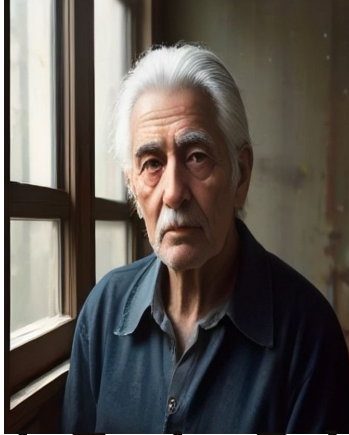




Pasquale Enrico Baldassare

October 11, 1944 - September 3, 2026

Paterson, New Jersey

Pasquale Enrico Baldassare died in Paterson on September 3, 2026. He was eighty-one. Born there on October 11, 1944, he grew up above a dye house his uncle still called the shop, and he learned a color lot before he learned a campus. A shade, he believed, should arrive complete.

He spent thirty-three years in a silk-and-dye loft that did not look like the brochures. He would not let a widow be rushed toward a special she 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 night man whose morning had already been too long.

He married Teresa Baldassare in 1966. 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. Teresa kept the books. Pasquale packed lunches and considered a Sunday gravy a civic obligation. He kept the garden of tomatoes against the porch himself until the last August.

Friends remember a man who showed up with soup as if that were the natural use of a Tuesday, who could explain a shade without making it a sermon, and who kept one good coat. He loved a quiet walk along the falls, a cup of coffee that was never quite hot enough, and the river when it looked like metal. He died in Paterson, the brick city he refused to narrate as a punch line. The loft is closed. The fairness he practiced there is harder to replace than a formula.

Services

A funeral Mass in Paterson. A gift to a parish pantry or a dye-house workers' fund suits him.

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