



Daniel Ayala, Jr.

July 4, 1967 - January 19, 2026

Obituary for Daniel Ayala Jr.

Daniel Ayala Jr., a beloved husband, father, brother, and friend, passed away peacefully on January 19, 2026, at the Clove Lake Rehabilitation Center. He was born on July 4, 1967, in Staten Island, New York, and lived a life filled with dedication, love, and laughter. Daniel was 58 years old at the time of his passing.

Daniel was the devoted son of Daniel Sr. and the late Diana (Fontanez) Ayala. He is survived by his beloved wife, Vincenza (nee Cassata), with whom he shared a beautiful marriage for 25 years. Together, Daniel and Vincenza raised two wonderful children, Matthew and Daniella, who were the pride and joy of his life. He was also a cherished brother to Darlene Cruz, who held a special place in his heart.

A proud veteran, Daniel served in the United States Marine Corps from 1986 to 1988, where he earned the rank of Lance Corporal. His military service instilled in him a great work ethic and a sense of duty that he carried into his later career as a police officer with the New York City Police Department (NYPD). Daniel dedicated his life to serving and protecting others, exemplifying the very best of public service.

Daniel was not only known for his commitment to his work but also for the immense love he had for his family. He was a family man through and through, often expressing how incredibly proud he was of his wife and children. He cherished every moment spent with them, creating a legacy of love and warmth that will carry on through their lives.

In addition to his family, Daniel had a variety of interests that brought him joy. He was an avid football fan, a passionate reader, and enjoyed hunting and visiting the shooting range. His love for storytelling made him the life of every gathering, always keeping everyone entertained with his humor and anecdotes. Friends and family alike will remember him for his ability to make them laugh and for his larger-than-life personality.

Daniel's life was characterized by pride, resilience, and a remarkable ability to connect with those around him. His legacy will live on in the hearts of those who were fortunate enough to know him. He was a man who wore many hats- an incredible husband, a devoted father, a proud Marine, and a dedicated police officer.

As we bid farewell to Daniel Ayala Jr., let us remember him for his unwavering dedication to his family, his commitment to service, and the laughter he brought into our lives. He may have left this world, but his spirit will forever remain in our hearts.

Family and friends are asked to gather Thursday at the John Vincent Scalia Home For Funerals & Cremation Services 28 Eltingville Blvd.. from 2-4 & 7-9 p.m.

A funeral service to honor Daniel's life will be held on January 23, 2026, Friends and family are invited to come together to celebrate the remarkable life of a man who touched so many lives.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be offered on Friday 10:45 a.m. at Our Lady

Star of The Sea Church 5311 Amboy Road. Committal services will be private.

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 22. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

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

Visitation

JAN 22. 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM (ET)

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

Service

JAN 23. 10:45 AM (ET)

Our Lady Star Of The Sea Church
5411 Amboy Rd
Staten Island, NY 10312

Tribute Wall

RT

“ Danny worked with us in the security department. He actually sat next to me, in the security administrative office with 2 other women. He was patient with our 'girl talk' and extremely protective. We never had to worry when he was with us. He had a great laugh, great stories and we will never forget the funny things that would come out of his mouth. He was a dedicated husband and father and was very proud of his children. They were his life. We will miss you Danny.
Love Rita

Rita Tattos - January 22 at 05:11 PM

MI

“ Danny, Darlene and I were buddy's when we were younger. we walked to school together. Diana would pick us up in the afternoon and we got to enjoy our church life together as well as barbecue's and walk in Fox Pond.
Danny boy had a tender heart and he was protective of me and Darlene. I often got to spend nights in Diana and Danny's house and remember that we ate very well and we were loved. I have a picture of all the cousins when we were little and would love to give out copies to all the cousins who would want a copy.

Thank you Danny Boy for your love and grace towards me and your lovely care of your family. Kuddos to you! Honor to you in Jesus name

Myrna Lou Rivera Inacio - January 22 at 11:02 AM

MS

How sweet and true .. I say he was a “Good boy” that’s how I remember him

Myrna Stovel - January 22 at 04:00 PM



“ *My brother. My lifelong friend. I have no words to express how much you mean to me. You were the best damn brother. Until we meet again. I'll love you forever!* ”

Darlene Cruz - January 22 at 10:43 AM

MF

“ *Michael Matos family purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Daniel Ayala, Jr..* ”



Michael Matos family - January 22 at 07:08 AM

JY

“ *Jenn, Stef, Rob, Dino, yochonon & Yoel purchased the Dreams From the Heart Bouquet for the family of Daniel Ayala, Jr..* ”



Jenn, Stef, Rob, Dino, yochonon & Yoel - January 21 at 10:33 AM

JD

“ *For a few years out of my career that I worked with Danny , I actually look forward coming to work. Rest in peace partner.* ”

Jeffrey Desio - January 20 at 07:51 PM

BV

“ I had the pleasure of working with Danny in the double Deuce-a great guy with a big personality. He will be missed.

Bob V. - January 20 at 07:45 PM



“ Worked with him in 122. Such a sweet guy. Rest in peace.

Laura Cott - January 20 at 04:56 PM

BS

“ He was a great guy, and it was a pleasure working with him in NYPD

Barbara SanRoman - January 20 at 02:33 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Daniel Ayala, Jr..



January 20 at 01:43 PM

AF

“ Aunt Myrna and family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Daniel Ayala, Jr..

Aunt Myrna and family - January 20 at 01:43 PM

JE

“ *It was an honor to have known him. We worked together at the Hospital and loved hearing all his stories. So sorry for your loss. He will always be remembered for his great big personality. We had so many laughs. May he rest in heavenly peace.*

jennifer epstein - January 20 at 11:31 AM

IS

“ *It was my honor to serve alongside Danny in the 122nd Precinct. A gentleman, and a friend I was proud to know.*

Semper Fi, Danny.

Ian Sinclair - January 20 at 11:26 AM