

PLANTAMURA-LATERZA

One of the short-timers in the Baychester neighborhood was the Plantamura family. **Bennie (Birgio) Plantamura** and his wife **Faye (Philomena) Laterza** lived for a few short years in early 1950s at **2200 Palmer Avenue**. As their family began to grow, they moved out of Baychester, eventually settling in Ocean County, New Jersey.

Bennie Plantamura was born on August 4, 1924 in New York City, New York, son of Italian immigrants **Michael and Margareta Plantamura**.¹ He grew up in The Bronx, and moved to Baychester upon marriage.

Bennie served in WW II on the SCB (Ship Characteristics Board), a unit of the United States Navy. The purpose of the Ship Characteristics Board was to coordinate the creation of 'ship characteristics' that are essential to the design of naval combatants and auxiliaries. Coordination was required because the operators and the designers of ships had different interests, perceptions, and concepts.²

His wife, **Philomena Laterza**, affectionately known as **Faye**, was born on May 21, 1928; parents not yet identified.³

They married around 1950 and had three daughters: **JoAnn, Mary, and Margherita**. Daughter Margherita Plantamura was born in 1953 in The Bronx, and died January 21, 2013 in Bayonne, Hudson County, New Jersey. Margherita is buried in Saint James Cemetery, Jamesberg, Middlesex, NJ.⁴ Daughter Mary Plantamura went on to marry Joseph Vena. No more information is known about daughter JoAnn Plantamura.

Faye Plantamura died on May 25, 1995.³ **Bennie Plantamura** died on May 6, 2002.⁵ Both are buried at Brigadier General William C. Doyle Memorial Cemetery, Arneytown, North Hanover Township, Burlington, New Jersey.

¹ "United States Census, 1930," database with images, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:X7D5-HWS> : accessed 28 August 2021), Bennie Plantamura in household of Mike Plantamura, Bronx (Districts 251-500), Bronx, New York, United States; citing enumeration district (ED) ED 342, sheet 18A, line 26, family 391, NARA microfilm publication T626 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 2002), roll 1474; FHL microfilm 2,341,209.

² https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ship_Characteristics_Board

³ FindaGrave Memorial #127374328

⁴ FindaGrave Memorial #126449610

⁵ FindaGrave Memorial #127374327