



## William Anthony Basso

February 24, 1938 - June 27, 2017

William Anthony Basso, 79 of Manalapan, New Jersey passed away on Tuesday, June 27, 2017, at Columbia Presbyterian Hospital in New York.

Born February 24, 1938 in Brooklyn, New York to the late William and Adelina Basso, William was raised in Brooklyn and always had a passion for art. He attended the High School of Art and Design in Manhattan, and Pratt Institute in Brooklyn. Art school is where William would meet his wife Marie, and they married in 1959. In 1968 William and Marie would move to Manalapan, where they raised their family together and lived for the next 49 years. William was an illustrator for children's books and former employers include Colorforms Toys, Scholastic Publications and Boys Life Magazine. William was also a member of the Society of Illustrators. In his down time, he enjoyed gardening, landscaping and photography.

William is survived by his wife of 57 years Marie; by his son William Basso Jr., his son James Basso and his wife Wei Fei, and his daughter Marie Louise Basso; by his four grandchildren Marco and Stefano D'Agostino and Thomas and Emma Basso; and by his many loving nieces, nephews and in-laws.

The family will receive friends from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM and 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM on Friday, June 30, 2017, at Michael Hegarty & John Vincent Scalia Home For Funerals, 3377 US Highway 9, Old Bridge, NJ 08857.

A Roman Catholic mass will take place on Saturday, July 1, 2017 at 10:00 AM at St. Gabriel's Historic Church, 549 County Road 520, Marlboro, NJ 07746. Entombment will be in St. Gabriel's Cemetery, Marlboro, NJ.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Frattini Laboratory Research Fund at Columbia University Medical Center, payable to the Trustees of Columbia University and indicating Frattini Lab Research Fund, sent to:

CUMC Development Office

Attn: Rebecca Solinsky

516 West 168th Street, 5th Floor

New York, NY 10032

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

# Cemetery Details

## St. Gabriel Cemetery

549 Route 520  
Marlboro, NJ 07746

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUN **30**. 2:00 PM - 4:00 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  
<https://www.hegartyscaliafuneralhome.com>

## Service

JUN **30**. 7:00 PM - 9:00 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  
<https://www.hegartyscaliafuneralhome.com>

## Service

JUL 1. 10:00 AM.

St. Gabriel's R.C. Church Marlboro New Jersey

## Service

JUL 1 (ET)

St. Gabriel's Cemetery  
549 Route 520  
Marlboro, NJ 07746

# Tribute Wall



“ *William Anthony Basso*

October 05, 2023 at 11:16 AM



“ *Ho saputo solo oggi della scomparsa di Bill. Ci eravamo conosciuti per caso su Facebook perché entrambi avevamo illustrato una serie di libri per bambini, lui per gli USA io per l'Italia. Era una persona dolcissima e gentile, le sue illustrazioni erano divertenti e piene di dettagli. Ricordo che mi aveva raccontato i suoi inizi come disegnatore con il grande Harvey Kurtzmann. Ricordo le fotografie del suo giardino e i racconti sugli animali che di notte venivano a visitarlo. Ci scrivevamo ogni tanto ,io in italiano ,lui in inglese. Poi il silenzio ,lunghissimo, e solo ora ,cercando su internet, la scoperta che Bill non c'e' piu'. Goodbye my friend ,I'll miss you.'*  
*Terribilmente.*

*Simone Frasca( florentine illustrator)*

simone - November 01, 2021 at 06:22 PM



“ *I cannot imagine a world with Bill. He shared both his talent and friendship for close to thirty years. Words escape me. Joseph Connolly*

Joseph Connolly - July 06, 2017 at 09:34 PM

JD

“ There was no kinder man than my Uncle. He was a second Father to me and he will be greatly missed. I have so many fond memories of him. Much of who I am today was shaped by his words of wisdom over the years. He introduced me to classical music, art, showed me the beauty of nature and demonstrated the kindness and perseverance one can have when caring for someone in need.....a quality I use as a physician every day. He possessed a great sense of humor and often had us laughing with stories. He loved the Yankees.....ok no one is perfect.....kidding.....But most of all, I will never forget how he was always there for my Mom when my Dad was sick. No matter what she needed.....he was there. No matter when she called, he was there. When my Dad passed, I remember sitting in the lobby of the hospital just thinking about what had just happened. Uncle Billy came up to me and told me that my Father may be gone, but he would always be with me; he lived on within me. I have never forgotten that. After my Father's passing, my Uncle took the baton and supported me like a son over the many years that have gone by. Once again, he was always there.

