



## Bernard A. Lopez

August 20, 1951 - July 14, 2024

With a heavy heart, I share the passing of my beloved father, Bernard Lopez, who left us on July 14, 2024. Born in 1951 and raised in the Bronx, Dad's life was a testament to dedication, love, and the profound impact one person can have on their community.

Dad's journey as an educator began with the inspiration he drew from his high school teachers. He devoted his life to teaching Spanish and Italian at Monsignor Farrell High School, McKee High School, and Taft High School. His passion for education extended beyond the classroom; in the evenings, he dedicated his time to helping first-generation adults in Staten Island earn their GEDs, offering them a chance for a brighter future.

His commitment to education and his community saw him rise through the ranks to become a school administrator, eventually overseeing over 150 schools in Queens as a district administrator. His leadership and vision were instrumental in shaping the educational landscape for countless students and teachers.

Dad's contributions to education were not confined to local schools. For over 15 years, he served as the president of the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese (AATSP), championing the importance of language education and cultural understanding on a national level.

Despite his many professional accomplishments, Dad's greatest joy was his family. He met the love of his life, my mother Silvia, when they were just 10 years old and reconnected 10 years later. They celebrated 50 beautiful years of marriage recently. Together, they built a life filled with love, laughter, and cherished memories.

In 1976, Dad moved our family to Staten Island, where he continued to shape the lives of those around him, both as an educator and a neighbor. He was a loving father to me, Bernard Lopez, and a proud grandfather to my daughters, Anarose and Holly. His wisdom, kindness, and unwavering support will be dearly missed by us all.

Bernard leaves behind his wife of 50 years Silvia, son Bernard Lopez (spouse Jennifer), granddaughters Anarose and Holly. Brother in law Jose Aguirre (Silvia) and loving nieces and nephews Cynthia (Mark), Lilliana (Carlos), Louis (Leida), and Eva.

His legacy of love, education, and community service will continue to inspire all who knew him.

Rest in peace, Dad. Your life was a blessing, and your memory will be cherished forever.

With all our love.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be at 9:45 a.m. on Friday, July 19, 2024 at St. Clare Church located at 110 Nelson Ave Staten Island, New York 10308. Interment to follow at St. Gertrude's Cemetery in Colonia, New Jersey.

The family will receive friends from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. to

8:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 18, 2024, at John Vincent Scalia Home for Funerals, Inc., 28 Eltingville Blvd, Staten Island, New York.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUL 18. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

John Vincent Scalia Home for Funerals, Inc.  
28 Eltingville Blvd  
Staten Island, NY 10312

## Visitation

JUL 18. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

John Vincent Scalia Home for Funerals, Inc.  
28 Eltingville Blvd  
Staten Island, NY 10312

## Service

JUL 19. 9:45 AM - 10:45 AM (ET)

St. Clare Church  
110 Nelson Ave  
Staten Island, NY 10308

# Tribute Wall



“ *John Vincent Scalia Home for Funerals Inc. created a Tribute Video in memory of Bernard A. Lopez*



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**John Vincent Scalia Home for Funerals Inc.** - July 17, 2024 at 08:04 PM

TG

*Rest in peace Bernie. I will always treasure our friendship.  
Terri*

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**Terri Grimaldi** - July 18, 2024 at 11:42 AM

RP

*Dear Bernard- Thank you for your advocacy and leadership in second language instruction. Your work will always be appreciated and remembered by your students, fellow teachers and administrators. You set an amazing example for your fellow teachers who will continue to thrive as educators because of all you taught them.*

*Thank you for your dedication and advocacy to make our NYC high schools safe, secure and successful teaching and learning environments. I appreciated our work in this area.*

*Riposi in Pace, carissimo amico!*

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**Rose Marie De Pinto** - July 18, 2024 at 03:39 PM

GS

“ just saw this notice. very sorry to hear this news. in a world full of questionable people Bernard was a good guy. I went to mount and Iona and Bernard was always a happy person. I hope your family keeps some great memories. the world and his family lost a good person.

