



## Robert Rocco DiDonato, Jr.

October 23, 1938 - November 27, 2020

Robert Rocco DiDonato Jr, age 82, of Eltingville, passed away peacefully Friday evening, November 27, 2020 at Staten Island University Hospital North.

Robert (also known as Bob, Bobby and Rich) was born on October 23rd, 1938. He married his friend and love Estelle DiDonato, on October 16th, 1958 who preceded him in death in 2007. He was a native Staten Islander who graduated from Port Richmond High School.

He loved to work and lived to love. He was an entrepreneur at an early age. He had a very successful newspaper route as a boy and was loved by all, his charming personality made him the recipient of many large tips. His love of cars and entrepreneurial spirit led him to be the founder of Richmond Auto Body, a successful business he started in 1961. He was hardworking and dedicated to his craft and all the people he worked with. He was an icon in the city of Newark and never let anything get in his way.

A longtime Yankee and wrestling fan, Bob was also an amazing baker who loved feeding others. His pecan tassies, crumb cakes and Linzer tortes were family holiday favorites. He always made it a point to have almond crescents on hand when his grandson Joseph was visiting. He loved baking for everyone but especially for him.

He loved his house and knew how to make it a home. He had a knack for gardening and grew enough tomatoes and Italian peppers to feed the neighborhood. His fig trees were also a source of great joy. He had a soft spot for all the dogs in his life and enjoyed bowling as a pastime. Most importantly, he was a wonderful husband, father; grandfather, brother, uncle and friend. He was full of happiness and life and could put a smile on anyone's face. His family was his pride and joy, and he was always there with a bright smile or a well-timed sarcastic comment. He was someone you could always count on. He was a source of great strength for his daughters and helped them weather the toughest of storms. Robert touched many lives; he will be greatly missed by all who knew him, especially his family.

He is survived by his daughters, Diane Silvestro and Donna DiDonato, son in law Joseph Silvestro, and Gregory Kliot who predeceased him and the apple of his eye - his grandson Joseph Silvestro

A Mass of Christian Burial will be offered at 11:15 AM on Wednesday at St. Clare Church located at 110 Nelson Ave Staten Island, New York 10308. Entombment will follow in Resurrection Cemetery, Staten Island, NY.

The family will receive friends from 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM on Tuesday, December 1, 2020, at John Vincent Scalia Home for Funerals, Inc., 28 Eltingville Blvd, Staten Island, New York. For those of you who cannot attend Zoom services will be available beginning at 12:50 pm on Tuesday with the link posted on Robert's obituary page on the funeral homes website.

If you should so desire donations in Memory of Robert may be made to the American Liver Foundation online at <https://liverfoundation.org/for-patients/donate-now/> or forms will be available at the funeral home.

Please be mindful due to the current State mandate that a mask must be worn

at all times in the funeral home and social distancing requirements must be followed during the services. Due to the current Pandemic a strict 30 person in room policy is in effect, as well as a maximum of 25 people permitted in Church. Please adhere to this policy and allow others to pay their respects as well.

Due to the current pandemic circumstances please note:

We do not accept deliveries from outside vendors for bakery products, fruit baskets, and floral arrangements until further notice.

Floral arrangements can be purchased from our in house floral designers who work under the most stringent sanitary conditions which include temperature checks, mask wearing, distancing and protective clothing.

We must protect the families we serve, our own families and staff who operate the funeral home.

# Cemetery Details

## Resurrection Cemetery

361 Sharrott Ave  
Staten Island, NY 10309

# Previous Events

## Visitation

DEC 1. 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

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

## Service

DEC 2. 11:15 AM (ET)

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

# Tribute Wall



“ *Robert Rocco DiDonato, Jr.*

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October 04, 2023 at 06:13 PM



“ *Uncle Bobby has always been a big part of my life. From the time I was little I always look forward to his visits. He had a way of making you feel special and loved. The love he had for family was absolute. As an adult I truly appreciated his sarcastic sense of humor. He could find humor in anything and could always make me laugh. He had a way of making occasions so special, and we will all miss his presence at the holiday table.*

*We shared a passion for baking and love sharing recipes. I will think of him every time I make his Linzer tarts and sesame cookies.*

*He will always hold a special place in my heart. Rest in peace uncle Bobby.*

*I Love you*

*Debbie*

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**debbie szczecinski** - December 03, 2020 at 10:06 AM

CC

“ There really is no one that can compare to Uncle Bobby - He set the bar high with his humor, quick wit, and kind soul. Family was always the most important thing to him and being there for the people he loved. Ill always remember the banter between him, Grandma, & Aunt Mary and how none of them ever retold a story from the same perspective. Uncle Bobby's always had a funny flair to it! I can just here him say " Oh c'mon sis don't lie." We will miss him terribly and there will be a paella sized hole missing from the family.

