

08-20-2021 Norman V. Inferrera III – Lifeguard – Boat Accident

Cape May Rookie Lifeguard, A Chester County Teen, Dies From Injuries After Wave Flips Boat

<https://www.inquirer.com/news/cape-may-lifeguard-dies-norman-inferrera-20210821.html>

Aug 21, 2021 by Diane Mastrull1

Norman V. Inferrera III, 16, of Phoenixville, had been rowing a patrol boat in the ocean off Reading Avenue Beach when the craft was broadsided by a wave and flipped over. He was knocked unconscious.

A 16-year-old Cape May rookie lifeguard who was [critically injured](#) while performing a patrol in the ocean Thursday has died, the Jersey Shore town announced Saturday morning.



Cape May lifeguards paddle their surf boat against the waves last month. JOSE F. MORENO / Staff Photographer

Norman V. Inferrera III, 16, of Phoenixville, had been rowing a lifeguard boat in the ocean off Reading Avenue Beach when the craft was broadsided by a wave and flipped

over. Inferrera was knocked unconscious, according to the statement from City Manager Michael Voll.

Lifeguards responded immediately to help him, Voll said. Inferrera had to be resuscitated twice and was airlifted to Cooper University Hospital, according to a post on a GoFundMe page started by an aunt, Kathleen Inferrera Price of Deptford, to help with medical bills. She announced his death on that page Saturday morning.

"The Lord called my beautiful nephew Norman home last night. The family is overwhelmed with sorrow. The bright light in this tragedy is the support and prayers that have been pouring in. We send love and blessings to each and every one of you."

Donations to the page had surpassed \$85,000 by late Saturday morning.

In an interview Saturday, Voll said Cape May has never before lost a lifeguard to injuries sustained on duty.

"Even at such a young age, Norman was loved by his fellow Lifeguards," said Mayor Zachary Mullock in the town's statement.

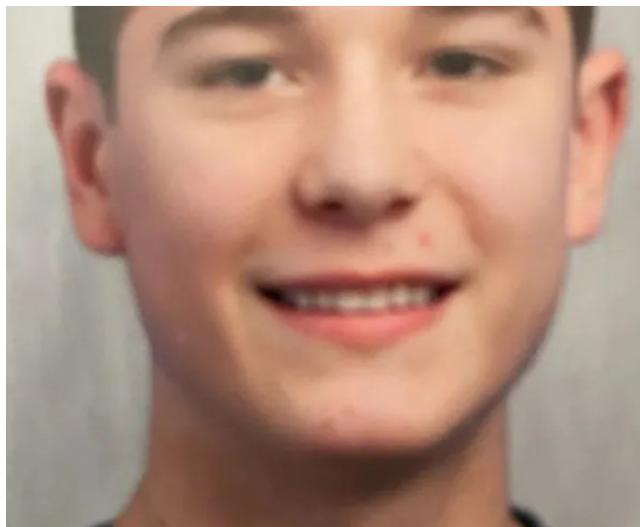
"No words can express the sadness suffered by all of our Beach Patrol family. Norman chose to protect others. He did so professionally and worked hard at it. That is an extraordinary attribute for anyone, especially at 16 years old."

Cape May Beach Patrol Chief Harry Back called Inferrera "a beloved member of our Beach Patrol family," recalling "a permanent smile" on the young man's face.

Voll urged community members in need of help processing Inferrera's tragic death to reach out.

"As we collectively grieve the passing of this bright light from our world, far too soon, we remind and encourage those needing an ear to listen or a shoulder to lean on to reach out to their support system and seek counseling," Voll said, adding that grief counselors have been provided to all beach patrol staff.

Lifeguards from other towns helped provide coverage as Cape May's grieved. The town has about 70 lifeguards, down to about 40 currently active as some have left to return to school, Voll said.



Norman V. Inferrera, 16, of Phoenixville, had just become a Cape May lifeguard earlier this summer. Kathleen Inferrera Price

Inferrera had just been hired this season after passing a "rigorous" test, the city manager said.

"He always wanted to be a lifeguard. This was his dream that came true," Voll said.

With [Hurricane Henri expected](#) to create dangerous rip currents along the Jersey Shore on Saturday and Sunday, Voll said Cape May's lifeguards, already reeling from Inferrera's death, "have their hands full physically and emotionally" this weekend.

16-Year-Old N.J. Lifeguard Who Died in Boating Accident Will Have Beach Renamed in His Honor

<https://people.com/human-interest/new-jersey-teen-lifeguard-has-beach-renamed-in-his-honor-after-fatal-boating-accident/>

August 25, 2021 By [Joelle Goldstein](#)

Norman V. Inferrera III was remembered as a "hard-working, bright, and lovable lifeguard" who kept the beaches safe

A New Jersey beach community is paying tribute to a 16-year-old lifeguard [who tragically died in a boating accident on the job](#) last week.

