

## James Capodanno, who kept alive memory of his brother, Father Vincent Capodanno, dies at 94



Mr. Capodanno, a World War II veteran of the Marine Corps, died Friday in Staten Island University Hospital, Prince's Bay. (Advance file photo)



By [Tom Wroblecki](#) | [wroblecki@siadvance.com](mailto:wroblecki@siadvance.com)

[Follow on Twitter](#)

on May 23, 2014 at 4:00 PM, updated May 23, 2014 at 10:09 PM

ELTINGVILLE – James Capodanno, a World War II Marine Corps veteran who kept alive the memory of his hero brother, the Rev. Vincent R. Capodanno, has died at the age of 94, his family said.

Mr. Capodanno died on Friday at Staten Island University Hospital, Prince's Bay, according to his son, Vincent, who was named after his Medal of Honor-winning uncle.

"He kept my uncle's legacy alive," said Vincent Capodanno. "That was his main job in life. And he was a great father."

A Marine corporal with the 2nd Marine Division, 2nd Tank Battalion, Mr. Capodanno was on his way from Saipan to attack Nagasaki when news arrived that Nagasaki had been hit with the atomic bomb and that the war had come to an end.

"We entered Japan on peace terms," he told the Advance. "Semper fidelis."

Mr. Capodanno was a fixture at celebrations honoring his brother's life and sacrifice.

Mr. Capodanno and his wife, Lydia, celebrated their 69<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary last October.

An Eltingville resident, he was born in Brooklyn and also lived in West Brighton. Mr. Capodanno was a self-employed carpenter, and his son said, "He could do anything with his hands."

Arrangements are being handled by the Scamardella Funeral Home, West Brighton.

Father Capodanno, a Maryknoll missionary and U.S. Navy chaplain, was killed by a sniper on Sept. 4, 1967, at age 38, as he ministered to a Marine in Qui Son Valley. The "grunt padre" was hit 27 times in the back, neck and head.â

Father Capodanno was awarded the Medal of Honor, the Bronze Star and three Purple Hearts for his sacrifice, recently was acknowledged as a Servant of God, the first step on the road to sainthood.

Check back with SILive.com for a fuller obituary on James Capodanno.



[View/Post Comments](#)

### Related Stories

[Repeat felon, nabbed due to fur collar, gets 10 years for gun conviction](#)

[New shuttle service provides round trips from Staten Island to the Jersey Shore](#)

### Active Discussions