



Filomena Rosa Caggiano

September 16, 1944 - September 7, 2026

Trenton, New Jersey

Filomena Rosa Caggiano died in Trenton on September 7, 2026, at eighty-one. She was born there on September 16, 1944, to parents who had come from Avellino by way of a patience that did not advertise. She grew up in a city that still had kilns at the edges and offices in the middle. She learned a glaze before she learned a highway.

Twenty-nine years of her life went into a ceramics plant that treated a cup as a promise: it holds, or the whole story comes apart in the dark. She started packing. She ended as the woman who could tell, from the sound of a kiln, whether a lot would hold through a late inspector. She kept extra gloves for the kid whose morning had already been too long. She would not sign a burn that made the ticket a liar.

She married Antonio Caggiano in 1966. They raised a daughter in a row house that needed storm windows. After Antonio died in 2012 she still sat with neighbors who had to measure something and did not know where to start.

People on her block remember a woman who would stay 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 meant the work would get done. She liked the river early, before the heat. She died in Trenton, in the brick city she refused to apologize for. The kiln is someone else's now.

Services

A funeral in Trenton, then a hall with coffee. A gift to a plant-workers' fund is welcome.

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