



## Donald J. Ferrara

May 31, 1935 - July 31, 2022

Donald (Diego) Joseph Ferrara of Freehold, New Jersey, formerly of Staten Island, New York, passed away peacefully surrounded by his loving children on Sunday, July 31, 2022, at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in New Brunswick, New Jersey.

Born on May 31, 1935, in Staten Island, New York, he was the son of the late Anthony and Beatrice Ferrara and the brother of the late Josephine Graboski.

Donald served in the Navy and was a retired safety officer at the Institute for Basic Research in Developmental Disabilities. Donald comes from a long line of talented individuals and he himself was a man of many talents. Although many knew him to be a singer, in his younger years he spent much of his time with his horse, Apache, along with his buddies in their Abilene Posse in many horse shows.

As a talented artist, he designed carpets which found him in the Manhattan homes of some famous people including the wife of the late Jackie Gleason, one of his very favorites of all time. This just scratches the surface when describing this incredible man.

Donald is survived by his loving daughter, Rosemary, his devoted son, Anthony, and his precious grandchildren, Nicole, Philip, Anthony, Lauren, and

his beautiful great-grandson, Calvin; each of whom he often referred to as the GREATEST.

The family will receive friends from 2:00 - 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. on Sunday, August 7, 2022, at the John Vincent Scalia Home for Funerals, Inc., 28 Eltingville Blvd, Staten Island, New York.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be at 11:00 a.m. on Monday, August 8, 2022 at St. Clare Church located at 110 Nelson Ave Staten Island, New York 10308. Interment will follow in Moravian Cemetery, Staten Island, NY.

# Cemetery Details

## Moravian Cemetery

2205 Richmond Road  
Staten Island, NY 10306

# Previous Events

## Visitation

AUG 7. 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

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

## Visitation

AUG 7. 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM (ET)

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

## Service

AUG 8. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

St Clare Church  
110 Nelson Ave  
Staten Island, NY 10308



# Tribute Wall



“ *Donald J. Ferrara*

October 04, 2023 at 06:13 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Donald J. Ferrara.*



August 05, 2022 at 09:56 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Donald J. Ferrara.*



August 05, 2022 at 10:51 AM



“ *My name is Donna Ferrara DiDonato. My dad was Big Donald Ferrara. I am unable to attend your viewing as I live in SC. May Donald Rest In Peace and God Bless him.*

**Donna Ferrara DiDonato** - August 02, 2022 at 05:08 PM

TF

“ *The Fidler and Graboski families purchased the Basket of Memories for the family of Donald J. Ferrara.*



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**The Fidler and Graboski families** - August 02, 2022 at 03:50 PM

SG

“ *So sorry to hear of the passing of our beloved “Uncle Don.” He was always upbeat and fun to be around, particularly because of his great sense of humor. And such a talented singer! He sang at our wedding and literally stole the show! (See attached photo) He will be very missed.*



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**Stanley Graboski** - August 02, 2022 at 02:17 PM

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“ *Our family remembers “Uncle Donald” ,mom’s brother,as loving,easy going,and especially a wonderful singer.He joined the musicians at Josephine and Stanley’s 50 th anniversary (a surprise !)and brought the house down!That was a very special memory for myself and my children.Our love to the Ferrara family .*

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**karen (graboski)fidler** - August 02, 2022 at 01:59 PM