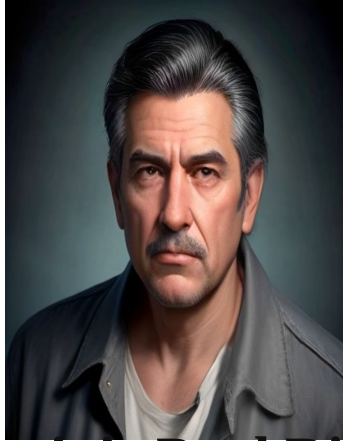




Dominic Paul Rizzo

May 14, 1950 - September 2, 2026

Newark, New Jersey

Dominic Paul Rizzo died in Newark on September 2, 2026. He was seventy-six. Born there on May 14, 1950, he grew up knowing the airport as a neighbor that never slept, and he learned an engine before he learned a classroom. A gasket, he said, is a kind of promise: it has to hold or the whole story is wet.

He spent thirty-three years as a mechanic for the Port Authority shops, first on tugs of luggage trains, later on the unlovely vehicles that keep a terminal from becoming a rumor. He did not romanticize the work. He said a night shift was a country with its own weather. He taught younger men that a torque wrench is not a suggestion, and that you do not leave a job for the next crew to find in the dark.

He married Angela Rizzo in 1974. They raised two sons in a two-family that smelled of gravy on Sundays and solvent on Mondays. Angela kept the books for a cousin's deli. Dominic grilled in the driveway and considered a Giants loss a private grief. After he retired he still came out when a neighbor's van would not start, moving slower, swearing with more precision.

Friends remember a man who wiped his hands on a rag that had already done too much, who could sit through a long offering at church without checking a clock, and who hummed while he worked as if the engine were a conversation. He loved the river lights at evening, a plate of mussels he did not finish, and the particular quiet after a repair holds. He died in Newark, the city he never wanted explained to strangers. The bay is still working. Someone else will crawl under the next one.

Services

A funeral Mass in Newark. A gift to a trade-school fund or a parish pantry suits him.

NN-OBIT-2026-C026

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