



Joseph Michael Anderla

July 23, 1946 - January 6, 2025

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Joseph Michael Anderla, age 78, of Anoka, Minnesota, passed away on January 6th, 2025. Born and raised in Hopkins, Minnesota, Joe was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, and friend who lived a life full of love, service, and joy.

Joe is survived by his loving wife of 58 years, Dianne Anderla, and their three sons: Joseph (Amy), Paul (Julie), and Michael (Karla). He was a cherished grandfather to Breanna, Madelyn, William, Josh, Grace, Hanna, and Sam. He also leaves behind his siblings, Joan & Tom, as well as a host of extended family and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents, Joseph & Helen and his two siblings, Rudy & Janet.

Joe proudly served in the U.S. Army for four years before embarking on a 40-year career with Northwestern Bell/CenturyLink. In 1970, he and Dianne settled in Anoka, where they raised their family. Throughout his life, Joe was dedicated to his community, serving as an elected member of the Anoka Park Board for over 46 years. His passion for hockey led him to coach Anoka Hockey and serve on the Anoka Arena Board for many years.

An avid motorcyclist, camper, and fisherman, Joe loved spending time with his brother, children, and grandchildren, sharing in these activities that brought him so much happiness. For 35 years, Joe brought laughter, joy, and love to families and children as he played Santa Claus during the holiday season—a role that he cherished deeply. He always carried a candy cane in his pocket, ready for a photo with anyone who asked.

Above all, Joe was a family man. He made sure to be present for every holiday gathering, birthday celebration, and family reunion, always putting his loved ones first. His legacy is one of generosity, kindness, and an unwavering commitment to making others feel valued and loved. Joe truly gave more than he took and left everyone better for having known him.

A memorial service will be held in his honor on Tuesday, January 21st at 11:00 A.M. at St. Stephen's Catholic Church in Anoka, MN. Viewing will be held at the church from 10-11 A.M. and the family invites you to join them for lunch immediately following the service. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the American Diabetes Association.

Joe's love, warmth, and joyful spirit will be deeply missed, but his memory will live on in the hearts of all who knew him.

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 21. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Stephen's Catholic Church (Anoka)
525 Jackson Street
Anoka, MN 55303

Mass of Christian Burial

JAN 21. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

St. Stephen's Catholic Church (Anoka)
525 Jackson Street
Anoka, MN 55303

Tribute Wall



“ *Dreams From the Heart Bouquet* was purchased for the family of Joseph Michael Anderla.



January 20, 2025 at 12:03 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Joseph Michael Anderla.

January 20, 2025 at 12:03 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Joseph Michael Anderla.

January 14, 2025 at 08:50 PM



“ 7 files added to the album *Memories of Joe*



Eli Anderle - January 14, 2025 at 05:54 PM

AR

“ We are so sorry for your loss, he helped make christmas very special for our children for so many years. Thank you for all those memories.

Amy Roell (Linda and Toms daughter)

Amy Roell - January 11, 2025 at 12:10 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Joseph Michael Anderla.



January 09, 2025 at 07:17 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Joseph Michael Anderla.

January 09, 2025 at 07:17 AM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Joseph Michael Anderla.



January 08, 2025 at 06:38 PM

SN

“ We are so sorry to hear of his passing. He was wonderful friend to my father and a great hockey coach to my brother. I wish we could be at the service and show our love and support to the family. Unfortunately we're out of state right now. Prayers to the family and friends of a wonderful man!!

Susan Nelson - January 08, 2025 at 06:03 PM

SN

“ To Diane and Family: Nancy and I are so sorry to hear about Joe and his brother!!! We have such a great fondness and respect for Joe and you! Joe was like my wife...who politely laughed at my jokes. Loved his root beer barrel candy. We are left with sadness and wish to extend our sympathy to you and your family.
Steve and Nancy Nelson

Steve Nelson - January 08, 2025 at 05:51 PM

JM

“ I worked with Joe at Century Link for many years. I always called him "Joseppi". We shared many camping experiences over the years. He will be missed greatly. My thoughts go to Diane and his family.

Joanne Michalec - January 08, 2025 at 11:42 AM

BA

“ My heart breaks in this loss of our dear Joe. Always a caring giving loving man- I will miss him along with anybody that had the opportunity to know Joe. The memories will live on forever- they are All good ones. Now Joe can be fishing and at hockey practice with Roger again. He certainly was the Very Best friend anyone could ask for. Thanks for sharing- I'll miss Joe. Love and prayers and peace to Dianne and the family. Always, Barb Anderson

Barb Anderson - January 08, 2025 at 11:23 AM

LS

I also got to know Joe from working at Century Link at the Wayzata location. He was always helpful ,patient & funny. But I really got to know him better after retirement and joined up with the Golden Geezers Lunch group at Park Tavern in St Louis Park. We will miss him so much. Love and Prayers to his wife Dianne and his family.

Lottie Szwed - January 08, 2025 at 11:58 AM

MM

From the moment I met Joe at work, I knew we would be good friends. Always very patient in explaining equipment issues and capabilities, plus giving good recommendations in what to order for the best outcomes. We laughed at the same company directives and policies. In addition, I enjoyed our conversations on subjects beyond the workplace. We shared a commitment to service in our home communities, but also some of the common frustrations in those efforts. I always felt better after talking to Joe. I'll be among the many that miss him. My best wishes to Dianne and his family.

Mark McHenry - January 12, 2025 at 01:57 PM