Norman V. Inferrera III was identified as the teen lifeguard who died after his boat capsized at Reading Avenue Beach on Thursday, city officials confirmed in a [press release](#) over the weekend.

Following the tragic incident, the Cape May Beach Patrol, whom Inferrera worked for, told his family that they were planning to rename the beach in the teen's honor, according to a [GoFundMe page](#) set up by Inferrera's aunt, Kathleen Inferrera Price.

"The family is deeply moved and became very emotional upon the news," Price wrote on the



Norman V. Inferrera III

CREDIT: CAPE MAY BEACH PATROL/INSTAGRAM

fundraiser. "The CMBP also made us aware that 100% of the medical bills will be covered through the city insurance."

Additionally, Price announced on the GoFundMe that the remaining funds would be used to establish a scholarship in Inferrera's memory. The scholarships will be issued on an annual basis to the Cape May Beach Patrol as well as Phoenixville Area High School in Pennsylvania, where Inferrera was a student, Price said.

"Champ would be so glad to know that he will be helping future college-bound students achieve their dreams and goals!" she wrote on the page. "I can clearly see his smile now."

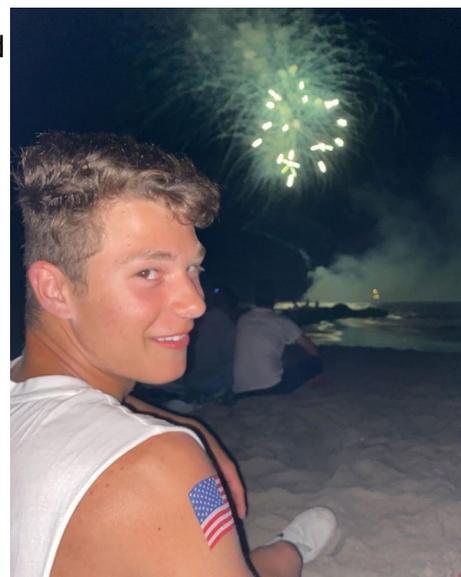
RELATED: 16-Year-Old New Jersey Lifeguard Dies After His Boat Capsized: 'Overwhelmed with Sorrow'

Price initially set up the GoFundMe page to assist Inferrera's family with medical bills after he was involved in the boating accident.

According to the fundraiser, the teen was conducting a routine lifeguard patrol to prevent swimmers from getting caught in the rough surf when his boat capsized.

As a result, Inferrera hit his head on the boat and was knocked unconscious, Price noted. He also suffered several other injuries from the incident, according to the fundraiser.

"He had to be resuscitated twice and airlifted to Cooper trauma unit," Price explained on the GoFundMe page. "His brain has suffered extensive and permanent damage. In addition, he suffered severe damage to one lung, damage to his liver, two broken collarbones, broken ribs and a very serious eye injury."



Norman V. Inferrera III
CREDIT: CAPE MAY BEACH
PATROL/INSTAGRAM

Despite being rushed to the hospital, Price heartbreakingly revealed on Friday that Inferrera had "no brain function at all" and his family had to say their last goodbyes. He died later that evening.

According to [The Philly Voice](#), it was Inferrera's first year working as a lifeguard for the beach patrol. During that time, the teen was involved in several rescues, including one for a 4-year-old child, Price noted on the GoFundMe page.

"He was loved by all in the lifeguard squad," Price wrote on the page.

The Cape May Beach Patrol echoed those sentiments in their [own tribute post on Instagram](#) Saturday.

"No words can describe the overwhelming grief we feel as a community," the patrol wrote alongside several photos of the teen. "Norman will forever be remembered by the Cape May Beach Patrol as the hard-working, bright, and lovable lifeguard that kept Hughes Beach safe."

"His presence on the patrol, as well as in all other parts of his life, will be irreplaceable," they continued. "Our thoughts and prayers go out especially to Norman's family. We can only thank them for raising someone as selfless and giving as Norman Inferrera. Rest in peace champ."

New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy also spoke out about the tragedy, [writing on Twitter](#): "Deeply saddened by the tragic passing of 16-year-old rookie lifeguard Norman Inferrera III this weekend. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family, his Cape May Beach Patrol colleagues, and the entire Cape May community."

"Norman was literally living his dream and being part of a team that keeps everyone safe," Murphy added on Monday, according to the Philly Voice.

Visiting hours are scheduled for Thursday evening with a funeral service and burial planned for Friday morning, according to the GoFundMe.

In lieu of flowers, the family is asking for memorial contributions made in Inferrera's name to The Cooper Foundation, supporting Cooper Medical Center, 3 Cooper Plaza, Suite 500, Camden, NJ 08103.