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**george a szarmach** - August 08, 2024 at 01:32 PM

AS

“ We were so sorry to hear about Bernie. Arlene worked with Bernie in McKee. We were friends for many years. He was such a gentleman with a very kind heart. After he left McKee we ran into him at different functions. Please accept our condolences. Arlene and Leon Selman

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**Arlene & Leon Selman** - July 21, 2024 at 12:10 PM

RM

“ Mr. Bernard Lopez was a wonderful person and always there at 121 PCT to champion community issues. We are going to miss his great presence at the 121 PCT Community Council meeting. The Staten Island community lost a great person and a community leader. May his blessed soul rest in peace and deepest condolences to his family and friend. RM

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**R Mohan** - July 18, 2024 at 11:51 PM

DM

“ Bernie - thanks for 54 yrs of beautiful memories. QEPD

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**dora Manzo** - July 18, 2024 at 10:42 PM

CK

“ I have met Bernie through the AATSP (American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese) and have felt a deep admiration for his great work and his willingness to always collaborate with everyone around him, especially since I had the chance to get to know him in the Annual Conference in Puerto Rico two years ago. On that occasion, he was awarded the 2022 Chapter of the Year Award for his amazing work at the New York Metropolitan Chapter, where he served as President. I am certain he left a legacy to all of us in the AATSP through his amazing, and passionate work and he will always be remembered. Here is a photo of him receiving the 2022 Chapter of the Year Award in Puerto Rico. He gave such a wonderful, and inspiring speech! My sincere condolences to his family. God bless his soul and grant his family peace.



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**Claudia Kechkian** - July 18, 2024 at 03:59 PM

TE

“ Teri lit a candle in memory of Bernard A. Lopez



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**Teri** - July 18, 2024 at 03:53 PM

JG

“ Josephine G. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Bernard A. Lopez.

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**Josephine G.** - July 18, 2024 at 03:49 PM

MG

“ Dear Bernie, you will be missed so much. A wonderful person, leader, and friend.



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**Maria Cristina Gonzalez** - July 18, 2024 at 03:15 PM

AC

“ Amparo C. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Bernard A. Lopez.

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**Amparo C.** - July 18, 2024 at 10:13 AM

EL

“ Eva anel L. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Bernard A. Lopez.

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**Eva anel L.** - July 18, 2024 at 08:01 AM

IF

“ Indhira & Family purchased the Sweet Sincerity for the family of Bernard A. Lopez.




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**Indhira & Family** - July 18, 2024 at 12:58 AM

YM

“ *Bernie Lopez, our fearless leader, will be missed. He had an indomitable spirit. He was a champion of those learning a second language and a steady supporter of the cause. In many ways he was the heart and soul of the AATSP Metro chapter of NY. An irreplaceable mentor and leader, he was loved by many and gave 110 % to all he did. May he rest in Peace. My best regards to Silvia and the rest of the family. Siempre lo recordaré con mucho cariño Dios lo guarde en su Gloria. QEPD! .*



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**Yvette March** - July 17, 2024 at 09:06 PM

DV

“ *I have known Bernie for many years. It was always so nice to see his welcoming and warm smile whenever I saw him at an AATSP event or a NYCAFLT event. His work and contributions were paramount in the pursuit of world language study. He always answered me if I sent an email with whatever inquiry. His loss is tragic and too soon. I will miss you Bernie, Mr. AATSP. Going to a conference and not seeing you there will leave a tremendous void. My sincere condolences to his family.*

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**Dora Villani** - July 17, 2024 at 07:18 PM

AM

“ *Ana M. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Bernard A. Lopez.*

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**Ana M.** - July 17, 2024 at 07:00 PM

GE

“ Even though I never had the pleasure to meet him in person, we spoke several times on the phone. I am a member of the AATSP, and Bernie was always there for me/us.  
I remember our first conversation. He sounded excited and curious about my background. His unique voice always transmitted good energy.  
I can't believe he is gone.  
You will be missed, Bernie.  
¡Vuela alto, colega!

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**Gemma** - July 17, 2024 at 06:30 PM

SC

“ I am deeply saddened by the loss of our wonderful leader and friend. Bernie was an inspiration to all of us in the NY Metro Chapter of the AATSP. His constant presence and frequent emails provided us with continuity and a great sense of community. I feel blessed to have known him and will miss him very much. I send my deepest condolences to Bernie's family and friends. May fond memories help lessen the pain of his loss. ¡Que en paz descanses, amigo!



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**Susan Carnochan** - July 17, 2024 at 05:53 PM



“ Ringed by Love was purchased for the family of Bernard A. Lopez.



