



Joseph Rutherford

July 31, 1933 - August 11, 2021

Joe Rutherford passed away on Wednesday, August 11, 2021, at StoryPoint in Waterville, Ohio. He had recently celebrated his 88th birthday.

Joe was born on July 31, 1933, the youngest of 10 children born to Albert and Mary Rutherford in East Toledo. He graduated from Central Catholic High School, Class of 1951. He enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps, attending Boot Camp at USMCRD Parris Island. He served as a Drill Instructor at USMCRD San Diego for part of his three years of active duty, the remainder at Camp Pendleton, and then served an additional 6 years as a reservist in Toledo. He was Honorably Discharged in 1960 as a Staff Sergeant.

Joe received his B.S. in Education from the University of Toledo 1959, his M.S. in Education 1964, and his Ed. Specialist/Administration Certificate in 1969. He was twice elected as President of the Alpha Sigma Phi fraternity and was selected for Phi Delta Kappa.

Joe met his wife Cece while he was the Lyndon Johnson presidential campaign volunteer coordinator in Lucas County. They were married on November 21, 1964, and would have celebrated their 57th anniversary later this year. They were the proud parents of three children: Joseph, James, and Lynne. His grandchildren lovingly called him “Dziadzia”. After working his way through college at the Babcock Dairy in Toledo, Joe dedicated his life to Education, starting out as a teacher in Lyons-Chesterfield High School in Fulton County, Ohio, then at Libbey High School in Toledo, and as a lecturer at the University of Toledo. He moved into school administration as a principal at Lyons-Chesterfield High School, as the Superintendent at Spencer Sharples Local School District, and worked for six different superintendents as Director of Legislative Services for the Toledo Public Schools.

Joe was a visionary; a creative, “out of the box” thinker and leader in the education field. Examples include being a part of the creation of the Toledo School for the Arts and the International Studies Center. He also strongly believed in leading-edge ideas like magnet schools and parental school choice.

After he retired from TPS in 1991, he continued to work for the TPS on a contract basis, and then for a variety of employers who retained his services for his legislative knowledge and lobbying skills. In 2000, he was elected to the Governing Board of the Educational

Service Center, Lake Erie West and in 2001 was appointed to the Penta Career Center Board of Education. In 2003, he was involved in the development of The Challenger Learning Center of Lucas County. Joe retired from the ESC and Penta Career Center boards in 2018, which capped a 50+ year span of service to Education and to his community.

Additionally, Joe served on the following volunteer Boards: Toledo Council of Catholic Young Adults (President), Lucas County Young Democrats (President), Reynolds Corners Rotary Club (President), the United Way Campaign (Education Vice-Chairman for 25 years), Central Catholic High School Board of Education, Toledo Opera Association Executive Board, the Toledo School for the Arts, World Cup of International Wrestling (Vice-Chairman), Ohio Job Training Coordinating Council, the Greater Toledo Aquatic Club (President), the St. Patrick's of Heatherdowns Athletic Boosters Club (a founding member and President), Hidden Harbor Homeowners Association (President) and the North Central Regional Education Laboratory Board of Directors.

Joe was a 50-year active member of St. Patrick's of Heatherdowns Catholic Church. He was a lifetime member of the Lou Diamond Detachment of the Marine Corps League, and the American Legion, Arthur Daly Post #334.

Joe is survived by his wife Cecilia (Kaminski), son Joseph (Marcia), daughter Lynne (Jordahn) Gardner, and daughter-in-law Dorotea, eleven grandchildren (Lauren, Olivia, Joseph William VI, and Ian Rutherford, Rosalia, Joseph Charles and Catherine Rutherford, and J. Patrick, Abigail, Elizabeth and Charlotte Gardner) and brother Charles (Patricia) Rutherford, and many beloved nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents Albert and Mary (Overberg) Rutherford, eight brothers and sisters, his son James, and grandson, Anthony Ignatius.

In lieu of flowers, the Rutherford Family asks that donations be given to the Toledo Community Foundation/Rutherford Family Scholarship Fund for Waite High School, to Central Catholic High School in Toledo, or St. Patrick of Heatherdowns Church.

The Rutherford Family thanks Dr. Barry Conlan for taking such good care of Dad for many years. We also recognize and thank the staff at StoryPoint in Waterville, especially Tara, Sam, Tiffany, Rhonda, Zion and the many other dedicated, compassionate, and caring people there. Finally, we thank the good people at Visiting Angels and Ohio Living & Hospice who helped care for Dad in his final days.

