

AREA DEATHS

Anthony S.A.'s godfather of rock

Joseph Yannuzzi, known as Joe Anthony, San Antonio's "Godfather of rock 'n' roll," died Saturday in a local hospital from lung cancer.

Anthony, 55, worked in the music business for more than 35 years and influenced not only his listeners, but also was instrumental in rocketing the bands whose music he played on his radio shows to stardom.

"Many people have felt the impact of that man because of what he's done for the community and for the entertainment industry," said Scott Daly, vice president of Imagine Entertainment.

Daly said Anthony helped bring acts to San Antonio that would not have otherwise been here.

He has been responsible for bringing groups such as Rush, Triumph, Judas Priest, Legs Diamond and the Scorpions to the attention of San Antonio listeners.

Anthony worked at KISS-FM at a time when disc jockeys could play the music they wanted, said former co-worker Mark Carrillo, now the midday air personality at KCYY.

"His knowledge of music and taking chances on his radio show got him the following he had," Carrillo said.

Took risks with music

Anthony played music no other city had a chance to hear, Carrillo said.

"Joe Anthony is someone who stuck his neck out for the entertainment industry many years ago like no one else," Daly said.

Anthony became enchanted with music at an early age.

As a youth, he was a member of the Central High School Marching Band. But he became disinterested in performing and turned to radio.

Anthony started his broadcast career at a small radio station in San Marcos and worked at similar-size stations in Cuero and Uvalde before he joined KMAC, the now defunct AM sister station to KISS.

Anthony left the broadcasting business in 1966 because he did not like the sound of soul.

He returned in 1968 when new groups like Steppenwolf and Blood Rock made their way into the music scene.

"Joe was one person you could single out who personi-



Joe Anthony promoted groups such as Rush and Triumph.

fied rock 'n' roll in this town," said John Lisle, the KISS morning show personality.

Anthony also worked in the restaurant business for 25 years.

He had two restaurants during that time, Mr. Pizza and Villa Italia. Anthony had to close Villa Italia because of his health, said his sister-in-law, Oma Lee Yannuzzi.

Diagnosed months ago

He was diagnosed with lung cancer five or six months ago, she said.

"He didn't tell us until the very end," she said.

Most recently Anthony worked at KSAQ, 96 Rock, doing the 7 p.m. to midnight shift. He had been there for about a year and a half.

The station is doing a week-end-long tribute to Anthony by playing the music he introduced to San Antonio.

"I'm lucky to get this chance to do the last show like Joe would have liked to do," said Malcolm Ryker, assistant program director.

Anthony is survived by his mother, Georgina Yannuzzi, and brothers Fred Yannuzzi and Frank J. Yannuzzi, all of San Antonio.

A rosary will be recited at 7 p.m. on Monday at Alamo Funeral Home. A Mass will be celebrated at 9 a.m. Tuesday at St. Patrick's Catholic Church. Burial will be in Sunset Memorial Park.

YANNUZZI



JOSEPH (JOE ANTHONY)

YANNUZZI,

born in San

Antonio October 9, 1936, entered rest September 12, 1992 at the age of 55 years. Survived by mother, Georgina Yannuzzi; brother and sisters-in-law, Fred and Laura Yannuzzi and Frank J. and Oma Lee Yannuzzi; 4 nephews, 1 niece; cousin, Francisco Flores of Hermosillo, Sonora, Mexico and numerous other cousins. Mr. Yannuzzi was preceded in death by his father, Frank F. Yannuzzi. Joe Anthony was in broadcasting for over 35 years working at KMAC, KISS, KEXL and at KSAQ 96 Rock. He also worked in the restaurant business for 25 years at Mr. Pizza and Villa Italia. Rosary will be recited on Monday at 7:00 P.M. at Alamo Funeral Home. Mass will be celebrated on Tuesday at 9:00 A.M. at St. Patrick's Catholic Church with Interment to follow in Sunset Memorial Park.

The Alamo

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