



Joseph William O'Hara

January 5, 1942 - August 15, 2020

Joseph William O'Hara originally of Avoca PA, but southern by choice as he liked to remind us, passed away on Saturday, August 15th at 6:30pm. Joe died peacefully with Mary Ellen, his wife of 57 years by his side.

Joe was born in Avoca Pennsylvania in 1942, the oldest of four children born to Joseph William and Lucille O'Hara. After graduating from St John's High School, Joe joined the army as an enlisted man after becoming an E-5 he went to OCS. He was a Vietnam era veteran who served in Air Defense and was commissioned in Artillery. After his service time he went to work for the FAA as an air traffic controller and attained his Masters Degree in Public Administration. He retired from the FAA, worked in Human Resource Management and as the Training Director for the Mississippi Prison System.

Joe was a member of Knights of Columbus Council 4913 in Valdosta, GA and Council 4888 in Moblie, AL. He was Grand Knight of both councils.

Joe would like to be remembered for what he did after he retired. Joe was a Choral Singer all his life and performed with the Mississippi Chorus in Jackson Mississippi, the Rhodes Master Singers and the Germantown Chorus here in Tennessee. He was involved with many other choral groups as they traveled the United States, performing in such works as the Verdi Requiem, Handel's Messiah and several other works that included challenges he enjoyed.

Joe and Mary Ellen, after retirement, packed up everything and took off to see the country. They travelled together for 26 years visiting beloved national parks and working in parks and resorts along their way. These times were precious to them as they visited family and old friends and made so many new friends along the way.

Joe was preceded in death by Lucille E Deets and Joseph W. O'Hara, his mother and father, beloved sister Lucille O'Hara Grill, Sister in Law Jean and infant son Joseph William. He is survived by his wife Mary Ellen, daughters Erin and Julie. He and Mary

Ellen have seven grand children Andrew, Kate Marie, Ben and Annemarie Janicki and James, Nathan and John Henry Ballard.

A memorial service will be held for Joe at a future time when his friends and family can safely gather. In lieu of flowers please make donations in Joe's name to the Germantown Chorus.

Tribute Wall

LJ

“ We met Joe and Mary Ellen in their travels at North Bend Campground in 2011. Joe had the most beautiful voice that commanded attention by just having a conversation with him and he put that voice to music with the Germantown choir, which we had the honor to attend. Singing was his passion along with his life time achievements.

Joe was a family man who loved his family and was proud of their own Individual accomplishments.

He will be missed not only by his family, but his friends as well.

R.I.P. Joe, until we all meet up again.

Lynn and Betsy Johnson - September 16, 2020 at 03:03 PM

MO

Thank you, Betsy & Lyn, for remembering Joe. He valued you two as dear friends. We talked often of those lazy nights at our gatehouse, sharing a cup of coffee & relaxing for a final quiet moment after a busy day.

Mary Ellen O'Hara - March 10, 2021 at 06:26 AM

IB

“ Ivelina Bangeow lit a candle in memory of Joseph William O'Hara



Ivelina Bangeow - September 05, 2020 at 06:04 PM

IB

“ Joe O'Hara will always have a special place in my heart ❤️ as such a caring wonderful Person and the time Mimi and I spent together with Mary Ellen and Joe, our american mom and dad, will be kept and shared with our children as treasure memories 🙏🙏🙏🙏 From bulgarian daughter Iva

Ivelina Bangeow - September 05, 2020 at 06:02 PM

MO

Thank you Iva. Joe loved you and Mimi dearly & was so proud of you both. Your words mean a lot to me.

Mary Ellen O'Hara - March 10, 2021 at 06:29 AM

FK

“ Joe and I entered the Army together on the Buddy Plan and underwent basic training at Fort Dix, N.J. Joe was made an Acting Buck Sergeant and I an Acting Corporal. He outranked from the very start. After Boot we were assigned to a Army Nike Missile site in Manchester, Connecticut. After the site was decommissioned, Joe transferred to Korea, and I to the Philadelphia Air Defense Command. It was a pleasure to have served with a great classmate and person. Sing loud in Heaven, Joe. Frank Kashuda

Frank Kashuda - August 31, 2020 at 07:33 PM

MO

Thank you Frank. Joe talked often of your time together in Connecticut and the trips home you shared. I too appreciate your kindness in remembering Joe.

Mary Ellen O'Hara - March 10, 2021 at 06:33 AM

AS

“ So sorry Mary Ellen for the loss of your husband Joe...my deepest sympathy...
Ann Marie Cumboi Stroud

Ann Marie Cumbo Stroud - August 25, 2020 at 03:22 PM

MO

Thank you Ann Marie for remembering Joe. We had 57 years together that I am most grateful for. Grateful also for the people we have known along the way.

Mary Ellen O'Hara - March 10, 2021 at 06:36 AM

MI

“ Mary Ellen I'Hara lit a candle in memory of Joseph William O'Hara



Mary Ellen I'Hara - August 25, 2020 at 02:43 PM