Funeral Honors 16-Year-Old Cape May Lifeguard, Norman Inferrera III, Who Died After On-Duty Accident

<https://philadelphia.cbslocal.com/2021/08/27/norman-inferrera-cape-may-teen-lifeguard-deadly-accident/>
August 27, 2021 By [Matt Petrillo](#)

WEST NORRITON, Pa. (CBS) – A funeral service Friday honored the life of [16-year-old Cape May lifeguard who died last week after a tragic on-duty incident](#). Family and friends came out to St. Teresa of Avila Church in West Norriton, not far from the beloved lifeguard grew up in Phoenixville, to remember Norman Inferrera III.

The Cape May Beach Patrol stood in formation outside the church as his casket was carried through. It was a somber moment for all who knew the lively teen.

"He was such an incredible kid. He wanted to become a lifeguard and he taught himself to row," Marty Franco with the Cape May Beach Patrol said.

Norman was just 16 years old when he passed. Officials say he was on the job last week, helping keep swimmers close to shore when his lifeguard patrol boat flipped over in Cape May.

He was knocked unconscious when he hit his head on the boat. Lifeguards tried to save him, but he was rushed to a nearby hospital and died the following night.

Friends and family tell CBS3 he was known as, "Champ."

Many in attendance remembered Norman for his love of health; some donned cutoff shirts in his honor.

"He was a big gym guy, loved the cutoffs so it was great that we all got them," coworker Rebecca Luft said.

Earlier this week, [Gov. Phil Murphy ordered that the U.S. and New Jersey flags be flown at half-staff](#) at all state buildings and facilities on Friday in honor of Norman.

"Let's take a moment to remember that our lifeguards take on a special responsibility. Norman was literally living his dream and being part of the team that keeps everyone safe," Murphy said..

Cape May will be also [honoring Inferrera by naming a beach after him.](#)

Obituary for Norman V. Inferrera III

<https://www.klotzbachfuneralhomes.com/obituaries/Norman-Inferrera/#!/Obituary>

Norman V. "Champ" Inferrera III, age 16, of Phoenixville, PA, passed away on Friday, August 20, 2021 in Cooper University Medical Center following a tragic accident while patrolling the shores of Cape May as a lifeguard. Born on October 24, 2004 in Phoenixville, PA, he was the son of Norman V. Jr. and Linda (Kelczewski) Inferrera of Phoenixville, PA.

Champ was set to begin his Junior year at the Phoenixville Area High School, where he excelled in his studies and had already begun receiving college offers. With a philosophical approach, he engaged in his classes and was an invested thinker and listener. He had aspirations of majoring in mechanical engineering, just as his father and grandfather had done.

Champ was living a life-long dream this summer by working as a lifeguard for the Cape May Beach Patrol. He tirelessly trained to better himself and build up his strength. He followed a strict workout regiment, ate a proper healthy diet, and measured his calories

to match his workout routines. He had a determined and disciplined spirit and constantly challenged himself to be the best he could possibly be. He enjoyed biking and fitness, and was learning to surf this summer.

In addition to his parents, Champ is survived by one sister, Melanie L. Inferrera of Phoenixville, PA; maternal grandfather, Edward J., husband of the late Elizabeth C. Kelczewski of Gilbertsville, PA; paternal grandmother, Judith A., wife of the late Norman V. Inferrera Sr. of Washington Township, NJ; Aunts and Uncles, Glen, husband of Leslie Kelczewski of Boyertown, PA, Kathleen Price of Deptford, NJ, Dominic Inferrera of New York, NY, and David, husband of Sara Inferrera of Toms River, NJ; cousins, Christopher, husband of Lindsey Price, Adam Inferrera and Austin Inferrera; and step-cousins, Makenzie and Jayden.

Relatives and friends are invited to attend his funeral mass at St. Teresa of Avila Church, 1260 South Trooper Road, Norristown, PA on Friday, August 27, 2021 at 11:00 am. Officiating will be Rev. J. Jerome Wild. Burial will be held privately following the mass. Friends will be received from 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm Thursday evening, August 26, 2021 at the Campbell-Ennis-Klotzbach Funeral Home, Inc., 610 South Main Street, Phoenixville, PA or on Friday morning at the Church from 8:30 am - 10:30 am. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in his name The Cooper Foundation, supporting Cooper Medical Center, 3 Cooper Plaza, Suite 500, Camden, NJ 08103, or to a charity of your choosing that you feel would honor Norman. Condolences may be made by visiting www.PhoenixvilleFuneralHome.com. Arrangements are being handled by the Campbell - Ennis - Klotzbach Funeral Home, Inc., Phoenixville, PA.