



Antonio (Tony) Bongarzone

July 23, 1932 - February 12, 2026

Antonio (Tony) Bongarzone, 93, of Long Branch, NJ peacefully passed away on Thursday, February 12, 2026, at home. He was born in Chiaravalle Centrale, Italy to Antonio and Maria Stagliano Bongarzone and came to this country at the age of 12. He proudly served in the United States army during the Korean war. After the war he returned to Italy and met the love of his life Giuseppina. They returned to the United States and began raising their family. Tony was a self-employed hairdresser, owner of Tonys House of Beauty in West End, Long Branch. During his career he received many awards at hair styling shows and after 56 years he retired in 2014. Tony was also a teacher at the Concorde School of Cosmetology in Ocean Twp. For many years. He was a former member of the Figli Di Colombo Italian Club, Long Branch and coach with the Long Branch Youth Soccer Association. Tony had many passions over the years, horses, hunting, soccer, baseball, his garden and especially his wine making. Tony loved his family deeply and dedicated his life to them.

He is predeceased by his beloved wife, Giuseppina Bongarzone in 2020, his son Carlo, and granddaughter Daniela Bongarzone. Surviving are his loving children, Anthony J. Bongarzone and wife Grace, Frank Bongarzone and wife Laura, Denise Kessler and husband James, Dr. Marco Bongarzone and wife Moira, his cherished grandchildren, Regina Bongarzone, Colleen Bongarzone, Anthony Bongarzone Jr. And wife Megan, Rachael Gelman and husband

Dave, Carli and Taylor Bongarzone, Lauren Kessler, JT Kessler, Dr. Marco Bongarzone and wife Dr. Hannah, Lucas Bongarzone, Renee and Ryan Bongarzone, his dear great grandchildren, Brogan, Brinley and Chiara Bongarzone.

Visitation will be held at the Bongarzone Funeral Home on Sunday, February 15, 2026, from 2 – 6pm. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at the Church of St. Anselm on Monday February 16, 2026, at 10:30 am. Interment will follow at Mt. Carmel Cemetery in West Long Branch.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be sent in Antonio's memory to: Tunnel to Towers Foundation, www.t2t.org.

Cemetery Details

Mount Carmel Cemetery

115 Wall Street
West Long Branch, NJ

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB **15**. 2:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Bongarzone Funeral Home
2400 Shafto Road
Tinton Falls, NJ 07712
(732) 918-6200

Funeral Mass

FEB **16**. 10:30 AM (ET)

Church of Saint Anselm
1028 Wayside Rd
Tinton Falls, NJ 07712-3146
(732) 493-4411

Tribute Wall

PM

“ *Our sincere condolences to the Bongarzone Family.*

Marchetti & Gundel Families

Pam Marchetti - March 16 at 12:23 PM

LQ

“ *Love, Shanna and Matt Quinn purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Antonio (Tony) Bongarzone.*



Love, Shanna and Matt Quinn - February 16 at 10:24 AM

PM

“ *Tony was my hair stylist for many years. He was the best and a true gentleman. God bless.*
Paula Milmo

Paula Milmo - February 15 at 07:22 AM

TG

Uncle Tony we will miss you very much. Uncle Tony and zia Pina were a very kind and special couple that cannot be replaced. They were there to help any one that went to them. happy uncle Tony that you are reunited with your family and Zia Pina .we only have good memories to look back. Teresa and Joseph

Teresa Guido - February 15 at 12:39 PM

MC

“ We had a special bond with our uncle Tony and aunt Pina, we were one big family. My father spent every evening with my uncle Tony, they would argue for hours about the differences between Italy and the US, of course drinking good homemade wine! We lived in the same house for months, then moved next door, spent every holiday together, we laughed and unfortunately even cried together. Now that our parents are gone and my aunt and uncle are gone, we feel like a chapter of our life has ended. I will miss his phone calls and his updates on Chelsea Ave.
Good by uncle Tony💔
Love Maria and Rosella

Maria Cunsolo - February 15 at 07:00 AM

DM

“ Our heartfelt sympathy for the entire Bongarzone family! We send our love and pray you find comfort during this time.
Sincerely, Dan & Anne Mentel & Family

Dan & Anne Mentel - February 14 at 04:48 PM

PC

“ Our sincere condolences to your family; we loved your dad! We remember the visits to both houses when we were young! Miss all of you!
Love the Tropea Family

Pina Tropea Cianfrani - February 14 at 12:41 PM

PW

“ My sincere condolences to the entire family.

