



## Ralph Gastiaburo, Jr.

August 28, 1954 - September 22, 2023

Ralph Gastiaburo, 69, passed away on Friday, September 22, 2023. Ralph was the eldest of 6 children to Anna and Ralph Gastiaburo of Staten Island, NY born on August 28, 1954. Raised in West Brighton, Ralph attended St. Peters Catholic High School and later graduated from Wagner High School, in June of 1972. He continued his education at Wagner College, where he graduated with an Associates Degree. He spent time working as an EMT and served in the United States Army's 1st Cavalry Division before embarking on a career in Law Enforcement. Ralph joined the New York City Police Department in 1982 and retired as a Sergeant in 2002. In 2003, he relocated to Frisco, Texas and spent an additional ten years serving in various areas of Law Enforcement until he transitioned to Frisco Independent School District, as a bus operator, a profession Ralph enjoyed and took pride in.

Ralph held many titles: husband, dad, brother, son, friend, Daddy Ralph, Papito, Pappy, Mr. G, Mr. Ralph, Mr. Clean, Shihan, Kancho, and, perhaps his most well-known title, Sensei. Ralph's love for Karate and the Martial Arts started as a young man, training alongside his father, Ralph Gastiaburo Sr. And his brothers, his passion continued in his teenage years, and throughout his life. Ralph applied the discipline he learned from Martial Arts to his everyday life, he was very meticulous, especially when it came to keeping things clean!

Ralph loved his family and his dogs. He always was enthusiastic about family gatherings and spent recent years traveling from coast to coast to spend time with his wife and his loved ones. Ralph was always down to go for a ride or asked you to take one with him, up for a challenge in basketball or volleyball. He enjoyed fishing with his friends, children and grandsons. The protector of his family, wife, sisters and most of all his daughters. Ralph met his wife Jo-Ann Murphy Gastiaburo, of 43 years, in his hometown of Staten Island, New York on the dance floor. They wed on October 5, 1980 at St. Margaret Mary's Roman Catholic Church. The first of their three children was born on November 12, 1981.

Ralph was predeceased by his parents Ralph and Anna Gastiaburo, his brothers Robert and Joseph Gastiaburo, as well as his nephew Joseph Gastiaburo. Survived by his wife Jo-Ann, eldest daughter Colleen, his sons Ralph, Michael and Nicholas and his youngest daughter, Lauren. Grandfather to Brittany, Joseph, Ralph IV, Jaxon, Gabe, Christian and Great Grandfather to Alyssa, Caleb, Isaiah and Julianna. Ralph was also survived by his beloved sisters Diana, Rachel and Millie.

To know Ralph, was to love Ralph and Ralph was loved by all those he knew. We invite you to join us as we say our final farewells at John Vincent Scalia Funeral Home, located at 28 Eltingville Blvd., Staten Island, NY on Thursday, October 5, 2023 from 2-5pm & 7-9pm.

Funeral Mass will be held at 10 AM Friday morning at St. Patrick's Church in Richmond Town. Entombment will follow at St. Peter's Cemetery located at the junctures of Clove Road, Bement Avenue and Tyler Place.

In lieu of flowers memorial donations to St. Judes Children's Research Hospital would be greatly appreciated.

# Cemetery Details

## St. Peters Cemetery

Bement Ave. & Clove Road  
Staten Island, NY 10301

# Previous Events

## Visitation

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

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

## Visitation

OCT 5. 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM (ET)

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

## Service

OCT 6. 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Patrick's Church  
53 St. Patrick's Place  
Staten Island, NY 10306



# Tribute Wall



“ *John Vincent Scalia Home for Funerals Inc. created a Tribute Video in memory of Ralph Gastiaburo, Jr.*



John Vincent Scalia Home for Funerals Inc. - October 04, 2023 at 10:33 AM

FT

*My Friend, My Hero, Thank you for being part of my life. I will miss you. Rest in peace. ❤️*

Fred Torres - October 04, 2023 at 03:32 PM

JG

*Thank you everyone for your kind words and prayers. You were all very special to Ralph, each and everyone one of you. Please keep Ralph and his family in your prayers. 🙏*

JoAnn Gastiaburo - October 10, 2023 at 10:59 PM

GP

*Thank you for being my friend! I am a better martial artist and person because of you!*

Glenn Perry - October 03, 2025 at 09:12 PM

BC

“ *buster methis/ new dorp summerschool 1972 yes crazy .marshall artiste we at the frat national wagner college express our sincerest mike lopez also*

bernard chea campbell - December 31, 2023 at 04:08 AM

JR

“ *Ralph, you will be missed by all who knew and loved you. You were a strong, disciplined, and focused man who inspired us all. I am forever grateful for your friendship, and all the memories we shared.*

Joseph Runfola - October 05, 2023 at 11:39 AM

JG

*Thanks so much Joe for your kind words.*

JoAnn Gastiaburo - April 01, 2024 at 05:27 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Ralph Gastiaburo, Jr..*



October 05, 2023 at 10:42 AM

AN

“ *My Uncle, a true legend! He was always there with a short bit of advice. Always kind, always strong. The farther we should have had. I wish I was better at expressing what a wonderful man you were. I will think of you everyday. Thank you for all you have done for me and my family. You were someone to look up to in a world where that was hard to find. Thank you*

Anthony c Napoleone - October 04, 2023 at 06:35 PM

JG

*Thank you so much Anthony for you kind words about uncle Ralph, he loved you. ❤️*

