

Dominick Pio Calabrese

July 11, 1930 - May 17, 2025

Dominick Pio Calabrese, 94, of Tinton Falls, passed away on Saturday May 17, 2025. Dominick was born in Bronx, NY and spent the bulk of his formative years in Long Branch, NJ. He was the youngest of four children, born to Dominick and Theresa Calabrese.

On February 12, 1951, at the age of 20, Dom left college in his junior year, where he was majoring in Spanish, to enlist and serve with the United States Army, during the Korean War. After completing his basic training, he was assigned to the Army Language School in Monterey, CA, where he graduated in 1952 with a diploma in Russian Language. He then served with distinction, as part of the Army Signal Corp, stationed in West Germany. Upon his discharge, he continued his studies at Montclair State Teachers College (now Montclair University), and graduated with a B.A. in Elementary Education, with a minor in Spanish and Music. He began his career in 1955, where he taught Spanish and English at the Toms River NJ public school system and spent his summers, lifeguarding. From 1958-1966, he taught Russian and Spanish at the Pascack Valley Valley Regional High School in NJ. During that period, he developed a state approved curriculum for teaching a 4-year Russian Language Program in public schools — the first of its kind. While working as a teacher, Dominick continued his education in the Masters program at Middlebury College, VT, graduating in 1961 with a M.A. in Russian, Soviet Area Studies, Spanish and Music. Residing in Vermont, he also worked as a

tennis instructor.

While in the Army, Dominick met his future bride, Jean. His bunk mate and close friend, Garrett Collins, would reluctantly introduce him to his sister — who just happened to live only a few miles away, in a neighboring shore town. In 1952, they married while Dominick was stationed in Monterrey, CA at the Army Language School. When he returned from his Army service, Dom and Jean started their family in 1956, resulting in four children, thru 1966.

In 1966, the family moved from Woodcliff Lake, NJ to Tinton Falls, NJ where Dominick took a teaching position and later rose to Supervisor of the Foreign Language Department at Monmouth Regional High School, teaching both Russian and Spanish. His teaching style was innovative. He was very interactive, animated and used storytelling, as a method to engage and enthuse his students. Not surprisingly, he also acted in some of the school's plays and was a drama club favorite. In the late 1960's, Dominick took an additional position of Lector at Monmouth University, where he helped mold future language teachers, over the course of two decades.

Dom also worked for the NJ Department of Education, leading workshops in Methods and Techniques, in teaching foreign languages and use of Language Laboratories. Also during this period, he served as a Chairman of the Russian Reading Comprehension Committee, developing the M.L.A F.L. cooperative exams; developing and evaluating Russian listening comprehension tests for the College Entrance Examination Board.

Dominick retired from teaching in 1990 and enjoyed an active retirement — becoming a fixture at the Red Bank YMCA, running marathons in NYC, swimming competitively in the Atlantic Ocean off the coast of Long Branch, NJ, (where enjoyed swimming as a child) — amongst many of his activities. In addition to being a parishioner, he devoted himself to serving as a Eucharistic

Minister, Lector and taught Sunday School at Saint Dorothea's RC Church. Dominick had the opportunity to leave a lasting impression on his community during his many years of service — both secular and religious. In his professional life, he accomplished his goals and was content with his achievements.

He loved the outdoor lifestyle and could not wait for the summer months. Whether it was going to the beach or working outside. At home, Dom enjoyed taking care of the gardens, grounds and his wife's last creation of a Coi pond. He was often seen maintaining the property, mowing the grass, pruning trees and shrubs — all while making time for his daily commute to the "Y" — well into his late 80's.

Dominick was predeceased by his beloved wife Jean Calabrese (nee Collins), his parents Dominick and Theresa Calabrese (nee Ciancone), and his siblings Vincent, Lucy and Gigi (Louis). He is survived by his children Gregory and his wife Nancy, Michael, David, and Laurie and her husband Murphy; his grandchildren Rachel and Brian; his niece, Joann, her husband Todd and their son Nick.

Dominick's visitation will be held from 6-8 PM on Thursday May 22, 2025 at Bongarzone Funeral Home, Tinton Falls, NJ. Mass of Christian burial will be offered at 10 AM on Friday May 23, 2025 at St. Dorothea's RC Church, Eatontown, NJ. Military honors and committal prayers will follow at Fair View Cemetery, Middletown, NJ. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in his memory, to the charity of your choice.