Patricia Wong 🥹

Patricia Wong - February 14 at 08:15 AM

JL

“ Anthony,
My sincere condolences to you and your family on the loss of your
dad.
Jeff Lovas

Jeff Lovas - February 13 at 07:48 PM

“ We are heartbroken over the loss of our beloved Zio Toto.

We will miss him more than words can express - his warmth that made us feel welcome, his sense of humor, his gift for storytelling, and even his determined presence in the kitchen. Whether trying a new recipe or insisting on doing things just right, he poured the same care and pride into his cooking that he did into every part of his life.

Zio Toto and Zia Pina were such a special, vital, and irreplaceable part of our lives. They were a steady presence of love and wisdom, shaping us in ways we will carry forever. They gave us a treasure trove of memories that are truly unforgettable - moments filled with warmth, laughter, guidance, and the unmistakable feeling of being deeply loved.

Our trips to Long Branch were never about a lack of other places to travel. Whenever our time aligned, we chose to be near them because of the bond and love we shared. Being with them felt like home. We always looked forward to their annual Toronto visit during tomato sauce season—long days of sauce-making that turned into big family dinners and time spent bonding together, ending with laughter and exhaustion, sending each other off to bed or dozing off upright on the couch mid-conversation.

The relationship they shared with our parents was a beautiful example and beacon of unconditional love between siblings. Even more powerfully, they showed us how in-laws can be closer than blood - how family is built not just by birth, but by devotion, loyalty, intentional connection and heart. Their bond was inspiring, and it set a standard we will always admire.

We will forever hold their lessons in our hearts. They helped shape who we are as people. We pray that we can live in their example - through hard work, unwavering commitment to family, and the generous spirit they showed so effortlessly.

We join our Mom in feeling deeply saddened and profoundly grieving his passing. At the same time, we find comfort in imagining the joyful heavenly reunion Zio and Zia must have had, and we know our Dad was beaming right by their side.

May Zio Toto's memory be eternal, and may we honor him by living the values he so beautifully embodied.

We will miss him and will carry him in our hearts forever.

*Love,
Rosie, John & Antonella*

John Pugliese - February 13 at 06:58 PM



“ *Lily and Rose Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Antonio (Tony) Bongarzone.*



February 13 at 12:08 PM



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

February 13 at 12:08 PM

GF

“ Gary, Margaret & Family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Antonio (Tony) Bongarzone.



Gary, Margaret & Family - February 13 at 11:19 AM

LF

“ Lynn & Ed Kessler and family purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Antonio (Tony) Bongarzone.



Lynn & Ed Kessler and family - February 13 at 09:04 AM

MF

“ Marisa, Mary, Lilly and all our families purchased the Ocean Breeze Spray for the family of Antonio (Tony) Bongarzone.



