



## Joseph T. Melarkey

March 6, 1934 - September 6, 2020

Joseph T. Melarkey, 86, passed away on Sunday, September 6, 2020 at the VA Hospital in North Chicago, IL. He was born March 6, 1934 in Chicago, IL, was a former 28-year resident of Lake Forest, retiring to Columbia, South Carolina for 6 years, and living in Great Lakes for the past year.

He attended Loyola University and the La Salle Extension University of the Stenotype School of Chicago. He was a former licensed court reporter and the owner of Melarkey Reporting Service in Chicago. Joe was a member of the National Court Reporters Association. He was also a member of St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Lake Forest and was an avid sports fan, enjoying playing tennis and watching the Chicago sports teams and others.

Surviving are his wife of 58 years, Jane Melarkey; daughter, Heather (Mark) Menconi and four siblings, Harvey and Michael Melarkey, Patricia Foley and Sheila Butler.

A visitation will begin at 1pm followed by a service at 3pm on Saturday, September 19, 2020 at Burnett-Dane Funeral Home, 120 W. Park Avenue (Rt. 176, one block west of Milwaukee Ave.) in Libertyville. Memorial donations may be considered to the Mayo Clinic, [www.mayoclinic.org](http://www.mayoclinic.org). For info: 847-362-3009 or share a memory at [www.burnettdane.com](http://www.burnettdane.com).

# Previous Events

## Visitation

SEP 19. 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM (CT)

Burnett-Dane Funeral Home  
120 West Park Avenue  
Libertyville, IL 60048

## Memorial Service

SEP 19. 3:00 PM (CT)

Burnett-Dane Funeral Home  
120 West Park Avenue  
Libertyville, IL 60048

# Tribute Wall

VT

“ Veronica & Team purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Joseph T. Melarkey.



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Veronica & Team - September 24, 2020 at 02:37 PM

JL

“ It was our blessing to have known Joe Melarkey. Joe and Jane shared wonderful memories with our parents, every Christmas he delighted all the grandchildren by dressing up as Santa to spread Christmas cheer. It meant a lot to us that Tyler enjoyed getting gifts from Santa on Christmas Eve at the annual holiday party. Joe and Jane Melarkey will always be a memorable and joyful part of our family. Joe will always be remembered as a man who loves his family and friends. He will always be remembered as a family member to us. Jane and Heather, he has found his peace.

Love always,

Joe, Heather, and Tyler Lyons

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Joseph Lyons - September 19, 2020 at 02:54 PM

DG

“ Uncle Joe,  
May you rest in eternal peace. You were a happy go lucky guy who always had a smile for everyone and a warmth in your heart. My prayers go out to you, Jane, Heather, and all your friends and family. You will forever be in our hearts.

Prayers,

David Gunger

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David Gunger - September 19, 2020 at 01:16 PM

“ To Heather & Jane,

*There are no words to describe how much I looked up to Joe. He could light up a room simply by walking through the door. His smile and quick wit would put everyone at ease and his laugh was infectious. Personally, he was my shining light in an eclectic array of challenges during our formative years. Our sister, Sheila, summarized what he meant to our family quite well and I could probably add another 50 acts of kindness he performed that I remember from our childhood. However, my fondest memory of all is how he took me "EVERYWHERE". Bears, Blackhawks, you name it ..... Tell me; what 27-year old young man drags his 'snot-nosed' 10-year old brother on dates???? Jane will attest....he did it often. Kudos to Jane for putting up with that little kid in the backseat. I would be remiss if I didn't mention how he made me laugh while singing along with the radio.*

*I didn't really appreciate how much effort he put towards my well-being back then until I became an adult (and Father). Joe filled the gaps left by our own Father's failing health. Joe taught me how to ride a bike, catch a baseball, throw a football and be a good man.*

*Life's travels can take families in many different directions. We all make mistakes in our youth and hopefully learn from them. Then, we go on and raise our own children with hope and the guidance (wisdom) from our own experiences. However, no matter how many miles apart you are or how many years go by, those times together and the love that was shared are somehow never forgotten.*

*Sadly, we always remember the words we wish we would have said 'after' someone passes. I hope it's not too late ... I love you Joe. You were the best and thanks for everything.*

*Mike (Little ace)*

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**Mike Melarkey** - September 19, 2020 at 01:59 AM

MB

“ It was our honor to have known Joe Melarkey. We are blessed to know Joe and Jane. Joe was not only one of my Dad's good friends but he was also part of our family. Joe and Jane Melarkey will always be a major part of our family. Joe was kind, smart, generous, and a loving person. He was a beloved husband to Jane and a devoted father to Heather.