Friends may visit at the Coyle Funeral Home, 1770 S. Reynolds Rd. on Monday, August 16 from 4:00-7:00 p.m. with a Scripture Service at 6:30. The Memorial Mass will be held at St. Patrick of Heatherdowns Church on Tuesday, August 17 at 11:00 a.m., with a greeting of guests at 10:30. Interment will be private at Resurrection Cemetery. Please leave a condolence message and view Joe's Memorial Video tribute at CoyleFuneralHome.com.

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG **16.** 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Coyle Funeral Home
1770 S. Reynolds Road
Toledo, OH 43614

Vigil

AUG **16.** 6:30 PM - 6:45 PM (ET)

Coyle Funeral Home
1770 S. Reynolds Road
Toledo, OH 43614

Funeral Ceremony

AUG **17.** 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

St. Patrick Of Heatherdowns
4201 Heatherdowns Blvd
Toledo, OH

Tribute Wall

BW

“ CeCe, I am so sorry to hear of your loss of Joe. My sympathy to you and your family. May love surround you as you move through this sad time.



Beth Brower Weilant - August 18, 2021 at 01:46 AM

JA

“ To the Rutherford Family,

We had so many great memories of Laurel Hill over the years. Your Family was part of those memories. Your Dad was the best...always a big smile and always involved with the activities of the club. My parents just loved your folks and often talked about them through the years. Hold your Mom close and know that your Dad is in Heaven with a great group of people. How awesome Heaven must be!

Big Hugs from Columbus,

Louise & Jeff Arman

Jeff Arman - August 17, 2021 at 02:45 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Joseph Rutherford.



August 16, 2021 at 01:15 PM

KS

“ *Dear Cece and Family*

My deepest sympathy on the passing of Joe. I remember him as the neighbor across the street so many years ago who was filled with energy and a passion for life. When both of you came to my senior art exhibit at BGSU and purchasing a piece of my art... well that was something that I never forgot. It showed your support for the arts and the start of a great career. That support was very touching. Please accept a heartfelt hug that I unfortunately can not deliver in person. May God bless you, and may Joe rest in peace.

Kathy Sobb

Kathy Sobb - August 16, 2021 at 12:00 PM

CK

“ *School children in NW Ohio had a true friend in Joe even though they probably never knew him or understood what he did for them. But, he also did so much for the area in general.*

We got to know Joe mostly through Toledo Chamber of Commerce Governmental Affairs Committee work where he never missed an opportunity to advocate for the "kids". But he was more than willing to don a Panda costume and parade with other Pandas in the halls of the Ohio Legislature making personal invitations to the lawmakers to come visit the gems of the Toledo Area. He made one BIG Panda because he was one Big man!

We send our deepest condolences to Cece and his entire family and are certain the good memories of Joe will eventually ease the deep feeling of loss.

Janet and Chuck Krueger

Chuck Krueger - August 16, 2021 at 11:56 AM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Joseph Rutherford.*



August 16, 2021 at 11:29 AM

MD

“ *My Deepest Sympathy. May the memories of Joe be your comfort during this time. Rest In Peace.*

Michael Drzewiecki - August 16, 2021 at 10:00 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Joseph Rutherford.



August 16, 2021 at 09:43 AM

CV

“ 2 files added to the album VIDEO TRIBUTE



COYLE FUNERAL HOME VIDEOS - August 15, 2021 at 09:54 PM

JG

“ A lifetime of giving to his family and the great Toledo community. Mr. Rutherford always a true gentleman and committed husband, father and friend. I had the pleasure of coaching his children for the south Y swim team. It is clear the legacy he leaves and one Celilia continues with the success and commitment they all have within their family. My prayers with you all!

John Geha - August 15, 2021 at 07:57 PM

DT

“ Cece.... I'm so sorry to hear of Joe's passing. He was such an advocate for so many and will be truly missed. Hugs to you and your family.

Diane Thorpe - August 13, 2021 at 09:16 PM

SB

“ Uncle Joe was a phenomenal role model! Our family is so grateful for his care & professional expertise on behalf of students of all ages.. Joe's magnanimous love for others was exemplary , especially his enduring care for his parents, mother in law, sisters & brothers. Joe graciously & generously gave of his hospitality, talents & time to countless individuals & organizations. We are so grateful for his well lived life of goodness. John & Sheila Rutherford Brice

Sheila Rutherford Brice - August 13, 2021 at 06:30 PM