



Giuseppe Antonio LoPiccolo

January 8, 1949 - August 27, 2026

Ithaca, New York

Giuseppe Antonio LoPiccolo died in Ithaca on August 27, 2026. He was seventy-seven. Born there on January 8, 1949, he grew up above a diner his uncle still called the shop, and he learned a grill before he learned a campus. A plate, he believed, should arrive complete.

He spent thirty-one years behind that counter, then another decade running the same room after the uncle was gone. He would not let a widower be rushed toward a special he had not chosen. He would not let a vendor invent a discount that made the register a liar. After a bad afternoon he sat in the stairwell with the radio off until his hands were quiet. He kept extra coffee for the plow driver whose morning had already been too long.

He married Paulina LoPiccolo in 1972. They raised a daughter in a two-family that needed storm windows and a son who needed a ride to CYO at hours no one should be awake. Paulina taught piano. Giuseppe packed lunches and considered a Sunday gravy a civic obligation. After she died in 2018 he kept the garden of tomatoes against the porch and the habit of sending a plate next door.

Friends remember a man who showed up with soup as if that were the natural use of a Tuesday, who could explain a price without making it a sermon, and who kept one good coat. He loved a quiet gallery at the university museum, a cup of coffee that was never quite hot enough, and the lake when it looked like pewter. He died in Ithaca, the gorge city he refused to narrate as a punch line. The counter is closed. The fairness he practiced there is harder to replace than a recipe card.

Services

A funeral Mass in Ithaca. A gift to a parish pantry or a diner-workers' fund suits him.

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