



## Hon. Robert J. Gigante

April 3, 1948 - October 11, 2023

Hon. Robert J. Gigante, 75 passed away on Wednesday, October 11, 2023 surrounded by his loving family.

Born in 1948, Surrogate Gigante graduated from the University of Dayton, Ohio, and earned his juris doctorate from Ohio Northern University College of Law. He was admitted to the Bar in the states of New York and Florida, having worked for the Legal Aid Society before practicing private law.

Robert was active in the Democratic County Committee, Surrogate Gigante served as its Law Chairman from 1978 to 1980, and from 1981 to 1990. In May 1990, he was elected the County Chairman of the Richmond County Democratic Committee, making him the youngest county leader in the state. Shortly after he was elected a member of the New York State Executive Board. Robert was elected a Clinton delegate for the Democratic National Convention from 1992 and 1996 Democratic National Convention.

In November 1999, Surrogate Gigante was elected a New York State Supreme Court justice from the 2nd Department, comprising Brooklyn and Staten Island. He began serving a 14-year term in January 2000, and sat in Kings and Richmond Supreme Court.

In November 2007, he was elected the Surrogate of Richmond County with

the endorsement of all political parties. In November 2009, Gigante was appointed to the administrative board for the Office of Public Administrators. In May 2015, he was elected for a two-year term as president of the Surrogate's Association of the State of New York.

For nearly two decades at Christmas, Bob was the head of the annual Teddy Bear Drive, a brainchild of Gigante, where he collected more than 1,000 stuffed toys to be delivered to hospitals and organizations across Staten Island and in Manhattan as a way to help brighten the holidays for children with cancer.

Robert is survived by his devoted wife of 54 years, Barbara. Loving father to Robert A. Gigante, Giana Elise Gigante Pedersen (Jorden), Chad Joseph Gigante (Lacey) and Christian Tyler Gigante. Cherished grandfather to Charley June Gigante, Alessia Gigante Pedersen, Jaxon Joseph Gigante and Arabella Gigante Pedersen.

The family will receive friends from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. on Sunday, October 15, 2023, at John Vincent Scalia Home for Funerals, Inc., 28 Eltingville Blvd, Staten Island, New York.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 12:00 p.m. on Monday, October 16, 2023 at St. Ann's Church located at 101 Cromwell Ave Staten Island, New York 10304. Interment will be in Moravian Cemetery, Staten Island, NY.

At the family's request in lieu of flowers donation in Roberts name to Meals on Wheels or Atlas Foundation

# Cemetery Details

## Moravian Cemetery

2205 Richmond Road  
Staten Island, NY 10306

# Previous Events

## Visitation

OCT 15. 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

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

## Visitation

OCT 15. 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM (ET)

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

## Service

OCT 16. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (ET)

St Ann's Church  
101 Cromwell Ave  
Staten Island, NY 10304



# Tribute Wall



“ *John Vincent Scalia Home for Funerals Inc. created a Webcast in memory of Hon. Robert J. Gigante*



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**John Vincent Scalia Home for Funerals Inc.** - October 14, 2023 at 10:23 AM

JM

*With deepest sympathy to the entire family. Bob was a wonderful man. May he rest in peace  
Sincerely, June McCarthy*

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**June Mccarthy** - October 15, 2023 at 07:28 PM

JM

*My late husband Al Murasso loved Bob. He was wise and knew him in our Staten Island community. We remember when he and his young wife Barbara came tonStaten Island. I was shocked to learn he passed. I have been out of S.I. for over 20 years. Please accept my deepest condolences to all his family.  
Fondly , Joanne Murasso  
230 South Ave. Fanwood, N. J.*

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**Joanne Murasso** - October 20, 2023 at 08:50 PM

AG

“ Bob was my freshman roommate at the University of Dayton. I realized that he was destined to do good things, important things, life changing things for all whom he came into contact. As a young man he exhibited an optimism and maturity far beyond his years. He always gave me good advice which to my regret I seldom followed. He sought excellence for himself and worked diligently to realize it. I am saddened by his passing but I am sure that his good works will live on. I wish I could have been more like him. Goodbye my old friend. Andy

andy gardlla - March 15, 2024 at 01:25 PM

VV

“ Man with a heart of Gold. God bless him and his family.

Vincent P Valerio - October 16, 2023 at 12:17 PM

BP

“ In loving memory of the Honorable Robert Gigante...a generous and loving friend.  
The Panepinto Family

Barbara Panepinto - October 15, 2023 at 06:57 PM

WB

“ With Love Vincent & Irene Benfatti purchased the Ghirardelli Galore Gift Tin for the family of Hon. Robert J. Gigante.



With Love Vincent & Irene Benfatti - October 15, 2023 at 01:03 PM

WB

“ With Love Vincent & Irene Benfatti planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Hon. Robert J. Gigante.

With Love Vincent & Irene Benfatti - October 15, 2023 at 01:03 PM

TA

“ Thomas and Joan Anselmo purchased the America the Beautiful for the family of Hon. Robert J. Gigante.