JoAnn Gastiaburo - April 01, 2024 at 05:26 PM



“ *Ralph Gastiaburo, Jr.*

October 04, 2023 at 06:13 PM



“ *134 files added to the album LifeTributes*



John Vincent Scalia Home for Funerals Inc. - October 04, 2023 at 10:33 AM



“ *Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Ralph Gastiaburo, Jr..*



October 03, 2023 at 09:05 PM

EL

“ *Ralph was my family's Sensei. He taught Richard, Anthony, Thomas and Janine for many many years. My son Anthony was 4 when we first met Ralph. Anthony is now 45 and still practicing the martial arts. Ralph inspired Anthony with dedication, and devotion to the traditional ways. My family will always be grateful to Ralph. His amazing martial arts skills were as powerful as his kind and gentle heart.*

*Ellen Ling*



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**Ellen Ling** - October 03, 2023 at 08:59 PM



“ *This is sad. Very sorry for your loss.*

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**Scott Schueler** - October 03, 2023 at 06:36 PM

SR

“ *A very nice person and a kind soul. A trusted colleague and friend. Rest in peace Ralph. You made a difference.*

*Steve Risley*

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**Stephen Risley** - October 02, 2023 at 12:05 AM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Ralph Gastiaburo, Jr..*



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September 30, 2023 at 02:19 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Ralph Gastiaburo, Jr..

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September 30, 2023 at 02:19 PM



“ *I was fortunate to have Ralph as my Field Training Sergeant as a rookie Police Officer while assigned to the 009 Precinct in Manhattan. He passed on his valuable experience and never cut corners. I remember his uniform appearance as impeccable and his integrity was second to none. He was always calm & cool in tense situations. During my 25 year career with the NYPD I consistently relied on his training. Rest easy Sarge... We'll take the watch from here...*

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**Nick O** - September 30, 2023 at 09:27 AM

AT

“ I had the privilege to grow up with a man like Ralph around. He was nothing but supportive of everything I did. Whether it was karate, keeping my grades up & even becoming a barber. One of my favorite memories with him was when he sat in my barber chair as a student and allowed me to cut his hair!! He was my dad's right hand man, and we were so lucky to spend all kinds of celebrations and holidays together as a family over the last 20 years. I will always strive for a friendship like him and my dad had. Truly a one of a kind man. Rest in paradise to one of the greats. You will forever be remembered.



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Alexis Tortorella - September 29, 2023 at 02:25 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Ralph Gastiaburo, Jr..



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September 29, 2023 at 02:03 PM

PR

“ Dearest Ralph, my adopted brother. The world is less without you. He was the toughest and nicest and kindest man I've ever known. It's a rare combination. He was always caring about the other person and empathetic. I'm thinking that he asked an angel to sign him into heaven before he got there. Prayers and love for his great family.

*Paul Romeo*

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**Paul Romeo** - September 29, 2023 at 12:11 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Ralph Gastiaburo, Jr..



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September 29, 2023 at 10:53 AM

PV

“ Ralph---Your family at the Police Academy Gym is shocked and saddened at your untimely passing. I'm sure I speak for everyone who knew you and worked with you are feeling the same way. I have many memories of working with you -- One that stands out to me is when we put on a little show for the guys by the tables in front of the gym office. I was to attack you with an overhand right, then a left and you were to punch me in the chest....You didn't have to hit me that hard! May you always find peace and we will soon be putting on more "shows" for the Angels ! Love ya., Ralph----your fellow Gym Instructor, Pete Venezia.....God Bless You.....

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**Pete Venezia** - September 29, 2023 at 10:09 AM

MJ

*Hear hear! Well stated, Pete. My heartfelt condolences to Ralph's family. Sensei Gastiboro was one of kind and I, like many of my NYPD Police Academy gym instructor colleagues, was proud to have him as a friend and sensei. Martial arts, basketball, and talking smack was an enjoyable diversion for us between teaching classes. Ralph could do all three, but I got to see firsthand how highly respected Ralph was in martial arts circles. I attended a large martial arts tournament in the 1990s and saw that black belts and students all knew who Ralph was and were bowing to him and showing him big respect. I was impressed when I saw that, but I was even more impressed how humble Ralph was. Rest in peace brother.*

**Matt Jones** - October 03, 2023 at 03:25 PM

JO

*It was great pleasure to work and be around Ralph. His demeanor and kindness was second to none. Always a true friend and gentleman. Rest In Peace brother!*

**John** - October 05, 2023 at 05:29 PM

GT

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



**Gary Tortorella** - September 28, 2023 at 09:47 PM

AM

“ Love you Pappo we will miss you everyday. Rest in peace my good friend



**artemio martinez** - September 28, 2023 at 07:29 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Ralph Gastiaburo, Jr..*



September 28, 2023 at 05:52 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Ralph Gastiaburo, Jr..*



September 28, 2023 at 05:41 PM



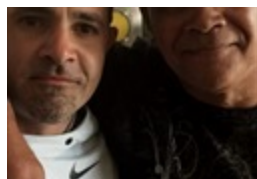
“ *2 files added to the tribute wall*



**Gary Tortorella** - September 28, 2023 at 05:23 PM



“ *Love you Dad.*



**Ralph Gastiaburo III** - September 28, 2023 at 05:16 PM

EM

“ *I worked with Ralph while assigned to the Police Academy. He was a wonderful person. May he rest in peace and may you, his family, along with his friends, find comfort at this difficult time.*

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**Elizabeth Morse-Chevalier** - September 28, 2023 at 02:42 PM