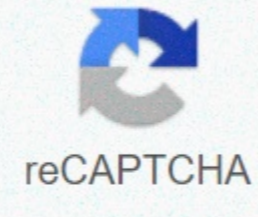




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## Skinny joey merlino wife

American Mobster This article is about Joseph Merlino, the gangster. For the New Jersey politician, see Joseph P. Merlino. Joseph MerlinoJoseph Merlino in a surveillance photo in the 1990s. Born (1962-03-13) March 13, 1962 (age 58)Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, U.S.OccupationCrime bossSpouse(s)Deborah Merlino (m. 1997) Children2Parent(s)Salvatore Chuckie MerlinoRita MerlinoAllegiancePhiladelphia crime familyConviction(s)Interstate theft and conspiracy (1990)Racketeering (2001)Illegal gambling (2018)Criminal penaltyThree years' prison (1990)14 years imprisonment (2001)Two years imprisonment (2018) Joseph Salvatore Skinny Joey Merlino (born 13 March 1962) is an Italian-American mobster , who is considered the boss of the Philadelphia crime family. [1] In the mid-1990s, he rose to power after allegedly waging a war for control of the criminal organization. He led the criminal family into gambling, loan sharks and extortion. [2] Compared to other traditional mob bosses who shun the spotlight, Merlino regularly interacted with the media and the public. [3] He is the son of the late Philadelphia criminal Chuckie Merlino. With the help of whistleblower Ralph Natale, Merlino was sentenced to 14 years in prison in 2001 on several RICO charges, including racketeering, illegal gambling and extortion. [5] Since his release from prison in 2011, the FBI and organized crime reporters believe he continues to lead the Philadelphia-South Jersey Mafia. Merlino denies this, claiming he retired from a criminal life. Starting in 2015, Merlino splits his time between South Florida and Philadelphia. [7] [8] [8] Merlino was born in Philadelphia on March 13, 1962, the son of Italian-American parents Salvatore Chuckie Merlino and Rita Giordano. Merlino grew up in South Philadelphia and Ventnor City, New Jersey. [11] He is also the nephew of the late Philadelphia criminal Lawrence Yogi Merlino. Joey's sister was briefly engaged to Salvatore Testa. He was friends with Michael Mikey Chang Ciancaglini and his brother Joseph Joey Chang Ciancaglini Jr. since he attended St. Thomas Aquinas Grade School in Philadelphia's Breeze Point neighborhood. Merlino's father owned and operated the 9M Bar in Southwark, which Nicky Scarfo used as a criminal headquarters during his attempt to become the new boss of the Philadelphia crime family. [12] In August 1982, at the age of 20, Merlino and Salvatore Scafidi, son of bookmaker Gaetano Scafidi sr., beat and killed two male patrons at the Lido Restaurant in Atlantic City. In 1984, Merlino was charged with two counts of aggravated assault and possession of a weapon. Found guilty of any purpose. [13] In August 1984, he was appointed by the New Jersey Casino Control Commission from New New York. Casinos. [14] His father Salvatore was also banned by the same commission as his son for his criminal activities on 23 May 1984. Nicky Scarfo demoted his father Salvatore from his position as a sub-boss to a soldier because of his father's alcoholism. In 1988, Salvatore was sentenced to 45 years in federal prison for two counts of drug trafficking and drug trafficking. Joseph Merlino was described as a particularly vicious person, obsessed with his own public image and another version of new York's John Gotti. Joey was a party guy, said mob employee Ron Previte, a police officer who was turned over by gangsters. He liked to go out. He liked to play. He liked the high life. He invited television crews to his annual Christmas party for the homeless and was a fixture in the city's nightclubs, restaurants and sporting events. [15] Along with his longtime pals and future mobsters, he was known for beating people, robbing people, and starting fights in clubs. [16] On October 31, 1989, Nicky Jr., the son of imprisoned Philadelphia family boss Nicky Scarfo, Sr., was shot dead at an Italian restaurant in Bella Vista. The younger Scarfo was shot eight times with a MAC-10, but was not hit in any vital organ. He recovered quickly and left the hospital less than two weeks later. No one has ever been charged with attempted murder, but the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and local law enforcement believe Merlino carried out the shooting to settle a score between the Scarfos and Merlino's and show that the elder Scarfo no longer had power in Philadelphia. Merlino denied any involvement, claiming he was under house arrest on the night of the shooting. Years later, when a TV reporter approached Merlino and asked for an alleged bounty of 500,000 dollars on his life, Merlino replied: Give me half a million dollars and I'm going to shoot myself. [17] In August 1989, Merlino was charged with theft and conspiracy stemming from an incident in which a Federal Armored Express truck was stolen in 1987. [18] In January 1990, Merlino was convicted of planning the heist and sentenced to three years in prison. Mob was Gaetano Horsehead Scafidi (left) was a friend of Merlino. In