Marisa, Mary, Lilly and all our families - February 13 at 08:38 AM

BH

“ Bongarzone Funeral Home lit a candle in memory of Antonio (Tony) Bongarzone

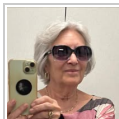


Bongarzone Funeral Home - February 13 at 05:42 AM



“ When I was born I lived with my parents, grandparents , and my father’s younger siblings Angela and Tony. I grew up with them and remember how they were very fond of me so a close bond was created between us. Uncle Tony was my special uncle young ,handsome, friendly and with a great sense of humor. My destiny brought me away from my original family and for years we didn’t see each other until 1980 , when I returned home to get married in NJ. He was out best man and I still remember how charming and funny he was, making us all laugh when he gave his speech to toast us! He was a good hearted man, a hard working family man who was active till the end. I was lucky to have seen him again last summer which made me extremely happy because I saw the humorous optimistic man I once knew. He proudly showed me his garden which his son Mark helped him with and insisted on giving me a bottle of his precious home made wine! I thought he would continue living for many more years and am terribly sorry he has gone. I’m happy to know he had a good life surrounded by his children and grandchildren and recently, also his great-grand child. Good bye my dear uncle Tony I will miss our phone calls and that marvelous witty spirit you had! May you reunite with Aunt Pina and all the family waiting to greet you. You will always be my “ special uncle” and will forever remain in my heart❤️
Your loving niece Mary

Maria Bongarzone - February 13 at 03:06 AM



God bless your beautiful soul

Maria Bongarzone - February 13 at 03:08 AM



To the Bongarzone family,

I'm writing from Italy with a heavy heart, wishing I could be there in person to honor my great-uncle, Tony Bongarzone—our beloved Zio Tony.

When I think of Zio Tony, the first words that come to me are gentle, kind, supportive, and noble. He was the kind of man whose presence calmed a room—steady, reassuring, quietly strong. To me, he was more than an uncle. He was a father figure, and I will always carry that in my heart.

One of my most vivid memories is from my first time in the United States when I was only 13. Zio Tony and Zia Pina opened their home to me and welcomed me as if I were their own son. They didn't just offer a place to visit with and play with my cousins—they gave me belonging. They made me feel safe in a new world, and their children made me feel like a brother. That kind of love is rare. It stays with you for life.

After our family emigrated from Italy and settled in Long Branch, Zio Tony and Zia Pina remained a steady source of warmth and support. For a young immigrant trying to find his footing, their help meant more than they likely ever realized. Their kindness made the difficult transition possible. Their home, their care, their encouragement—those were gifts that shaped me.

Life took me away from New Jersey as I moved across the United States for work, and over time I lost touch—something I regret deeply. If I could change one thing, it would be that: I wish I had stayed close, stayed present, stayed connected to a man so worthy of knowing and loving. But even with the distance, the truth never changed—my gratitude never changed, and my love never faded.

Today, I choose to remember Zio Tony as I always saw him: with that gentle, reassuring look—quiet strength, steady goodness, and a heart that made others feel protected and valued. I sincerely hope he is now reunited with Zia Pina in Heaven, together again, and that they are smiling down on all of us—still watching over the family they loved so well.

To my cosuins, and all who loved zio Tony, please accept my deepest condolences. I'm holding you in my prayers from afar, and I'm thankful beyond words for the love Zio Tony (and Zia Pina) gave me when I needed it most.

With love and sympathy,

Sergio Francavilla

Sergio Francavilla - February 13 at 04:24 AM

LG

Fifty years ago, I embarked on a journey to the United States with my three precious teenage children, filled with hope but also uncertainty.

From the very beginning, Uncle Tony wrapped us in his embrace, doing everything in his power to ensure we found not just a home, but a sense of belonging in this new world.

His kindness knew no bounds—guiding us through unfamiliar roads, patiently teaching us American customs, and always offering a shoulder to lean on. His love became our anchor, his wisdom our compass.

Our hearts are forever indebted to him for his selfless devotion and unwavering support. We will cherish his memory always, holding close the lessons and warmth he shared with us.

As we imagine him reunited with beloved Zia Pina, we find comfort in knowing that Heaven shines even brighter now, illuminated by their joyful spirits together once more.

Much love,

*Toni Froio
Lillian Given
Luisa Francavilla*



Lillian Given - February 16 at 10:33 AM

KL

*Anthony,
My sincere condolences to you and your family on the loss of your dad.
Katie Lipsher*

Katie Lipsher - February 17 at 10:45 AM