

Anthony Coppola, Sr.

June 27, 1937 - January 1, 2026

Anthony J. Coppola, Sr. passed away peacefully at home in Galloway, New Jersey, surrounded by his loving family, on January 1, 2026. Born on June 27, 1937, to Rose (Sirianni) and Philip Coppola, Tony cherished his memories of growing up in the Germantown section of Philadelphia, alongside his sister, the late Phyllis Coppola Neill.



A graduate of Northeast Catholic High School for Boys in Philadelphia, he then went on to attend Drexel University, where he served as President of his fraternity, Sigma Pi, and was an executive member of the Rogue and Robe Drama Society. Nicknamed "ABC" (Anthony Beautiful Coppola) in college, he caught the eye of a freshman, Frances Falcone, who confidently told her friends she was going to marry him, and she did. Tony and Fran shared 63 wonderful years together. They were true partners in every aspect of their lives: marriage, family, and business.

After serving as an active-duty Army Reserve officer, Tony began his professional career at SKF Industries, the Swedish based global leader in the ball bearings industry. He began as a foreman on the factory floor in the Philadelphia division and later moved to the Nicetown division. In 1979, he moved his family to Altoona, Pennsylvania, to become President of SKF's U.S. Ball Bearings Division. Under his leadership, the Altoona plant - employing hundreds of union workers - achieved a remarkable turnaround, supplying ball bearings to the automotive industry throughout North America. As a result of his managerial acumen, he received the "Man of the Year" Award from the AFL-CIO Blair Central Labor Council in 1982.

Following his retirement from SKF in 1987, Tony and his family relocated to Smithville, New Jersey. There, he joined the Smithville Development Company as Executive Vice President and later lent his management expertise to the Sandhurst Company and its portfolio businesses. In 1990, Tony and Fran purchased three shops in the Historic Towne of Smithville, working side by side as business partners. Seven years later, they partnered with Laura and the late Charles Bushar to purchase the entire Towne, consisting of 30 stores and two restaurants. Their vision was simple - to restore Smithville to its original charm and create a place where families could make lasting memories. Their work transformed the Towne into a thriving, beloved destination for visitors near and far.

Tony believed deeply in giving back to his community. His service and leadership extended across numerous organizations, including the Stockton University Foundation Board (where he served as President), the Philadelphia Citizens Committee for Fire Prevention, United Way of Blair County, the Boy Scouts of America, the Greater Atlantic City Tourism Council, the Noyes Museum of Art, the Greater Atlantic City Hotel and Lodging Association, the Economic Development Committees of both Galloway and Atlantic County, the Advisory Council of Atlantic Cape Community College, and UNICO.

Above all else, Tony's greatest joy in life was his family. He loved spending time with his wife, Fran; his children, Carrie and Michael McNamara, Tony and Deanna (Compton) Coppola, and Phil and Kate (McKenna) Coppola; and his ten grandchildren, Michael, Rose, Nicholas, Charley, Paddy, Christian, Bella, Finn, Maddy, and Anthony. Always seeking sunshine, he planned countless family vacations to tropical destinations, but his favorite place to be was the Smithville Inn, surrounded by loved ones, entertaining all with his warmth, humor, and storytelling.

Tony will be remembered as a true gentleman, an entrepreneur, a leader, a patriot, and above all, a devoted husband, father, grandfather, and friend. His spirit lives on in the community he helped build and the family he loved so deeply.