



Joseph L. Drouillard

June 30, 1930 - January 23, 2015

Joseph L. Drouillard, 84, passed away suddenly in Venice, Florida, on January 23, 2015. Joseph was the son of Cornelius and Olive Drouillard. He is survived by his loving wife of 64 years, Gloria (Jacquay), his brother Robert (Rachel) Drouillard, and eight children: Joseph (Camille), Mary (Leo) Posadny, Bernard (Anne), Marty (Dave) Murray, Greg (Jeanne), Paul (Carol), Maria Hilton, Shelly Drouillard, daughter-in-law Jennifer Drouillard, thirty-nine grandchildren, fifty-six great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews. Joseph was preceded in death by his son, Christopher; his sisters Jeanne Conley, Marilyn Porthouse, and Frances Quinnell; his son-in-law Rickie Hilton; and his great-granddaughter Sayde.

Joseph graduated from Central Catholic High School in 1947 and worked in a neighborhood grocery store where he met the love of his life, Gloria. Joseph worked at the Willys-Overland Jeep plant, but he soon returned to the grocery business when he purchased the Prospect Market on Detroit Avenue. Joseph then purchased the R. J. Weaver Company on Huron Street in 1962. He renamed it the Weaver Poultry Company and expanded the distribution business into all types of meat and frozen food products. That successful venture became a family affair and grew throughout the years to employ one hundred workers with annual sales of over fifty-million dollars. At the height of his business career, Joseph also owned the Kurtz Meat Market, the International School of Meat Cutting and the Portside Meat Market. Joseph

was also an active parishioner of Rosary Cathedral, St Joseph in Maumee and St. Joan of Arc Catholic Churches.

Joseph was a kind and gentle man. He loved horses, traveling around the world, and rooting for the Detroit Tigers; but most of all Joseph enjoyed spending time with his family. More than anything else Joseph was known as a devoted husband and father. His grandchildren affectionately named him "Papa Joe."

Visitation will be at the Coyle Funeral Home, 1770 S. Reynolds Road, on Thursday, January 29th, from 4:00 to 8:00 pm. where a Scripture Service will be held at 7:00 PM. Funeral services will be held on Friday January 30th beginning at 9:30 am. in the mortuary followed by the funeral mass in St. Joan of Arc Church at 10:00 am . Memorials may take the form of contributions to Champions in Action c/o St. Patrick of Heatherdowns Church.

Cemetery Details

Resurrection Cemetery

5725 Hill Ave
Toledo, OH 43615

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN **29**. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Coyle Funeral and Cremation Services
1770 S. Reynolds Road
Toledo, OH 43614
(419) 865-1295
<https://www.coylefuneralhome.com>

Scripture Service

JAN **29**. 7:00 PM - 7:30 PM (ET)

Coyle Funeral and Cremation Services
1770 S. Reynolds Road
Toledo, OH 43614
(419) 865-1295
<https://www.coylefuneralhome.com>

Funeral

JAN **30**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

St Joan of Arc
Toledo, OH 43614
<http://joanofarc.org>

Tribute Wall

AN

“ I met Mr. and Mrs. Drouillard after Shelly's graduation for her master's degree. Mr. Drouillard could not have been more proud of her and what she had accomplished. I know that his family was so important to him, and they will have so many memories of the time they spent together with him.

-Ann Nowak-Lawler

Ann Nowak-Lawler - February 01, 2015 at 10:47 PM

SS

“ Mary, I just saw and heard at school today that your Father passed away. I am unable to visit you at the mortuary, but please know that you and your family are in my prayers at this time.

May our God of Peace and Goodness surround each of you at this time!

Sister Christine Marie Foos, SND

Sr. Christine Marie Foos, SND - January 29, 2015 at 07:17 PM

YT

“ Your Friends at Miami Industrial Trucks purchased the Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant for the family of Joseph L. Drouillard.