Love Always,  
Christie & Ryan

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**Christie Cangialosi** - December 02, 2020 at 09:02 AM

SU

“ Uncle Bobby was one of a kind. I am fortunate to have so many wonderful memories of him that I will treasure always. As kids, we always looked forward to visiting Uncle Bobby and Aunt Estelle's. We always loved going there, but their 4th of July barbecues were legendary. From the rotisserie roasts and biscuit tortoni, to the pool games and fireworks, it was always amazing. Family was everything to him, and he showed it in everything he did. What I will miss the most are the conversations we would have. Whether it was on the phone or at a party, I loved talking to him. He always made me LAUGH, he always made me feel LOVED and he always made me feel SPECIAL. I will miss him every day.

Rest In Peace Uncle Bobby

All Our Love  
Joey and Susan Jane

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**Susan** - December 02, 2020 at 07:51 AM

AC

“ The world truly lost a great man when Uncle Bobby passed. A man who exemplified the word "family", Uncle Bobby was one of those figures that family members young and old wanted to be around. Let's face it, Uncle Bobby had impeccable taste in cars, and even better (if that's possible), taste in baked goods. In our family, that's the total package! Growing up it was always exciting when Uncle Bobby came to family gatherings. First off, as kids we couldn't wait to see what kind of car he was driving. If that wasn't enough of a treat, once he arrived, one of the first things we'd ask was "what'd you bake Uncle Bobby?", which really meant "did you make the tassies?". However, all of that was secondary to what he really brought to the party, himself. Whether it was chatting about sports, cars, work, it didn't really matter, because with his quick wit, you were sure to be entertained.

*Uncle Bobby you are truly missed. Rest in Peace.*

*All our Love,  
Anthony and Glenda*

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**Anthony Cangialosi** - December 01, 2020 at 05:03 PM

JC

“ I don't know what the world will miss most about Uncle Bobby. He was a kind, funny, and generous man who would always make you feel welcome. I know I will certainly miss his jokes and his baking. Oddly enough his jokes and his cookies were a lot alike, always plentiful, sometimes nutty, yet... never dry. A Jaguar man for years, I'll never forget when he got a new car and when asked why not another Jaguar he exclaimed "this thing practically can drive itself, and I'm blind". One of the best seats at a holiday meal was next to Uncle Bobby, where he was always sure to tell stories of how his sisters used him as "the ball" when playing catch. I've kept a photo of Uncle Bobby, Aunt Mary, and myself sitting around the table at Thanksgiving on my desk, and for years I cant help but smile every time I look at it thinking of the memories.

*The world truly lost a great man, and heaven gained an angel.  
Rest in Peace.*

*All our love,  
Joe and Angelica*



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**joe cangialosi** - December 01, 2020 at 04:20 PM

WL

“ *With Love, Tatyana, Vadim and Yana Lelchuk purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Robert Rocco DiDonato, Jr..*



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**With Love, Tatyana, Vadim and Yana Lelchuk** - November 30, 2020 at 11:47 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Robert Rocco DiDonato, Jr..*



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November 30, 2020 at 11:34 AM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Robert Rocco DiDonato, Jr..*



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November 30, 2020 at 09:01 AM



“ *Bob was a funny, kind and warm soul. A family man who loved being around his daughters and grandson. He always made me And my family feel At home and very welcome. He will be so missed and always remembered. My heart goes out to his family. All my love and sincerest condolences.*

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**Clara Feldman** - November 29, 2020 at 11:05 PM

NF

“ I was fortunate enough to meet Bob at his daughter’s wonderful family and friends celebrations.  
I always appreciated Bob’s life stories. He was such a fine, smart and hard working man, one could easily fall in love with him... You will be missed Bob. Rest In Peace. Donna’s friend - Nelly Feldman



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**Nelly Feldman** - November 29, 2020 at 07:30 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Robert Rocco DiDonato, Jr..



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November 29, 2020 at 04:11 PM