life!

January 10 at 9:19 AM

PB

**Paul Benedetti** posted:

I'm just wanting to share my condolences to the Messaros family. I'm a professional photographer from Bellefontaine, Ohio and knew Dan through all the photographers associations, especially through the Professional Photographers Society of Ohio. Although the Society only met twice a year, I always looked forward to catching up with Dan and spending time. He was a great photographer and a soft spoken gentleman, he will be missed. Take care, Paul

January 10 at 8:32 AM

JH

**Jean Hans** posted:

Messaros Family 59 years ago Danny took our wedding pictures and he was as nice and kind as a person could ever be. Always smiling and ready to take pictures! Our prayers are with you and yours. Rest in peace Danny, Jean and JD Hans

January 10 at 7:03 AM

JS

**Judy Smith** posted:

From our EHS Class of 1958. God bless your family !! He was such a kind and generous person and wonderful photographer. He was responsible for so many of our Class reunion pictures and we're so grateful to him! Sincerely, Judy (Arenz) Smith

January 10 at 6:24 AM



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BS

**Bob Shaffer** posted:

Dan was my school photographer at both Keystone High School and Wellington High School while I was principal at each school, first at Keystone and then I took him to Wellington so to speak. He was very accomodating, doing whatever we asked of him covering all important activities. I never knew Dan not to have a big smile on his face. Pleasantness was his byword. I invited Dan to my home to take several family portrait-type pictures of my family. A copy of each hangs on my wall at home today. Dan played an important role in my life as I know he did for so many others. What a better world this would be if he could make everyone else like Dan. God bless you Daniel Messaros. I'm sure the Lord has you as his personal photographer now.

January 10 at 6:12 AM

CK

**Chloe Kurti** posted:

It was nothing short of a blessing to get to know Dan and his wife before he passed, even though it was when I was taking care of him before and after he passed. I cannot express how inviting and cozy this man's presence was. And to find out he was everything and more of how he came off to us? I am not surprised. Hands down the sweetest patient. I am so sorry for your loss and may god be with you during these times and dan's love guide you forward. RIP

January 9 at 5:20 PM

CN

**Chris Nelson** posted:

Dan I wish I was there to hug you in person. Know that I am holding you, Becky and Karin in my heart. I am so sorry

January 9 at 4:09 PM

NB

**Nancy Lauren(Bako)** posted:

I remember Mr. Messaros, from my youth and his class photography, also taking pictures at my older siblings weddings. I also, was part of the Elyria Rotary for a year. He always had a kind word for everyone. Sending my prayers and heartfelt condolences to his family, may your memories help you during this time

January 9 at 2:42 PM



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SK

**Susan Sparks Klinect** posted:

The first time I met Dan was my 5th grade Summer, 1977, at Lorain County Fair. I won 1st place Junior Showmanship with my little white rabbit and Dan took my photo. I still have that old black and white and over the years when I've looked at it, the photo always brings me back to the beginning of my fair days. Dan played such a huge role on those grounds and so many of us kids looked up to him. Dan will forever be remembered as part of Lorain County Fair. Rest in Peace Dan and thank you so much for all your contributions.

January 9 at 12:40 PM

DC

**Debbie Jameyson Cochrane** posted:

To his dear son, wife and family, Dan was a wonderful, kind man. He took my late husband's and my wedding photos 46 yrs ago. My dad was on the fair board for years and always had praises for Dan. May God comfort you with loving memories of your times together.

January 9 at 12:04 PM

NS

**Nancy Eppley Shullick** posted:

Dan is with the Lord now! Not only did Dan take my senior pictures but our family attended church with him and his family. He was a wonderful man. So kind and very talented. My father was the band director of the lorain county 4-H band. We spent quite a bit of time with Dan. On behalf of my family. Please accept our condolences and prayers for your family. May God bless you!

January 9 at 9:47 AM

MK

**Mary Salisbury Karlovec-** posted:

I have known Dan as long as I can remember. He was a high school friend of my sister and was a frequent visitor at our house. As I grew up, our paths crossed frequently. I remember him coming to our elementary school to take our pictures. I saw him many times at the fair, doing what he loved and did so well..taking pictures and capturing all the wonders of the fair. In 1981, he did our wedding pictures. Truly beautiful! Our paths crossed many times since then...Special Olympics, EHS events, Memorial Day parades, a few more weddings of friends. I had the honor of sitting next to Dan in 2024 when we were both inducted into the Elyria Schools Alumni Hall of Fame. Fly high Dan! You were an kind, gentle and very friendly person who will be missed by all who knew you.

January 9 at 9:29 AM



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JH

**Jerry Henson** posted:

My thoughts and prayers are with all of you for the best of everything God bless  
My thoughts and prayers are with all of you for the best of everything. God bless.

January 9 at 8:26 AM

RK

**Robert L. Kunesh** posted:

Dan is and will always BE a friend and inspiration to all who inspire to be "The Perfect Human Being  
"!!!

January 9 at 7:39 AM

BW

**Bert And Evelyn Watts** posted:

Dan was such a nice and friendly person . He took my husband and my wedding pictures in his studio.We cherish his work for 48 years now. The evening we traveled to the studio there was one of the largest snow storms happening..He waited patiently for us to arrive. We always appreciate this kindness.To Dan's family you are all in our prayers and thoughts. His presence has made a light for many . May God comfort you each with His love . Your memories keeping Him alive .....