Thomas and Joan Anselmo - October 15, 2023 at 01:03 PM

TA

“ Thomas and Joan Anselmo planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Hon. Robert J. Gigante.

Thomas and Joan Anselmo - October 15, 2023 at 01:03 PM

VB

“ I have many fond memories of Robert during our youth at Nonno Luigi Benfatti's house . We would meet in Hawthorne, N.J. Although we became busy with our careers & family, Robert and his family always had a place in our hearts. May his "Memory Be Eternal". We are so proud of our New York relatives. With Love , Irene and Vincent Benfatti

Vincent Raymond Benfatti - October 15, 2023 at 12:48 PM

LS

“ Lucille S. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Hon. Robert J. Gigante.

Lucille S. - October 15, 2023 at 11:44 AM

PF

“ I appeared many times before Surrogate Gigante. He was a patient and polite Judge who allowed the attorneys whatever time they needed to make their point. We have lost a good man. Paul S. Forster, Esq.

Paul S. Forster - October 14, 2023 at 06:32 PM

VG

“ I will never forget and will always appreciate how welcoming Bob Gigante was to me when I first showed up from Brooklyn and ran for a SI-Bklyn seat in the NYS Senate. It was 1996 and Bob was our County Chairman in SI and he helped me run a great and successful campaign. I so appreciate and remember how we worked together that I still have up on my wall a photo of Bob Gigante jubilantly raising my hand in victory on election night! We hadn't worked together in some time but his memory will remain with me forever.

Vincent Gentile - October 14, 2023 at 04:53 PM

LC

“ Love, Rottermans, Rameys and Caldwell's purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Hon. Robert J. Gigante.



Love, Rottermans, Rameys and Caldwell's - October 14, 2023 at 01:28 PM

JC

“ Josephine C. planted a grove of 5 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Hon. Robert J. Gigante.

Josephine C. - October 14, 2023 at 11:20 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Hon. Robert J. Gigante.



October 14, 2023 at 10:18 AM

AB

“ Anna Bondi sent a virtual gift in memory of Hon. Robert J. Gigante



Anna Bondi - October 14, 2023 at 06:27 AM

AB

*My sincere condolences to the Gigante family!*

Anna Bondi - October 14, 2023 at 06:28 AM

AB

*It's been a pleasure and honor to know the Gigante family?*

Anna Bondi - October 14, 2023 at 06:33 AM

AB

*Thank you for the live webcast. I appreciated being part of the service from Florida.*

Anna Bondi - October 16, 2023 at 01:12 PM



“ *Enduring Grace was purchased for the family of Hon. Robert J. Gigante.*



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October 13, 2023 at 07:00 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Hon. Robert J. Gigante.*



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October 13, 2023 at 05:54 PM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Hon. Robert J. Gigante.*

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October 13, 2023 at 05:54 PM



“ *Judge G was simply the best. A true gentlemen, family man and a friend to many of us. Honored to have been in his company. My sincere condolences to your family. (Jim Tierney)*

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**James Tierney** - October 13, 2023 at 02:16 PM



“ *Lily and Rose Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Hon. Robert J. Gigante.*



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October 13, 2023 at 12:50 PM



“ *Red Stone Equity Partners purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Hon. Robert J. Gigante.*



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**Red Stone Equity Partners** - October 13, 2023 at 12:11 PM



“ *Red Stone Equity Partners planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Hon. Robert J. Gigante.*

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**Red Stone Equity Partners** - October 13, 2023 at 12:11 PM

SS

“ I was fortunate to live in the neighborhood with Judge Gigante. When I was sixteen I volunteered along with my mother, to make phone calls for Judge Gigantes campaign. Forty two years later my son became a summer intern for Judge Gigante and helped my son with his questions navigating law school. He was always willing to help and give his well respected advice. He never forgot and upon meeting him in a restaurant a few years later asked about my son and was sincerely happy to hear he became a lawyer. My prayers to the Gigante family. We will all miss him. Gods blessings Susan and John Sottile

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**susan sottile** - October 13, 2023 at 12:04 PM

AM

“ Ann M. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Hon. Robert J. Gigante.

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**Ann M.** - October 12, 2023 at 04:32 PM

JG

“ My name is Jennifer Gigante. Not related in blood but related in life. I met Bob Gigante and his family in the 70's. I took care of their travels and watched Barbara become a mother of four great kids. Bob was my Lawyer when we closed on our house. A Gem of a person in every capacity. Always there for all. Any question was never a bother to him. The family, the community and this world has a Angel above looking after us. God Bless his Family in this time of grief. Bob I wish you a great next journey. You will be missed here on earth. Fondly Jennifer Gigante and family.

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**Jennifer Gigante** - October 12, 2023 at 03:48 PM

TF

*To the entire family*

*We are so sorry for your loss you have our deepest sympathy, my family met Mr. Gigante when he was a lawyer several years ago he handled some works for my family he was such a good person took time to explain every detail. He will be greatly missed. The Johnson Family*

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**The Johnson Family** - October 13, 2023 at 10:10 AM