the 1990s he moved to John Stanfa (right). In 2000, he witnessed the government and testified in Merlino's trial. Merlino served his sentence at the Federal Correctional Institution in McKean, where he met the mobster Ralph Natale in 1990. Natale was a long-time mobster who received a 15-year prison sentence for arson and served. According to Natale, he and Merlino began planning to take over the Philadelphia criminal family during this time. Natale named Michael Ciancaglini, Steven Mazzone, George Borgesi, Gaetano Tommy Horsehead Scafidi and Martin Angelina as Merlino's main ally and co-conspirator in the These men have all been close friends of Merlino since high school and began to move on criminal thugs in Philadelphia. When John Stanfa became the new leader of the Philadelphia family in 1991, the young group of mobsters openly rebelled against him. [21] The Young Turks as the press would eventually insult Merlino's close-knit crew with the assassination of Felix Bocchino on January 29, 1992. Merlino was released from prison in April 1992. To suppress further violence, Stanfa Merlino and his best friend Michael Ciancaglini have officially joined the family of crime. Stanfa hoped that he would be able to keep an eye on the Merlino crew and make it easier for them if needed. While this act of diplomacy temporarily ended the violence, an entire war broke out between Stanfa and Merlino in 1993. [22] On August 5, 1993, Merlino survived an assassination attempt by two Stanfa shooters, in which he took four bullets in the sand and buttocks, while Ciancaglini was shot in the chest and died. [23] On August 31, 1993, a shooting was carried out on Stanfa and his son while they were driving on the Schuylkill Expressway. Stanfa escaped unharmed and his son survived when he was shot in the jaw. On September 17, 1993, a friend of Merlino's was shot by Stanfa shooters. [22] The Stanfa shooter Philip Colletti testified in court that he had planted a remote control bomb under Merlino's car several times, but that it did not stop every time. [25] [23] In November 1993, Merlino was arrested by the FBI, charged with violating his supervised release, and sent back to prison. Mob leader Stanfa was arrested in March 1994 for violating the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act,[26] was convicted in 1995,[27] and sentenced to life imprisonment in 1996. [28] After most of Stanfa's followers were also arrested and convicted, Merlino, who was released from prison in November 1994, won the war and appointed Ralph Natale as his new boss while positioning himself as his boss. During Natale's reign, Merlino was the true power in the family that enabled Natale to become chief to divert the attention of law enforcement. [29] Nevertheless, Merlino gained fame as an extravagant, prominent gangster who often partied with a large entourage. The press called him the John Gotti of Passyunk Avenue because of his honest appearance in front of thought cameras (Passyunk Avenue is a street in South Philadelphia). He also invited the press when he held Christmas parties for the homeless and gave away turkeys in housing projects on Thanksgiving. [17] The arrogance and aggressiveness of Merlino's young faction prevented many criminals from using criminal family. [30] Merlino would often make big bets with bookies and refuse to pay if he loses. [31] This practice, known as guzzling, has been applied to both independent and mob run bookies. During this time and Natale oversaw gambling, lending, extortion and theft of the criminal family. In 1995, Louis Turra, the leader of the Philadelphia drug gang, the 10th and Oregon crew (also known as the 10th and O gangs), was badly beaten by Merlino's men for allegedly not paying a mafia street tax on the gang's illegal income. [32] Annoyed by the beating, Turra sought revenge. His father, Anthony, held a meeting at his home where Anthony, Louis and his gang discussed the killing of Merlino. In January 1998, Louis Turra apparently hanged himself in a New York City prison while awaiting trial. In March 1998, Anthony Turra was tried for planning to kill Merlino and was shot dead outside his home by a gunman in a black ski mask. He was shot twice as he went to federal court to deliberate on a jury in the beating and drug trial against him and four other men. We consider this an organized crime, an attack on a mob, said Police Inspector Jerrold Kane. Three years later, Merlino was tried for assisting in staging the murder, but was acquitted. In the late 1990s, Merlino dodged more than two dozen attempts. Merlino was friends with Steve Gorilla Mondevergine, president of the Pagans MC Motorcycle Club. [35] Merlino sometimes used the Pagans to settle underworld disputes. [36] In the 1990s, Merlino was also associated with members of the Junior Black Mafia. [38] After Natale's arrest for violating probation conditions in 1999, Merlino officially took over the family of the crime and cut natala. On 28 June 1999, Merlino was indicted and arrested without bail on charges of conspiracy to distribute more