When he became ill, Uncle Billy rationalized the process by saying "he was in the zone" when people got sick. He accepted his illness, did not want to be a burden to my Aunt Marie and thought the expensive treatments he received would be more aptly given to someone else. This is who he was or should I say is.....as he said to me regarding my Dad.....to all those that had the pleasure of knowing him and who experienced his kindness, he lives on within us. Rest In Peace Uncle Billy

---John

---

John Delloso - July 04, 2017 at 07:26 AM

SB

*“ I am bill's cousin . His father and mine were brothers. Bill was 16 years my senior so although we were not close growing up i was fortunate to have a relationship with him in adulthood. I am also an artist and truly appreciated his support of my work . He was a kind and generous man with a great sense of humor about life. I will miss him*

---

**Stephen basso** - July 03, 2017 at 04:18 PM



*“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of William Anthony Basso.*



---

June 30, 2017 at 01:23 PM

JC

*“ May the road rise up to meet you.  
May the wind be always at your back.  
May the sun shine warm upon your face;  
the rains fall soft upon your fields and until we meet again,  
may God hold you in the palm of His hand.*

*.....Rest in peace my good friend, I will miss you.*

*John Cavalieri*

---

**John Cavalieri** - June 30, 2017 at 07:57 AM

 Erin Flynn

“ *Rest In Peace, Cousin Billy. I remember visiting you and Marie as a child and have fond memories our family reunions throughout the years. With Love, Erin Flynn (grand daughter of Eleanor Becker Nerino)*



Erin Flynn - June 30, 2017 at 06:59 AM



“ *Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of William Anthony Basso.*



June 30, 2017 at 12:24 AM



“ *Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of William Anthony Basso.*



June 29, 2017 at 05:00 PM



“ *A more gentle, loving man will be hard to find. We shared so many wonderful times together. I am filled with sadness at his passing. My love to all the family. May his memory be a blessing.*  
*Rona Greenberg*

Rona Greenberg - June 29, 2017 at 04:12 PM

PF

“ Bill was a very dear person to my family! He often contacted my mom and dad. Ellie and Sam, to send good wishes. My mother, who was the sister to Bill's mother, Lena, loved the jokes that he would tell and would in turn tell him jokes to make him laugh. I remember Bill as being very kind and caring, and valued family above all! My condolences go out to Marie and your children/ grandchildren. May you find comfort that Bill is at peace in heaven! God bless, cousin Patty



---

**Patty Becker Flynn** - June 29, 2017 at 03:49 PM

MS

“ I knew Bill almost 50 years ago when I worked with him as an "apprentice" after graduating from art school in the late 60's. I had such admiration and respect for him as an artist, and as a person. He was humble, always kind, had a wonderful sense of humor, and of course, was an amazingly talented illustrator. I remember watching him work and was so inspired by his talent, dedication, skill, and love of his work. It greatly influenced me in my own pursuit of a career in Illustration and Design.

*I would like to express my sincere condolences to his family and friends, and with great sadness, wish them peace and love.*

*Marion Block Schneider*

---

**Marion Schneider** - June 29, 2017 at 03:32 PM

MB

“*Bill Basso was an amazing person and a great artist. To know Bill, and consider him a friend was a great blessing. Bill was always good natured, always modest, always kind, and hugely generous. Beneath his mild-mannered exterior, there hid a talent that was enormous. In a world full of frustrated would-be painters, Bill was unique: he loved being an illustrator. And he loved his lovely wife Marie, and his beloved family. He was, indeed, and deservedly, a happy man. And his gentle ability to embrace life showed, and glowed in the exquisite artwork he created. As an artist Bill could adapt his skills to meet any challenge. At the same time, no matter what project he touched, his charming and utterly unique sense of humor shone through.*

*I had the pleasure of working with Bill for over twenty years under the umbrella of Colorforms. And it always was a pleasure, and good fun. Although, Bill, most likely, didn't realize it at the time, he was teaching me everything I ever knew about the fine art of packaging and design. Just looking over his shoulder was a better education than I had previously received in half a dozen art schools. Whatever lowly licensed property was thrown his way, Bill tackled it with unflagging integrity, sincerity, and joy, and managed to elevate it to the lofty realms of ART. Working with Bill was one of the greatest pleasures and privileges of my life.*

*Bill Basso is, and always will be, a beautiful, and all too rare example of a Life Well Lived. And he will live eternally in the hearts and memories of his dear friends and loving family.*

*With sadness, and sincere condolences; may he rest in peace.*

*Mel Birnkrant*

---

MEL BIRNKRANT - June 29, 2017 at 02:09 PM



“ *With Distinction was purchased for the family of William Anthony Basso.*



---

June 29, 2017 at 12:59 PM



“ *Billy Basso as we called out to him in the neighborhood. Billy was one of the greatest influences to my life. It was his artistic talent that encouraged me to follow, as it were, in his footsteps. Without him I'm not sure I would have been brave enough to take the entrance exam to Cooper Union, majoring in Art/Advertising Design. Always ready for a laugh while mimicking just about anything he found amusing. I will miss you Billy but will always have my memories of our adolescent years through adulthood and current mature stage.*  
*Peter C Paris*

---

**Peter Paris** - June 29, 2017 at 11:20 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of William Anthony Basso.*



---

June 29, 2017 at 09:37 AM

WF

“ *With love, The Milone Family purchased the Sapphire Skies Bouquet for the family of William Anthony Basso.*



---

**With love, The Milone Family** - June 29, 2017 at 09:22 AM