



# Francis Angelo Russo

JUN 29, 1946 - FEB 9, 2026



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# Francis Angelo Russo

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**F**rancis Angelo Russo, 79, of Fredericksburg, Virginia, passed away peacefully on February 9, 2026, surrounded by the love of his family. Born in 1946 in Renovo, Pennsylvania, Francis lived a life defined by devotion to his country, God, and, most especially, to his family.

Francis was born to Ernest Russo and Anna Russo, who preceded him in death. In his early days in North Bend, Pennsylvania, he loved playing sports and fishing with his father.

A proud veteran, Francis served in the United States Navy during the Vietnam War aboard the USS Coral Sea. His time in service shaped his deep sense of patriotism and duty, qualities that remained with him long after he returned home. Following his military service, Francis built a dedicated career as an accountant with the American Red Cross.

He is survived by his wife, Linn Russo. He also leaves behind his sister, Olivia Mitcheltree; his brother-in-law, Lou Mitcheltree; his niece, Carrie Carlton; his nephew, Shawn Mitcheltree; and many cousins, most of whom affectionately (and perhaps mischievously) referred to him as Boof. He was a proud father to Samantha Finocchiaro, Heather Lyne, and Anthony Russo. His greatest joy was being “Pap-Pap” to Andrew, Zoey, Taylor, Roland, and Ashlin, each of whom held a very special place in his heart.

He was a man of many passions. Francis loved tending to his garden, where he found peace among tomatoes and carefully plotted rows of vegetables. He enjoyed cooking for his family although he was famously known for burning the garlic bread with impressive consistency. He never turned down a well-made martini and firmly believed that cheering for the Washington Redskins built character (and patience). He also enjoyed trying his luck at slot machines, always convinced the next spin would be “the one.”

Francis was a master storyteller. Whether recounting his Navy days, reliving time with family, or retelling a joke he’d delivered many times before, he told each story as though it were brand new.



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Sometimes to an audience who could recite it word for word alongside him. And yet, no one ever truly minded, because his stories carried his warmth, his humor, and his unmistakable spark.

His legacy lives on in the stories that will continue to be told again and again in his honor. The family invites all who knew and loved Francis to join them in celebrating a life well lived, and to perhaps raise a martini in his memory.



## Tribute Wall

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**Travis Burgher** posted:

I always enjoyed the opportunity to chat with Mr. Russo and hear about his adventures at sea, both with the navy and on his various cruise vacations. A very kind and engaging guy!

February 26 at 11:27 AM



**Gene Pizzino** posted:

A classmate and dear friend rest in peace Francis

February 25 at 10:15 AM



## **Memories only last if you share them**

Join us in honoring Francis by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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