



## Gabriel Rao

December 12, 1937 - August 5, 2022

Gabriel Rao, 84 of Matawan, New Jersey passed away on Friday, August 5, 2022, at the Raritan Bay Medical Center in Old Bridge.

Born Sunday, December 12, 1937 in Sicily, Italy, Gabriel was the son of the late Samuel and Giuseppa Rao.

Raised on the island of Sicily, Gabriel came to the United States in 1959. He would first live in Brooklyn. It was in Brooklyn, where Gabriel was working as a painter that he would meet the love of his life, Rosemarie Minutello. The couple would marry living first in Queens and Long Island, before returning to Brooklyn to start their family. They would begin to raise their sons in Brooklyn, before moving to Staten Island. They would live in Florida for a time, before settling in Matawan to be closer to family.

Gabriel worked for many years as a cement mason and was a member of the union. Gabriel also was the proprietor of Pizza D'Amore on Bay Parkway in Brooklyn. While living on Staten Island Gabriel enjoyed being a member of the Staten Island Bocce Club and was a Champion in the club multiple times. He loved gardening and spending time with his family.

Gabriel is survived by his beloved wife of 60 years Rosemarie, by his loving sons, Peter and his wife Claudia, and Paul and his wife Cherilyn, by his caring

siblings, Peter and Mimi, and by his cherished grandchildren, Paul, Gabriella, and Giancarlo.

The family will receive friends from 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM on Wednesday, August 10, 2022, at Michael Hegarty & John Vincent Scalia Home For Funerals and Cremation Service, 3377 US Highway 9, Old Bridge, New Jersey.

Online condolences may be made to the family at [www.HegartyScaliaFuneralHome.com](http://www.HegartyScaliaFuneralHome.com)

# Previous Events

## Visitation

AUG **10**. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Michael Hegarty & John Vincent Scalia Home for Funerals and Cremation Service

3377 US Highway 9

Old Bridge, NJ 08857

(732) 679-4422

[hegartyfh@scaliahome.com](mailto:hegartyfh@scaliahome.com)

<https://www.hegartyscaliafuneralhome.com>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Michael Hegarty & John Vincent Scalia Home for Funerals and Cremation Services created a Tribute Video in memory of Gabriel Rao*



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**Michael Hegarty & John Vincent Scalia Home for Funerals and Cremation Service** - August 08, 2022 at 04:44 PM



“ *Gabriel Rao*

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October 05, 2023 at 11:16 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Gabriel Rao.*



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August 08, 2022 at 10:24 PM

RS

“ It's funny how certain people and memories stay with you thru the years while others fade away. I was a shy kid from Brooklyn who worked my way through college at Pizza D'Amore. Gabe was one-of-a-kind -- thirty years after I first met him, his mannerisms, his expressions... they're still part of my DNA, and a language I share with my younger sister to this day. She also worked with Gabe and his sons during her formative years. Gabe would laugh, he would smoke, he would get agitated, he would (more than) occasionally listen to Bob Ross on the radio in the back and drink a little wine while he made his signature pizza as we served it at the counter (squares only, and no we don't have a bathroom). The Raos were like a second family to me during those years. I'm bummed that I'm not in Jerz to hug them and share memories of their beloved patriarch. More than anything, Gabe made us laugh and he made us eat. A true Italiano. He was tough, he did everything with spirit, and he was one of the most memorable characters I've ever been blessed to know. If there's a pizzeria in heaven, Gabe is up there with some red vino, stirring the sauce. Saluti. - Ronnie The Destroyer

Ron Scalzo - August 08, 2022 at 10:02 PM



“ 134 files added to the album LifeTributes



Michael Hegarty & John Vincent Scalia Home for Funerals and Cremation Service - August 08, 2022 at 04:19 PM



“ *Lily and Rose Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Gabriel Rao.*



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August 08, 2022 at 08:30 AM



“ *So sorry for your loss. He was more than just an Obituary summary. His laughter filled a room and made people laugh with him. His voice when yelling made me shake as a little girl but filled my heart up when he hugged me and said I love you. He was more than an Uncle he was the first man to care for me as a little girl. Through the years he was always working hard to provide for his family. He made the best pizza! His pizzeria in Brooklyn was the best! His emotions were larger than life. He was proud to become a citizen and loved this country. He would lift my sister and I with both hands as little girls high in the sky and we would laugh so hard. My Uncle will always be special. Even though he couldn't remember us because his mind was not his anymore, I will always remember him. He was strong and proud! He would always say to me " You strong like Bull! Lol. My sister and I may just be nieces but he made us feel so much more than that. We thank him for that and love him for it! He is not in pain anymore. A good friend said to me he is at rest and his mind is whole again! That meant so much to me. He will be missed by all his nieces and nephews and his loving sister in law. We love you Auntie Roe and sending you hugs!*



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**AnnMarie LaFemina-Adams** - August 07, 2022 at 10:23 PM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Gabriel Rao.* ”



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August 07, 2022 at 08:04 PM