



# Emiliano "Miling" or "Papa Blackie" Santella

JAN 22, 1943 - JUN 22, 2025



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MAUI MEMORIAL PARK  
NAKAMURA MORTUARY  
CEMETERY, CREMATION & FUNERAL

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# Emiliano "Miling" or "Papa Blackie" Santella

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**E**miliano "Miling" or "Papa Blackie" Santella, 82, of Lahaina, Hawai'i, passed away peacefully on June 22, 2025, at Kaiser Westside Hospital in Hillsboro, Oregon, surrounded by the love of his family. Emiliano was born in Cabugao, Ilocos Sur, Philippines, and was the third of five children of Antero and Virginia Santella, who are now reunited with him in eternal rest.

Among his siblings - brothers: Federico (Donicia), Mariano (Lilia), Celestino (Linda), Rey Santella (Chayada), and sister: Ester Maestre (late husband Paul) - Emiliano was known for his warm smile, generous heart, and sociable nature that drew people to him wherever he went. Emiliano's journey to the United States began when his father immigrated to Lahaina, in search of a better life. Emiliano soon followed in 1966, and together they laid the foundation for the rest of the family to join them.

Shortly after settling in Lahaina, Emiliano answered the call to serve his new country, enlisting in the U.S. Army. From 1967 to 1969, he served honorably as a Quartermaster Heavy Equipment Repairer during the Vietnam War. His service was a lifelong source of pride, carried with humility and honor.

After his honorable military service, Emiliano returned home, where he built a life rooted in hard work, faith, and family. He worked as a Hydrographer at Pioneer Mill during the day, then worked graveyard shifts as a Loss Prevention Manager at the Maui Marriott Hotel - an enduring testament to his tireless work ethic and commitment to providing for his family.

Although Emiliano didn't enjoy eating fish, he was a master of throw net fishing-a beloved pastime that became his sport and signature. He became a familiar and iconic figure along the shores of Olowalu, always ready to share his fresh catch with family and friends or he would invite them over and cook for them.



## Obituary

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His generosity extended far beyond the ocean; he was the kind of man who gave freely. Emiliano found true joy in being surrounded by loved ones, entertaining them with stories and jokes that filled the room with laughter. He was the heart of every gathering - playful humor, lively spirit, and joy that left lasting memories.

After retiring in 2005, Emiliano spent years traveling months at a time in Reno, NV and Portland, OR to be with his children and grandchildren, and to San Diego, CA to visit his sister, brother, and the rest of the family. He cherished being part of every celebration and especially enjoyed trips to the "Happy Place", aka casinos.

Above all, Emiliano was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, brother, and friend. He is survived by his beloved wife of 56 years, Rosalina "Sally" Santella; his son: Emil (Hoku) of Reno, NV; and daughters: Emilyn Santella-Basques (Ivan) of Lahaina; and Belle Sagon (Ronald) of Portland, OR.

He also leaves behind his cherished grandchildren: Jessica, Reese, Cierra Jaye, Tiare, Blaze Santella; Kiana, Kylie, Kainoa Sagon; Moku, and Manalani Basques; and great-grandchildren Kingston and Kingsley (angel in Heaven). His legacy lives on in the love, laughter, and values he instilled in each of them.

Services for Emiliano "Miling" Santella - Mass & Viewing Monday, August 25, 2025, Maria Lanakila Church 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (Mass from 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM) - Visitation Tuesday, August 26, 2025, Nakamura Mortuary 9:30 AM - 12:00 Noon - Committal Service Tuesday, August 26, 2025, Maui Veterans Cemetery 1:00 PM - 1:20 PM

Emiliano will be deeply missed and forever remembered for his boundless love, humor, joyful spirit, and legacy of service, strength, and selflessness. His life was a testament to courage, compassion, and enduring devotion - a life well-lived and a soul well-loved.

As he often said, "When I die, I will go to heaven, because I already spent my time in hell." His words, like his spirit, will live on in the hearts of those who knew and loved him.



# Events

## Emiliano "Miling" or "Papa Blackie" Santella

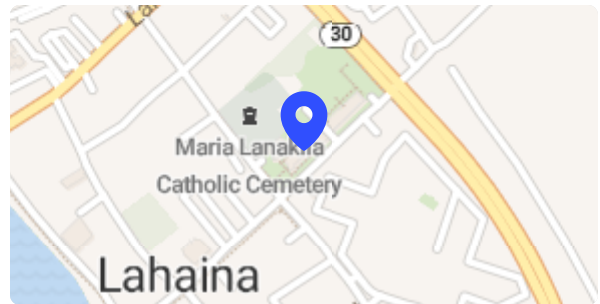
JAN 22, 1943 - JUN 22, 2025

### Viewing

**Monday**, August 25, 2025

5:00 PM - 8:00 PM HST

**Maria Lanakila Church**  
712 Wainee Street, Lahaina HI 96761

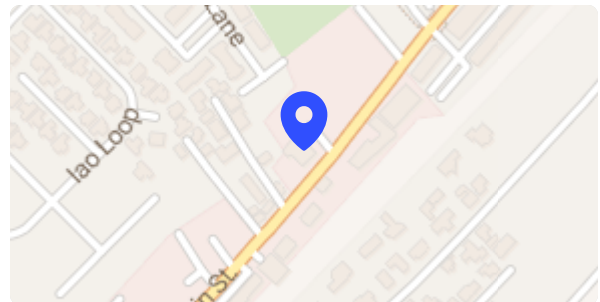


### Viewing & Funeral Service

**Tuesday**, August 26, 2025

9:30 AM - 12:00 PM HST

**Nakamura Mortuary and Crematory**  
1218 Lower Main Street, Wailuku HI 96793

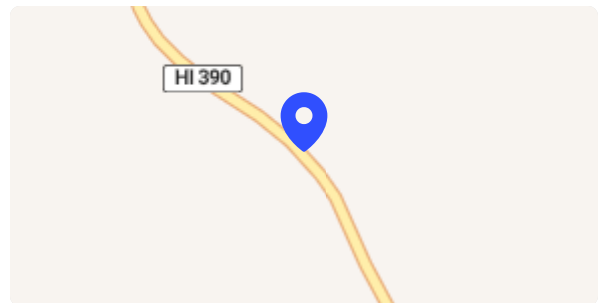


### Committal Service

**Tuesday**, August 26, 2025

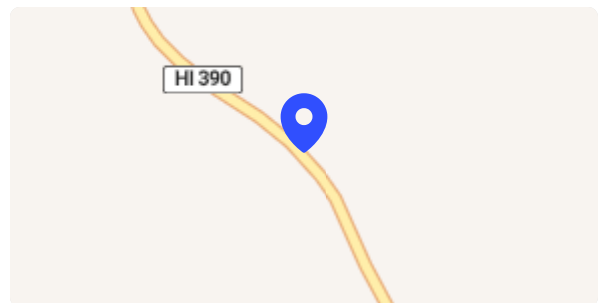
1:00 PM - 1:30 PM HST

**Maui Veteran's Cemetery**  
3361 Baldwin Avenue, Makawao HI 96768



### Cemetery Details

**Maui Veteran's Cemetery**  
3361 Baldwin Avenue, Makawao HI 96768





# Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Emiliano "Miling" or by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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