

NYC CRIME NEW YORK

Former NYPD detective Louis Eppolito, who killed for the mob, dies in federal custody

By JOHN ANNESE
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'Mafia Cop' Louis Eppolito died in federal custody Sunday. (Neil DeCrescenzo)

RECOMMENDED

One of the two notorious “Mafia Cops” who had second jobs as hitmen for the Luchese crime family died in federal custody, his wife confirmed on Monday.

Louis Eppolito, 71, was serving his sentence in a high-security federal prison in Tucson. His wife, Frances Ann Eppolito, told the Daily News he died Sunday in a “regular hospital, surrounded by doctors and nurses.”

“He was cared for,” Frances Ann Eppolito said. “He was just at peace, and he was truly taken care of by the hospital staff.”

Eppolito and his partner, Stephen Caracappa — both NYPD detectives — were sentenced to life in prison in 2009 for taking part in eight mob-ordered rubouts between 1986 and 1990. Caracappa died in 2017 at age 75.

The two cops sold their shields to Luchese underboss Anthony (Gaspire) Casso for \$4,000 a month, orchestrating murders and leaking confidential police

information. Their victims included a diamond dealer, two Gambino made men, two Luchese mobsters and a mob-connected painters' union leader.

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Relatives of their victims seethed at the ex-cops' sentencing in 2009. "This evil crime robbed us of a lifetime of memories of you," said Yael Perlman, the daughter of Israewl Greenwald, a jeweler the two cops-turned-killers kidnapped and murdered.

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The city paid \$18.4 million to settle seven lawsuits with the families of their victims.

Both ex-cops maintained their innocence. Eppolito, who apologized to the families of the victims, denied any role in their murders.

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"The federal government can take my life," Eppolito said at his sentencing. "I'm a man. They can't take my soul. They can't take my pride. They can't take my dignity.... I was a hard-working cop. I never hurt anybody. I never kidnapped anybody. ... I never did any of this."

Eppolito fought the guilty verdict "till the day he died," his wife told The News.

In 2018, Eppolito filed a lengthy, pro se petition that sought to have his conviction vacated. That request was denied, as was an appeal in July.

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