



Stephen Rhodes

September 25, 1937 - February 2, 2025

Stephen Rhodes Jr., age 87, of Somerset, New Jersey, passed Sunday, February 2, 2025, with his beloved wife and son at his side.

Stephen was a native of Staten Island and born to Stephen and Mary Rhodes. He graduated from New Dorp High School in 1955. He continued his education at Hunter College and City College in New York, studying Engineering. During his college years he worked at Shoals Dock and as a mate on the fishing boats Miss Moore and Teal, owned by Captain Fred Moore. He took the FDNY test while in college and decided to start his career in the FDNY to help support his family, rather than complete his degree.

He joined the FDNY in 1959 and rose to the position of Chief Marine Engineer on the largest fireboat in the United States - Marine Company 9's Firefighter - based in St. George, Staten Island. Stephen served in the Army National Guard during the 1960's and split his time between the FDNY and the National Guard to serve

both his country and his local community. He retired from the FDNY in 1981 and then became the Chief Marine Engineer on the Governor's Island Ferry the same year.

Stephen was awarded the Department of Transportation's Medal of Valor in 1991. He was flown to Washington D.C. for the award after he saved 43 lives onboard the Governor's Island ferry on April 13, 1991. The ferry went on fire while Stephen was doing routine inspections on the main level of the ferry. The oiler in the engine room ran from the engine room fire, telling my father to get everyone ready to abandon the ferry. Instead, he jumped into action, ran into the blazing engine room and single-handedly put out the fire, saving the lives of all those on board. He was later injured in a docking accident on the ferry in 1993, which caused him to retire.

Stephen was a tireless worker and took on additional side jobs during his time with the FDNY and Governor's Island Ferry. He worked for many years during the 1970s and 1980s at Staten Island Yacht Sales as a lead mechanic, electronics installer, and boat captain. He earned his 100-ton Masters Captains License and started running his own charter fishing business on his boat, Linesider, in 1982. He became one of the top charter captains in the northeast, specializing in striped bass and bluefin tuna charters. Stephen made the tough decision to close his business in 1988 when his daughter, Sandra, a senior studying aeronautical engineering at the U.S. Air Force Academy, died in a car accident a month before her graduation and appointment to flight school.

In his personal life, Stephen was perhaps best known for being a world-class

boat captain and fisherman. In the 1960s and 1970s he fished on his family boat - PIPP - with his two brothers, Richard and Ronald, and father, Stephen Sr. They were pioneers in offshore fishing, traveling the east coast from Gloucester to Cape Hatteras catching bluefin tuna, white marlin, and striped bass. The PIPP was a member of the Staten Island Tuna Club team that won the United States Atlantic Tuna Tournament in 1971, considered the world series of big game fishing at the time. He continued to fish until the end of his life on his custom sportfisherman, Legacy, winning several big game tournaments and catching a New Jersey state record thresher shark in 1997. He was also a world traveler and fished extensively on both coasts of the United States, Hawaii, Alaska, Prince Edward Island, Cabo San Lucas, Panama, Costa Rica, New Zealand, and the Bahamas with his son, Stephen III.

Stephen met the love of his life Maryann on a fireworks cruise on the Miss Moore in 1964. He was a sports car enthusiast at the time and sold his 1963 split-window Corvette in order to buy Maryann's engagement ring. They were married on October 24 th 1965.

They took their honeymoon in Florida and attended their godson Michael's baptism during the trip. Stephen and Maryann's marriage was blessed with two children: Sandra and Stephen. They enjoyed a loving and devoted marriage of 59 years. He and Maryann served as Presidents of the US Air Force Academy Parents Club of Greater New York. They also befriended a NASA astronaut, Tom Henricks, who flew their daughter Sandra's Air Force Academy class ring on space shuttle Columbia. Stephen and Maryann were active members of the Hillside Swim Club for over 40 years

Later in life they purchased a winter home in Palm Harbor, Florida, and split their time between New Jersey and Florida. They were blessed with two grandchildren - John and Hunter - who have continued the family legacy of being all around sportsmen and scholars. Stephen was most proud of his grandsons' skills and was a loving grandfather - attending games, concerts, and taking his grandsons fishing. He made a treasure trove of friends on the water including many at the Great Kills Yacht Club where he was a frequent visitor.

Friends may visit with the family at the John Vincent Scalia Home for Funeral at 28

Eltingville Blvd. Staten Island, NY, on Monday, February 10, 2025 from 2-4 PM and 7-9

PM.

Funeral services will be held at 10:00 AM on Tuesday, February 11 at Holy Child

Church, Eltingville, where a Funeral Mass will be offered. Burial will follow at the

Cemetery for the Resurrection, 361 Sharrott Avenue.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Tunnel to Towers Foundation.

Cemetery Details

Resurrection Cemetery

361 Sharrott Ave
Staten Island, NY 10309

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 10. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

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

Visitation

FEB 10. 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM (ET)

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

Service

FEB 11. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Holy Child Church
4747 Amboy Road
Staten Island, NY 10312

Tribute Wall

CS

“ Catherine &Abi Singh purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Stephen Rhodes.



Catherine &Abi Singh - February 10, 2025 at 03:06 PM

CS

“ Catherine &Abi Singh planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Stephen Rhodes.

