

Tino the Superstar

It's been a year since our beloved Tino has passed.
He was a man of huge talent and unmistakable class.

Tino was a superstar, so I need to get that out of the way right up front.
When it came to missions impossible, the guy was better than Ethan Hunt.

He tackled all sorts of jobs in order to establish his renowned fame.
The man had so many commissioner gigs, that commish should have been his name.

He worked at the New York State Institute for AIDS.
That's where many of Tino's bones were first made.

Then in NYC he became Assistant Commissioner for HIV.
In that job he helped so many people, you wouldn't believe.

Then at DHS he became Deputy Commissioner for Homeless Adult Services,
and started developing policies that made some people quite nervous.

Greater programming within shelters was one of his ideas.
And because of it, many homeless adults were able to dry their tears.

Tino served as Chief of Staff to a Deputy Mayor.
Another job where he brought his unique flavor.

Another important role was Commissioner of Juvenile Justice,
where he opened model intake facilities for kids who got busted.

And we can't leave out what is really a very significant part of his story,
and that is as the second longest serving Chairman of the Housing Authority.

But even more important than all the government appointments,
was Tino's huge passion for social and human services investment.

Twice he worked at Samaritan Daytop Village, helping the needy and afflicted,
by creating wrap around services for the homeless and the addicted.

Another thing about Tino that we all noticed and simply must be said,
is that he was always a sharp dresser, from the moment he rolled out of bed.

From his clothes to his pep talks, he was always inspiring.
That is why I find it hard to stop the tears and refrain from crying.

But no matter who you are everyone deserves a rest.
So rest well my friend because you were one of the best!

Roy Kearse, March 10, 2021