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July 17, 2024 at 05:23 PM

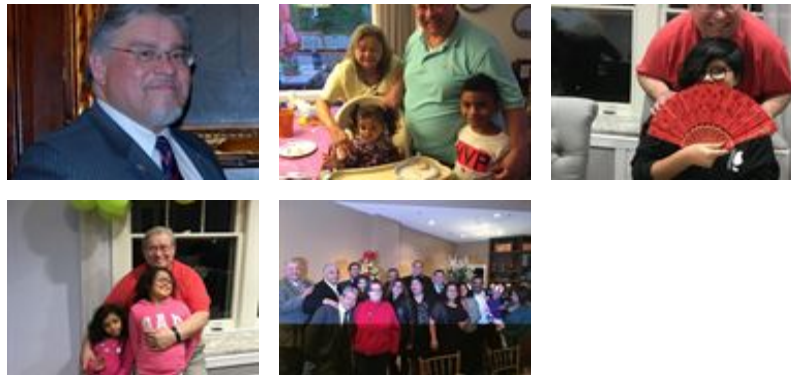
RG

“ Rosanny G. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Bernard A. Lopez.

Rosanny G. - July 17, 2024 at 04:52 PM



“ 149 files added to the album LifeTributes



John Vincent Scalia Home for Funerals Inc. - July 17, 2024 at 03:58 PM

EW

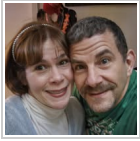
“ I met Bernie at the Port Richmond Strong meetings I regularly attend. Bernie was very knowledgeable and always asked the questions that were on everyone's mind. He continued to question the presenters until he was satisfied with their response. He was also present at the 121 Pct meetings and protest rallies.. We eventually started to have conversations and I learned and he shared a lot about himself. He was a very proud man. I'm going to miss him. I'm going to Miss Bernie.  
My deepest condolences to the family

Everett Wattleby - July 17, 2024 at 03:25 PM

LL

“ I met Bernie many years ago as a member of AATSP. He was always welcoming. He made you feel as if you were part of the family. He kept us informed with what was happening in the Spanish/Portuguese speaking world of education. He will be greatly missed. My deepest heartfelt condolences to his family and friends.

Larry Ling - July 17, 2024 at 02:10 PM



“ It was an honour working beside Bernie on the Board at New World Prep. He was selfless and always concerned about finding ways to make our community better. He will be missed.

Pete Weinman - July 17, 2024 at 01:55 PM

TF

“ The Aguirre Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Bernard A. Lopez.

The Aguirre Family - July 17, 2024 at 01:42 PM



“ Rainbow Of Remembrance Spray was purchased for the family of Bernard A. Lopez.



July 17, 2024 at 01:42 PM

CA

“ I was a student of Mr. Lopez at McKee HS he knew my potential and wouldn't let me give up. What a blessing to have someone like him believe in me. My sincerest sympathies & condolences to his family.

Christine A. - July 17, 2024 at 01:04 PM

DL

“ Danny Capurso (New York Life) purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Bernard A. Lopez.



Danny Capurso (New York Life) - July 17, 2024 at 11:49 AM

DL

“ Danny Capurso (New York Life) planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Bernard A. Lopez.

Danny Capurso (New York Life) - July 17, 2024 at 11:49 AM



“ Ocean Breeze Spray was purchased for the family of Bernard A. Lopez.



July 17, 2024 at 11:04 AM

CR

“ With a heavy heart I express my sincere condolences to Bernie's family. Truly a great educator, leader, and friend to all. He will be missed! A tree will be planted in his memory.  
Cindy Randina

Cindy Randina - July 17, 2024 at 07:43 AM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Bernard A. Lopez.



July 16, 2024 at 10:58 PM

ML

“ Marina Lopez planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Bernard A. Lopez.

Marina Lopez - July 16, 2024 at 09:40 PM

ML

“ Marina Lopez purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Bernard A. Lopez.



Marina Lopez - July 16, 2024 at 09:40 PM

AA

“ When I was a young high school teacher in the 80s, Bernie was my first role model of a sincere and dedicated educator with heart. It was at my first AATSP Metropolitan NY Gala in 1980 when I saw him as a born leader. He was in charge of being the emcee of the Tombola event. He had a presence, a sense of humor, and a genuine love in what he did. These are the qualities that endured and made him an accomplished educator, administrator, and most importantly, a wonderful human being. These qualities were emulated by me throughout my blessed career and I’m certain many others were influenced by him as well.  
Bernie, thank you for being a friend and colleague since 1980. You will be always be in my heart.  
Sincere condolences to the Lopez family.  
Adriana Macera Aloia and Guy Aloia

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**Adriana Macera Aloia** - July 16, 2024 at 07:36 PM

AD

“ AATSP NY Board of Directors purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Bernard A. Lopez.



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**AATSP NY Board of Directors** - July 16, 2024 at 07:26 PM

AD

“ AATSP NY Board of Directors planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Bernard A. Lopez.

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**AATSP NY Board of Directors** - July 16, 2024 at 07:26 PM