

Dr. Cosmo V. DeSteno Obituary -January 4, 1944 -December 23, 2025



We announced with deep regret the passing of Dr. Cosmo V. DeSteno, D.M.D., Ph.D., FACP, FICD, 81, of Spring Lake, NJ, formerly of Franklin Lakes, NJ passed away in the comfort of his home, surrounded by his family on December 23, 2025.

Cosmo grew up in Weehawken, NJ, in a family that instilled the foundational values of hard work, dedication, education and commitment to family. Cosmo began his academic journey at Fordham University, School of Pharmacy. Three years into his Fordham education he went on to attend the University of Medicine and Dentistry (UMDNJ, now part of Rutgers) earning his Doctor of Dental Medicine in 1969 where he was elected to Omicron Kappa Upsilon, the National Dental Society. During this time, he met and fell in love with his wife, Marilyn (Vinegra). Their honeymoon began in Birmingham, AL when he was accepted into The University of Alabama Graduate School of Dentistry (Roll Tide!) where he received his Certificate in Prosthodontics and earned his Ph.D. in Physiology and Biophysics. While there, he was elected to Sigma Xi, the National Honor Society for Science and Engineering. During this time Cosmo served in the Army National Guard achieving the rank of Major.

Cosmo returned to NJ in 1973, where he entered private practice and joined the faculty of UMDNJ. Cosmo had a passion for education and wanted to create a dental practice that cultivated growth and ingenuity. In 1990, Cosmo built a state-of-the-art dental practice, Ridgewood Dental Associates (RDA). RDA quickly received national recognition under Cosmo's leadership and was credited by many as the reason behind their professional success. He never rested on his laurels and was always seeking to better himself and searching for ways he could impact his field.

He was a Diplomate of the American Board of Prosthodontics and past President of the American College of Prosthodontics. He was also Past President of The Greater New York Academy of Prosthodontics. He organized a national symposium focused on defining strategic direction for the future of the profession. Cosmo was responsible for developing and publishing the official journal of the American College of Prosthodontics.

In 1999, Cosmo made academic dentistry his full-time professional commitment by joining UMDNJ holding positions as COO of the dental school's Center for Dental and Oral Health and its Implant Center and Vice Dean.

He then went on to become the Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs at NYU College of Dentistry, overseeing one of the largest clinical care programs of its type. This role offered the opportunity to use his knowledge and expertise to impact patient care and dental education. He is nationally recognized as an expert in the field of Prosthodontics, Implantology and Temporomandibular Joint Dysfunction. Cosmo's career is a testament to his dedication to dentistry, steadfast leadership, and a deep commitment to advancing the profession.

Cosmo enjoyed spending time with his grandchildren, golfing, surf fishing at his home in Jupiter, FL and making model ships that were intricate in detail. In the summer you would often find him sitting on the front deck smoking a cigar and enjoying a gin martini, up with olives. Anyone who

crossed his path noted his affinity for being impeccably dressed, shoes shined and of course his signature black Porsche. He was always more than willing to offer feedback and advice on the proper way to dress, whether you asked for it or not. Cosmo was also known for singing "The Party is Over". This phrase will forever haunt his children as it was sung at the end of summer, after Christmas morning, after college graduations, etc. He and Marilyn enjoyed going to dinner, traveling, and spending time with friends that spanned decades. Above all else, Cosmo always acknowledged and credited Marilyn's support and dedication for his success, without it he could not have achieved what he did.

Cosmo is survived by his wife, Marilyn; his children: Marc DeSteno, Kristen DeSteno, Lauren DeSteno and her husband Philip Peters; his grandchildren: Isabella, Christopher, Walker and Hunter; his sister Dorothy Prisco, his brother Richard DeSteno and his caregiver Victoria, whose compassion provided great comfort over the last 3 years. He is also survived by many beloved nieces, nephews, and extended family. Cosmo is predeceased by his father, Dominick DeSteno, his mother, Martha DeSteno and his brother, Stefano DeSteno.

He was buried on Saturday January 3, 2026, in Spring Lake, New Jersey. In lieu of flowers, please donate in Cosmo's name to [Tunnel to Towers](#)