Your Friends at Miami Industrial Trucks - January 29, 2015 at 03:30 PM

CO

“ Joseph L. Drouillard, 84, who became one of the largest poultry and meat distributors in the Midwest and owned the widely regarded, Toledo-based National School of Meat Cutting, died Friday at his Venice, Fla., winter home. He had an apparent heart attack, his son Greg said. Mr. Drouillard owned the Prospect Market on North Detroit Avenue when in 1962 he bought his egg supplier, the R.J. Weaver Co. The grocery store business is very difficult. He felt this would be a better opportunity in the long run,” said his son Joe, who worked at Weaver Poultry, as all the Drouillard children did, and was sales manager. Mr. Drouillard didn't make a profit for several years, son Joe said. “He was very patient and didn't let disappointments get him down,” son Joe said. The company grew as it focused on distributing fresh chicken to eateries - such as Kentucky Fried Chicken- and independent markets and small grocery chains. Weaver moved twice, finally to Lagrange Street, opened a facility in Livonia, Mich., added processed meat, and eventually generated more than \$50 million in annual sales.

Coyle - January 29, 2015 at 11:43 AM

“His motivation behind everything he did was his family,” son Joe said. “He was absolutely delighted that we all had jobs there.”

In the early 1980s, Mr. Drouillard bought the National School of Meat Cutting, founded in 1923, and the associated Kurtz Market, which became the school's retail outlet, though founded in the 1860s. He also opened a meat shop in Portside Festival Market Place.

The meat cutting school had drawn students from around the world, but changes in the economy and downtown business caused Mr. Drouillard to close both school and market in 1985. A decline in small markets and changes in the chicken industry led him to close Weaver in 1995.

He was born June 30, 1930, to Olive and Cornelius Drouillard and grew up in Erie and Temperance. He was a 1947 graduate of Central Catholic High School.

A son, Christopher, died July 6, 2011. Surviving are his wife, Gloria, whom he married Feb. 3, 1951; sons Joseph, Bernard, Greg, and Paul; daughters Mary Posadny, Marty Murray, Maria Hilton, and Shelly Drouillard; brother, Robert; 39 grandchildren, and 56 great-grandchildren.

Visitation is 4-8 p.m. today in Coyle Funeral Home, with a Scripture service at 7 p.m. Funeral services are at 10 a.m. Friday in St. Joan of Arc Church, of which he was a charter member.

The family suggests tributes to Champions In Action in care of St. Patrick of Heatherdowns Church.

This story was written by Blade Staff Writer Mark Zaborney. Contact him at: mzaborney@theblade.com or 419-724-6182.



“ *Sweet Tenderness was purchased for the family of Joseph L. Drouillard.*



January 29, 2015 at 11:27 AM



“ *Marty, I saw today that your father passed away. I am very sorry for your loss. God bless you all. Ann (Wagner) Sacksteder.*

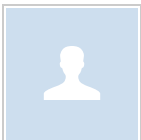
ann sacksteder - January 29, 2015 at 09:14 AM



“ *Joseph Sevany and staff purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Joseph L. Drouillard.*



Joseph Sevany and staff - January 29, 2015 at 05:22 AM



“ *Quiet Expressions was purchased for the family of Joseph L. Drouillard.*



January 28, 2015 at 09:22 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Joseph L. Drouillard.*



January 28, 2015 at 06:16 PM



“ *A New Sunrise Spray was purchased for the family of Joseph L. Drouillard.*



January 28, 2015 at 12:53 PM



“ *Dearest Gloria and Drouillard family,
We are so saddened by the loss of Joe. He was a wonderful man and very special friend. We cherish many memories of our family's times together over the years. He will always remain close to our hearts.*

Love and Prayers, Doug and Ev Schroder

Evelyn Schroder - January 28, 2015 at 11:12 AM



“ *Dear Gloria,
Please accept our prayers and sympathy for the loss of Joe. May God rest his soul and comfort all who love him.*

*Sincerely,
Mary (McCarty) and Joe Pierce
Miramar Beach, FL*

Mary McCarty Pierce - January 28, 2015 at 09:14 AM



“ *Fall Fantasia was purchased for the family of Joseph L. Drouillard.*



January 28, 2015 at 07:08 AM



“ *Mike and I send our thoughts and prayers from Texas.*

Kathy and Mike Conley

Kathy Conley - January 27, 2015 at 09:36 PM



“ *Marty lit a candle in memory of Joseph L. Drouillard*



Marty - January 27, 2015 at 08:32 PM