Catherine &Abi Singh - February 10, 2025 at 03:06 PM

RF

“ Reinel Family purchased the Simply Elegant Spat hiphyllum for the family of Stephen Rhodes.



Reinel Family - February 10, 2025 at 11:07 AM

JD

“ John Calabrese & Margaret DeFazio purchased the Amazing Arboricola for the family of Stephen Rhodes.



John Calabrese & Margaret DeFazio - February 10, 2025 at 09:59 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Stephen Rhodes, by John Calabrese & Margaret DeFazio.

February 10, 2025 at 09:59 AM



“ My deepest condolences to the Rhodes family. May God and your treasured memories be a source of comfort and peace in this difficult time.



Lori Proudman Knoebel - February 09, 2025 at 11:48 AM



I had never before seen those pictures. Thank you for posting them,.

Maryann Rhodes - February 09, 2025 at 05:19 PM



“ Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Stephen Rhodes.



February 09, 2025 at 11:23 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Stephen Rhodes.

February 09, 2025 at 11:23 AM

FF

“ From the Facciola family purchased the Dreams From the Heart Bouquet for the family of Stephen Rhodes.



From the Facciola family - February 09, 2025 at 06:10 AM

FF

“ From the Facciola family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Stephen Rhodes.

From the Facciola family - February 09, 2025 at 06:10 AM

TF

“ The Rafanello Family purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Stephen Rhodes.



The Rafanello Family - February 07, 2025 at 09:26 PM

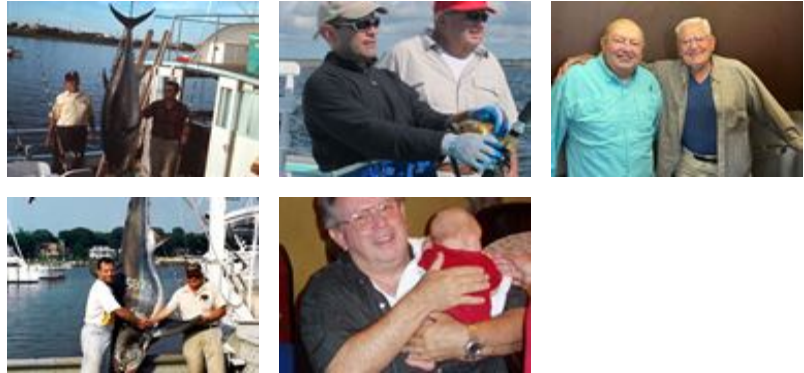
TF

“ The Rafanello Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Stephen Rhodes.

The Rafanello Family - February 07, 2025 at 09:26 PM



“ 125 files added to the album LifeTributes



John Vincent Scalia Home for Funerals Inc. - February 07, 2025 at 04:38 PM



“ Sacred Duty Spray was purchased for the family of Stephen Rhodes.



February 07, 2025 at 11:07 AM

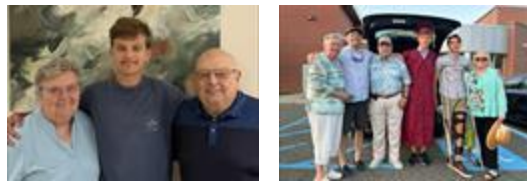


“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Stephen Rhodes.

February 07, 2025 at 11:07 AM



“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Dawn Rhodes - February 06, 2025 at 04:00 PM

DR

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Dawn Rhodes - February 06, 2025 at 03:55 PM

LJ

“ Love, Sheri Quinn, Gracie& Joey purchased the Ocean Breeze Spray for the family of Stephen Rhodes.



Love, Sheri Quinn, Gracie& Joey - February 05, 2025 at 10:03 PM

ZR

“ Zaida and Richie purchased the Sacred Duty Spray for the family of Stephen Rhodes.



Zaida and Richie - February 05, 2025 at 12:52 PM

BS

“ Condolences to Maryann and Stephen on the loss of Steve, the head of your family. Steve was a good kind man who we were fortunate to have as a neighbor and friend for so many years on Elvin St. Although we moved to different places, we enjoyed meeting to share a lunch and catch up with events in our lives. Rest in peace old friend.

Bill and Diane Solebello - February 05, 2025 at 09:00 AM

MR

Friendship doesn't end at the grave. I am sure we will all meet again once our time is up here on earth...save a seat in a heavenly diner for us to gather together in heaven for a meal. I miss you so much my love. Wait for me...Love, Maryann

Maryann Rhodes - February 06, 2025 at 07:39 PM

LV

“ I am so blessed to have had my Uncle Steve as an active and loving part of my life for so many decades. My heart breaks for Aunt Maryann, cousin Stephen and the rest of the family — prayers for peace.



Lorraine Bloeth Valerino - February 05, 2025 at 12:38 AM

JM

“ *John&Lauren Avento, Dave&Lorri Morris purchased the Love's Journey for the family of Stephen Rhodes.*



John&Lauren Avento, Dave&Lorri Morris - February 04, 2025
at 06:14 PM

VF

“ *Our sincerest condolences to Maryann, Steve, Dawn, John, Hunter and the extended Rhodes Family. We always enjoyed seeing Steve and Maryann at family gatherings. He will surely be missed.*

Love, Rob, Ursula, Tom and Kirsten VanWart

VanWart Family - February 04, 2025 at 05:28 PM