Cemetery Details

Fair View Cemetery

Route 35
Middletown, NJ

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY **22**. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

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

Mass of Christian Burial

MAY **23**. 10:00 AM (ET)

Saint Dorothea's Church
240 Broad Street
Eatontown, NJ 07724

Tribute Wall

VH

“ Virginia Hudson lit a candle in memory of Dominick Pio Calabrese



Virginia Hudson - July 11, 2025 at 03:10 PM

VH

“ Sorry to be late in this. Just found out today. I worked in the Foreign Language Dept. at Monmouth Regional High School from autumn of 1969 until spring of 1976, when my husband and I relocated to Independence, Mo. I taught For.Lang. for 4 years at St.Mary's High School in Independence and 1 year at Raymore-Peculiar High School in Raymore. What a commute! I've never forgotten how compassionate an advisor he was to a nervous teacher. I was able to visit him at school one Christmas with my then-infant first son, Chris. I have a photo of the visit if the family would like a copy. My sympathies are with his children, grandchildren and friends at this time. God bless you! Virginia Hudson

Virginia Hudson - July 11, 2025 at 03:01 PM

RD

“ Dear Calabrese Family,
I have so many fond memories of Senior Calabrese, from Spanish classes at MRHS. He was a great teacher, man & mentor. I frequently saw him over the years at Panera, where I would find him sitting outside reading the paper, and we would chat about life. He had so much love, faith & wisdom to share. Eternal rest until we meet again. RoseAnn (Silvestre) Dogas

RoseAnn Dogas - June 04, 2025 at 08:40 PM

FR

“ *Dominick was a very nice and friendly neighbor who I often saw gardening in his spare time and mowing the lawn. He was a central figure at our church, Saint Dorothea's. We lived next door to him for over 40 years, and he left a lasting impression on our family, and we will miss his presence greatly.*



Fran Raczek - June 01, 2025 at 11:13 AM

AH

“ *Dear Calabrese family, Mr. Calabrese was an important person in my life. When I was in the eighth grade, he came to Tinton Falls school to recruit students to study Russian language at Monmouth regional high school. I decided to try it and ended up taking Russian for four years, 1967 to 1971. I took Russian again my senior year at Rutgers University where I learned about the opportunity to study in Leningrad, now St. Petersburg. I applied and was accepted for a summer program in 1975. I even got a scholarship that paid for a portion of the cost. In 1977 I visited St. Louis to look at a program that was resettling Russian Jews because I spoke Russian. I liked St. Louis so I transferred there with my job. I met my wife in the office, we fell in love and got married and the rest as they say is history. We raised three children and now have 5 grandchildren. All this was set in motion by Mr. Calabrese.*

Alec Hill - May 26, 2025 at 12:32 PM

FL

“ *Fred and Lorna. purchased the Simply Elegant S pathiphyllum for the family of Dominick Pio Calabrese.*



Fred and Lorna. - May 22, 2025 at 10:16 AM

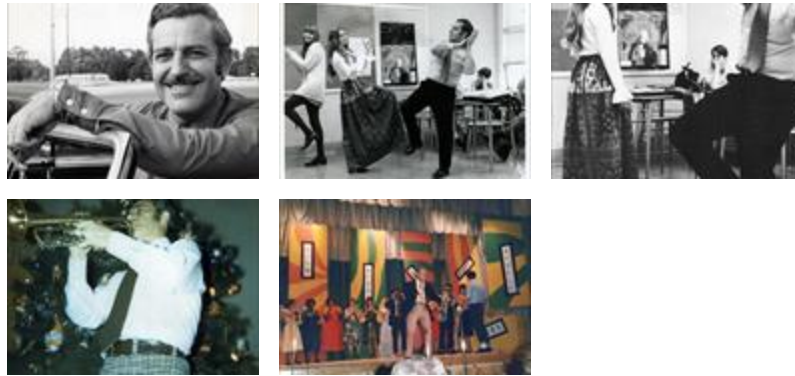
FL

“ Fred and Lorna. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dominick Pio Calabrese.

Fred and Lorna. - May 22, 2025 at 10:16 AM



“ 26 files added to the album Dom P Calabrese



Murphy Anderson III - May 21, 2025 at 06:23 PM

SC

He was helpful to me in Home Economics!

Shirley Clowney - June 30, 2025 at 11:05 AM

DG

Great pictures. Glad they were posted. Was informed too late to pay my respects. I taught at MRHS for 30 years. He was such a great guy and mentor to so many teachers.

Dave Goode - July 01, 2025 at 05:06 PM

GF

“ *Gadenz And Stanton Families lit a candle in memory of Dominick Pio Calabrese*



Gadenz and Stanton families - May 20, 2025 at 05:42 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Dominick Pio Calabrese.*



May 20, 2025 at 02:09 PM

BH

“ *Bongarzone Funeral Home lit a candle in memory of Dominick Pio Calabrese*



Bongarzone Funeral Home - May 20, 2025 at 10:57 AM