At this time I would like to say "Thank You" to Joe. Every Christmas my seven children would be beyond excited to get to see and sit on Santa's lap. Joe would dress up as Santa and Jane as Mrs. Claus. Joe and Jane made Christmas extra special for all of the Lyons family grandchildren. My children will always treasure the visits from Santa and Mrs. Clause every Christmas Eve. I am forever grateful to Joe and Jane for always making Christmas unforgettable for my family. Joe and Jane would always go out of their way to make an appearance at all of our family parties.

Thank you Joe and Jane Melarkey always being a part of our lives. Joe you will be forever in our hearts and deeply missed. We all know you are in heaven with Vince and Kathryn looking down on us.

Love always,

Jim, Marie, Jimmy, Allison, Kathryn, Kelly, Rachel, Marie and John Baumgartner

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**Marie Baumgartner** - September 18, 2020 at 08:52 PM

BH

“ Dear Jane and Heather,

Our deepest sympathy on the loss of your beloved Joe. We fondly remember our years on Coventry Drive!

Bridget and Stan Hutchen

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**Bridget Hutchen** - September 18, 2020 at 03:03 PM

WL

“ Can't even begin to describe all the memories of Joe and his family shared with ours. From good times to bad, laughter to sorrow Joe was with our family through so many years. Without a doubt, Joe, Jane, and Heather have and always will be a part of the Lyons family. I'd be remiss if I didn't mention the years he touched all our children on Christmas. The jolly old Saint Nick with a true Gaelic accent. Memories that will never be forgotten. God bless Joe, you will be missed.

William Lyons

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**William Lyons** - September 18, 2020 at 12:08 AM

KL

“ Joe was the most kind hearted gentleman who went to high school with my Father on the west side of Chicago! They remained friends throughout their lives and became part of our family! Joe and Jane played Santa and Mrs Claus for my 22 nieces and nephews for over 35 years and the kids always looked forward to seeing Santa! Joe and Jane came to everyone of our family functions even after our parents passed away because they are our family!!!!!! Joe adored and cherished Jane for over 58 years and Heather was the light of his life! Joe, you will be missed by all of us but I know you are in Heaven having a beer with my parents!!!!  
I love you and will miss our great conversations  
Kate Lyons

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**Kate Lyons** - September 17, 2020 at 09:48 PM

SB

“ WHO WAS JOSEPH MELARKEY?

Joe was the cherished first born to Irish immigrant parents, Anastasia and Joseph, and he was a great kid. They called him Buddy/Bud. At 12 he purchased a set of dishes for our mother with the money he earned from his paper route. He was always the one who kept the family together. His family and his Catholic faith were very important to him. He had a wonderful sense of humor and was in the habit of giving nicknames to all of his siblings: Harvey was Sargent Melarkey (since he was so neat), Pat was Bones (since she was so thin), I was Pocahontas (because of a book I read) and Mike was Little Ace (the baby of the group)! Growing up he was at all special occasions taking pictures and looking proud. When he left for the Army we were very sad, but he never forgot us. He would write great letters in his exceptional handwriting and you would feel like you were experiencing everything with him. He took us to Riverview, drove us to concerts and school events, took us out to dinner which was not the norm in our house and treated pizza on Friday nights. When I was ten I spent a month in St. Anne's Hospital in traction due to a broken arm, and he visited me every day. Joe was 13 when I was born and 17 when Mike was born so he was really like a second father to us. He was there for me in my early married years and for my children as they needed him. No one could ask for a more loving and caring brother. Dear Joe, you will be greatly missed but forever remembered and loved in our hearts. May you rest in peace.

Your loving sister, Sheila

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**Sheila Butler** - September 14, 2020 at 12:46 PM

HM

“A father is neither an anchor to hold us back, nor a sail to take us there, but a guiding light whose love shows us the way.” - Unknown



Dad... I miss you every single day. Forever loved. Thank you for everything... for adopting me, taking me to all my endless soccer practices, dealing with an angsty teen girl. You showed me that if I work hard, I can reach my dreams. That nothing worth anything comes easy. I'm forever thankful you were able to walk me down the aisle and see me get married. I'm also glad you got to meet our new puppy, I know how much you missed our little dog Joy. Wish we had more time but I have many cherished memories.

Heather Menconi - September 09, 2020 at 04:01 PM



“Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Joseph T. Melarkey.”



September 09, 2020 at 03:35 PM

PG

“I remember my uncle as so sweet and kind. He played with me a lot when I was a little girl, and he always encouraged me in my writing. He gave me a lot of confidence. He couldn't wait to have a child of his own. Heather was the light of his world. You will be missed, Uncle Joe.”

Patty Gunger - September 09, 2020 at 09:14 AM