than five kilograms of cocaine and one count of unlawful use of a communications facility in connection with a drug trafficking offence. [39] The charges were later extended to rackets and the order or approval of three murders and two attempted murders. Six other men were also brought to justice. The prosecution's case was supported by several former mafia cohorts of Merlino's who agreed to cooperate with the government. Natale agreed in 1999 to work together to avoid drug trafficking allegations. Gaetano Tommy Horsehead Scafidi agreed to work together in 2000 while serving a prison sentence for fearing he would be murdered by Merlino's crew. Peter the crumb Caprio agreed to work with the government in 2000 after being charged with two murders And Ron Previte testified after becoming an undercover informant a few years earlier. They all testified that Natale and Merlino started a mob war to take over the Philadelphia crime family, and that Merlino committed various criminals in the 1990s. [41] On 20 July 2001, the jury returned a mixed verdict. Merlino was acquitted of all three counts of murder and two counts of attempted murder, but he was convicted of robbers such as extortion, bookmaking and dementia. Along with Merlino, six of his colleagues were also convicted of various charges. [42] On 3 December 2001, Judge Herbert J. Hutton sentenced Merlino to 14 years in prison. Ain't bad, Merlino commented on his conviction. Better than the death penalty. [43] A month after the verdict, Merlino was again indicted in federal court for the 1996 murder of Joseph Sodano, although a jury found the murder charge to be unproven as a VORTat of the RICO. [44] [45] In March 2004, Merlino was acquitted of murdering Sodano as a violent crime in support of brawls. [46] Merlino served his sentence at the Federal Correctional Institution in Terre Haute, Indiana. Merlino was sentenced to nearly 12 years in prison on March 15, 2011. [48] [48] [49] He was moved to half a house in Florida for six months and was released under supervision until 2015. [51] [51] On January 4, 2015, shortly before his parole period expired, Judge Richard Barclay sentenced Surrick Merlino to four months in prison for violating his supervised release by meeting with organized crime representatives in Florida. [52] [53] [54] On April 24, 2015, Merlino was released from the Federal Detention Center in Miami after his sentence was overturned. He was released 10 days earlier and was free from post-release restrictions after winning an appeal by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. Moved to Florida After his release in 2011, Merlino moved to Boca Raton, Florida. [56] In an interview with George Anastasia in 2013, Merlino denied any current involvement in the Philadelphia Mafia and declared that his life as a criminal was over. He was quoted in the interview as saying: I don't want any of it and there are too many rats. [58] [58] In November 2014, Merlino opened a restaurant in Boca Raton called Merlino's, which contained his mother's recipes. [59] The restaurant belonged to a group of investors; Merlino is prohibited from having a

facility that serves alcohol because of his criminal record. [60] Instead, Merlino officially worked there as the Maître d'until the restaurant closed in 2016. On September 7, 2016, the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board banned Merlino from all casinos in Pennsylvania. [61] On August 4, 2016, Merlino was one of 46 people arrested in a RICO indictment on the East Coast. Merlino was arrested at his home in Florida and tried in New York. Merlino was charged with one count of racketeering, fraud and two counts of illegal gambling. Merlino has been accused of illegally with New York criminals in the Genovese family. [62] Merlino was also accused of participating in a massive medical fraud scheme in Florida in which doctors took patients with (and ineffective) medical devices and billing patient insurance. On August 12, Merlino was released on a bond worth 5 million U.S. dollars. [63] The other 45 men charged in the broad indictment accepted favorable pleas and pleaded guilty to reducing the charge. [64] Merlino rejected any plea and went to court on January 30, 2018. [65] [66] [67] The trial ended after two weeks of testimony. On February 20, Judge Richard J. Sullivan declared a mistrial after jurors were unable to reach a unanimous verdict on one of the four charges against Merlino. [68] To avoid a retrial, Merlino concluded a plea deal with federal prosecutors on April 27. He agreed to plead guilty to facilitating illegal gambling through an electronic device in exchange for the U.S. Attorney's Office dropping the remaining charges against him and recommending a prison sentence of between 10 and 16 months. [69] On 17 October, Merlino was sentenced to a maximum sentence of two years in prison. [70] In October 2019, Merlino was released early and moved to half a house to end the rest of his sentence. References: Brown, Julie K. (2012-10-02). 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