



Louis Detaranto

April 24, 1931 - July 4, 2025

Louis Detaranto, 94, a longtime resident of Monroe Township, NJ, passed on Thursday July 4, 2025. Louis was born in the Bronx, NY, and raised in Staten Island, NY, settling in Monroe Township, NJ in 1994. Louis attended The High School of Performing Arts in New York City, The Juilliard School of Music, then The Manhattan School of Music. He earned his Master's Degree and worked as the Music Supervisor for the NYC Department of Education in Staten Island for over 40 years, retiring in 2017. He taught at the Manhattan School of Music as well. He started a summer music program on Staten Island for students in public schools. He was a proud veteran of the United States Navy, serving our country during the Korean War on the USS Iowa. His passions in life included playing various instruments, cards, and ping-pong, racquetball and roller hockey in his youth. He was an avid reader. Louis played with The Tommy Dorsey Band in his younger years. After that he started his own big band and toured, did private events such as weddings, charities, political fundraisers and concerts at St. George Theatre. He continued to lead his big band until his late 70's. Louis was very proud that March 23, 1993 was named Louis D. Detaranto Day in Staten Island where he grew up. Louis was the beloved husband of the late Carla Jean Detaranto (nee Geffken), and the loving stepfather of Debra Cassiere and her husband, Anthony, and Brenda Graziano and husband, Brian Jerman. Louis is also survived by several nieces and a nephew. In addition, he leaves behind many extended family relatives.

Cemetery Details

East Ridgelawn Cemetery Mausoleum

255 Main Avenue
Clifton, NJ 07014

Previous Events

Entombment

JUL 11. 12:30 PM - 1:00 PM (ET)

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Clifton, NJ 07014

Tribute Wall

AL

“ I called him Uncle Louie. His first wife was my father’s sister and, besides my father, Uncle Louie was the only loving and caring member of that family. He was my father’s best man. I remember him sharing his love of music with me as a little girl ... I now love 40s music because of his influence. I’m so sad that Uncle Louie never got to meet my husband and my son - he’d have loved them. I just found out that he is in Heaven, where he belongs, because he was a wonderful man. I’ll never forget my Uncle Louie and I’m so grateful he was such a large part of my early years.

Annette D’Agostino Lloyd - May 02 at 06:34 PM

DD

“ I am eternally grateful to Mr. D and for his music program at P.S. 30.

A cool cat, Mr. D was an extraordinary musician and educator, able to cajole as much self-discipline out of 5th and 6th graders as possible. If you wanted to stay in the band, you had to practice, otherwise you'd be "canned." And you couldn't fool him.

During rehearsals for the European Tour with The Big Band Sound 1972, he told us bunch of teenagers that this would be a taste of what a musician's life is like, being on the road, and that most people aren't cut out for the hard work it takes. (I thought, are you kidding, getting to go to Europe?!)

Playing the French horn has enriched my life so much and I'm so grateful.

From Performing Arts H.S. to Tanglewood, to Boston University, post grad study in Oslo (playing extra with the Norwegian Radio Orchestra and Oslo Philharmonic), playing in an Orquesta in Guadalajara for a year, to a Masters at Manhattan School of Music (Mr. D also taught there), to nine tours of one-nighters (up to three months) with the New York City Opera National Co, Broadway shows, five European Tours and a Grammy with the Pittsburgh Symphony (playing in premiere Concert Halls in Vienna, Berlin, Salzburg, Lucerne Switzerland, London, etc.) to the Chautauqua Symphony, (where I still play), to 18 years as principal horn in Osaka Japan, to my current position teaching at SUNY Fredonia. Because of Mr. D.

I still strive to be as cool as him.

A great music educator changes the world. You sure changed mine. Thank you Mr. D.

Sincerest condolences to his family.

Donna Dolson

Chautauqua, New York

Donna Dolson - August 07, 2025 at 09:34 AM

NG

“ *I was 10 years old when Mr. D first put a double bass in my hands at PS 30 in Westerleigh. I went on to attend an arts high school and then Juilliard and went on to have a career as a professional musician. I visited him in 2010 and we had a great talk, and I heard the story of how he became THE music teacher on Staten Island. May his memory be a blessing.*

*Neil Garber
Ventura, CA*



Neil Garber - August 06, 2025 at 06:57 PM

RA

“ Firstly, condolences to all of Mr. D's family, friends and students. I began my musical career with private lessons on trombone from Mr. D as well as playing in many of the bands he led. I think my first lesson might have been in 1970. Memories include "Hey Chooch", 1 Mississippi, 2 Mississippi, 3 Mississippi, 4 Mississippi as a way of counting and learning 16th notes. Way too much pipe smoke in a small room!!! And because I wasn't coming prepared to my lessons... "Well, I guess we should tell your mother..." The fear of that set me in motion to practice, and that led to a successful career as a professional trombonist. Skipping ahead, I helped in the construction of the underground lairs of Paratore School of Music. Many nails were hammered through fake wooden paneling... He was wise enough to recommend that I follow some former students of his like Donna Dolson and Tommy Petrone to The High School Of Performing Arts, and then to the pre-college division of The Manhattan School of Music. I graduated from the college division of MSM in 1981 and began a long career as a performing, recording, and Broadway musician. I've played on many things that you have heard (and hopefully liked...). I lost touch with Mr. D in the 1980's but I have not forgotten the inspiration, humor and attention that he gave to me. He might have been the first person to acknowledge the potential of there being musical talent in me. There is nothing that I've achieved in my career that would have been possible without Mr. D. Rest in peace Mr. D. And thank you.

Randy Andos - July 29, 2025 at 05:58 PM

PF

“ Louise Detaranto was a dedicated musician and teacher. We loved his big band concerts and music. We also knew him as loving husband to our late friend Carla.
Our deepest sympathies to the family.
Polina and Sam Fishzon.
07/16/2025

polina fishzon - July 16, 2025 at 11:10 AM