January 9 at 7:18 AM

PK

**Paul And Ali Kothe** posted:

In all of our time associated with the Elyria City Schools Dan and Barb have been two of the nicest people my wife and I have been associated with. We greatly appreciate them taking the time to take the team photos for all of the teams that we have coached. Thank you both for working with us through the years. Our families condolences go out to you Barb and may Dan be at peace.

January 9 at 6:36 AM

GM

**Gerald "Jay" Messaros** posted:

In loving memory of a wonderful uncle and great person from our family,Gerald "Jay" Messaros

January 9 at 5:30 AM



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AH

**Alison Hildebrandt** posted:

Dan Messaros was the sweetest, most genuine person. Our lives were enriched having known him.

January 9 at 5:26 AM

GH

**Gail Haywood** posted:

The world has lost another good one. Have known Dan many years working with him on school pictures while I was yearbook advisor for Elyria West. He was always so helpful, kind and willing to do whatever he could to help us out. He also took our wedding photos and family photos. My condolences to Barb and family. RIP Dan, you will be missed.

January 9 at 5:18 AM

CM

**Collette Diangi - Maben** posted:

Prayers for the Massaro's family. Mr. Massaros was an Amazing person. He will be missed in Lorain County and not having his presence around will be sad and palpable. But we do not grieve like others who have no hope because we know that he is resting safely in the loving arms of Jesus. Collette DiAngi (Maben)

January 9 at 5:05 AM

LC

**Lucy Carruthers** posted:

Our daughters life would end shortly but she wanted to live to see her only child's picture. A junior for the year book. He said bring him with all his truck etc and he had Jason's pix to her to pick out the next day. KINDNESS. IM CRYING

January 9 at 4:26 AM

JM

**Jill Murrell** posted:

As a music teacher in Lorain County, "Picture Day" always changed my teaching schedule. Dan was a joy to watch as he took pictures of the children! He also was the church photographer at the Hungarian Reformed Church in Lorain. He captured so many milestone events for our congregation! Rest in peace, dear Danny!

January 9 at 4:03 AM



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CW

**Christine Knipper Wright** posted:

Dan took out wedding pictures in 1972 & of course they were very nice! My now ex husband Jon worked with Dan taking wedding pictures for quite a few years in the 70's. So sad about this news.

January 8 at 8:29 PM

NG

**Nadine Gott** posted:

As a 4H advisor for many years for the Saddle-Lites and LC Steer Club, I got to know Dan as he would take all of our clubs pictures. He was "everywhere" at the perfect time! What a wonderful person, and so well known! He will be truly missed by all that had the honor of knowing him.

January 8 at 7:14 PM

SM

**Shelley Schmidt Merkin** posted:

I too had senior photos with Dan as well as graduating with his son. Loved going to have my pictures taken on his land he was so kind. What a beautiful life he has had and a legacy of love he leaves. God bless his family

January 8 at 6:59 PM

JC

**Jonathan Cwalina** posted:

"Right here! Right now!" Every year he took our school photos and he made us smile with his enthusiasm. Such a wonderful man and he truly will be missed. My condolences to his family and friends.- Jon Cwalina Wellington High School, Class of 2018

January 8 at 6:54 PM

RB

**Renee Burns** posted:

I met Dan at the Lorain Co. Fair 40± years ago when I became involved with 4 H. He later went on to take my daughter's High School graduation photo's and both of my kids wedding photos. Dan always had a smile on his face and somehow seemed to be everywhere at one time at the fair, taking the most amazing photos during fair week. He and Barb put together the most amazing recaps of the fair for more years than I can remember, enjoyed by so many people. Dan was a friend and will be missed. It won't feel like the fair without seeing his smile and chatting. My deepest Condolences go to Barb and his family.

January 8 at 6:42 PM



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HM

**Holly Miller** posted:

Mr. Messaros was such an amazing man. He photographed my senior pictures in 1997. He also used to come into Midway Oh Boy when I waitressed there and he lived across the street. He was always smiling and so kind. Prayers to his family during this difficult time.

January 8 at 6:35 PM

CW

**Cheryl & Randy Widener** posted:

Mr Messaros took a wonderful photo of our daughter posing in her ballet costume in the late 1980's. We were thrilled how well it turned out! He definitely had a gift!

January 8 at 6:33 PM

MB

**Morgan Brasse** posted:

This is so sad. He did my parents wedding pictures, mine in schools, my sister's wedding, and my one daughter photos. He was a wonderful photographer and terrific and funny fiy. He will be missed. Prayers to his family.

January 8 at 6:33 PM

JM

**Jennifer Myers** posted:

What a sweet and joyful man Dan was! I always enjoyed seeing him on Picture Day. May he rest in the peace of Heaven.

January 8 at 5:52 PM

DS

**Diane (Crace) Szymczak** posted:

I first met Dan when I started working at Stanadyne. I was just 18. We did several photo shoots together for product brochures. He went on to photograph my wedding as well as my sister's wedding . Amazing photographer and a truly beautiful human being. I think about him every time I look at my wedding pictures. I loved that man and he will be greatly missed. I'm sure he heard "well done good and faithful servant" as he entered heaven's gates.

January 8 at 5:50 PM



## Tribute Wall

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**Deb Brady** posted:

I had known Dan for the majority of my life. Always a sweetheart who always wore a smile. I don't know anyone who didn't simply love him. Rest in Peace. You will be missed.

January 8 at 5:44 PM



# Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring A. by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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