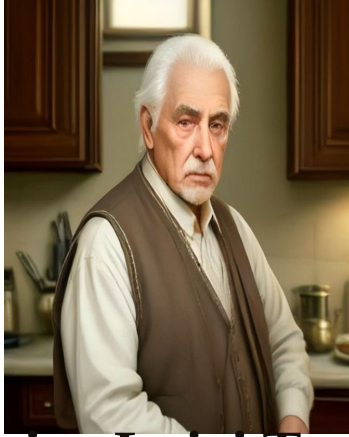




Carmine Luigi Tessitore

December 19, 1940 - September 1, 2026

New Haven, Connecticut

Carmine Luigi Tessitore died in New Haven on September 1, 2026. He was eighty-five. Born there on December 19, 1940, to parents who had come from Avellino by way of a long patience, he grew up in a city that still had ovens at the edges and offices in the middle. He learned a peel before he learned a highway.

He spent eighteen years in a slice shop that treated gravy as a weather report, then another two decades behind a hardware counter that sold fasteners to people who did not want a lecture. He started on the dish line. He ended as the man who could tell, from the sound of a bin, whether a lot of screws would hold through a late Saturday. He kept extra keys without making a production of it. When a storm closed the avenue he still opened, because weather is not an excuse to skip a lock.

He married Rosa Tessitore in 1963. They raised a daughter in a triple-decker that needed storm windows. After Rosa died in 2010 he still sat with neighbors who had to measure something and did not know where to start. He packed lunches with the same seriousness he packed a toolbox.

People on Wooster remember a man who would stay seven minutes past closing for a person who had taken two buses, who hated a messy stamp pad, and who said you're fine in a way that actually meant the work would get done. He liked the harbor early, before the heat. He died in New Haven, in the brick city he refused to apologize for. The extra keys are still in the drawer.

Services

A funeral in New Haven, then a hall with coffee. A gift to a neighborhood pantry or a literacy program is welcome.

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