



## Joseph Wiliam Justinak

April 8, 2003 - January 16, 2025

Joseph W. Justinak

April 8, 2003-January 16, 2025

Joe Justinak, an incredible son, silly and loving younger brother, fun-loving and talkative grandson & great grandson, kind and helpful cousin, nephew & great nephew, died just short of the age of 22 on January 16th.

Born in Edina, Joe was lovingly raised in Excelsior, MN by his parents Marc and Carrie and doted on by his big sisters, Anna and Grace. Joe attended All Saints Preschool in Excelsior for (2) years, Excelsior Elementary for grades K-5, Minnetonka Middle School West and graduated from Minnetonka High School in June of 2021, where he earned a National AP Scholar with Distinction Award. That fall, Joe spent the next 10 months volunteering with AmeriCorps, Class 28. His Southwest Region unit worked on (3) multi-month projects: construction with Habitat for Humanity in Denver, reviving buildings and landscapes at YMCA Camp Classen in southern Oklahoma and, his favorite spike of all, in Jefferson City, MO supporting the resettlement of Afghan refugees through DHS' "Operation Allies Welcome". After AmeriCorps, Joe spent his freshman year of college along the shores of Lake Michigan, at Carthage College in Kenosha, WI, where he had earned an academic scholarship.

From little on up, Joe loved being active and on the go! As a toddler and

preschooler, Joe loved climbing trees, taking daily trips to area parks, picnicking with his sisters and visiting the library. From the time kindergarten started, all the way through his high school graduation, Joe could be found on a hockey rink, on a baseball field, or at a local golf course. From the ages of 5 to 18, Joe was an active teammate with the Minnetonka Youth Hockey Association, from mites up to when his sophomore and senior year high school Junior Gold Hockey teams made it to state. We sure loved watching you skate, Joey! During his spring and summer months of grade 3 up to grade 12, Joe played travel or rec league baseball with the Minnetonka Baseball Association. He even tried his hand at umpiring youth baseball games for (2) summers in middle school! Joe also played on the golf teams each spring at MMW and MHS. Outside of sports, Joe consistently made time for being involved with his church community at St. Therese in Deephaven. Here, he attended weekly Faith Formation classes, and received the sacraments of First Reconciliation, First Communion and Confirmation. During middle school, Joe was a camper at Trout Lake Bible Camp in Pine River, MN. Outside of sports and church, Joe loved volunteering! From delivering Meals on Wheels at Mt. Calvary in Excelsior, serving for (2) summers in high school as a Disciple Team junior staff counselor at Trout Lake, or cooking meals at Simpson Housing Services in Minneapolis with his family, Joe loved helping and connecting with others! Through these experiences, Joe earned a bronze or gold level national President's Volunteer Service Award, every school year, from grade 4 through grade 11.

Throughout his almost 22 years, "Curious Joe" (as nicknamed by his parents) had a myriad of interests! He loved art, especially drawing and writing cartoons in the style of author/illustrator Dav Pilkey. Geography was his passion and Joe has a vast collection of dogeared world, state and ski trail maps in his bedroom to prove it! Joe religiously added to his map collection during family trips and on ski adventures with his Dad out West...he was able to visit (30) US states during his 21 years of life! Funny though, for all of Joe's

time that he spent with his nose in a history or comic book, he was also an ardent lover of nature and the outdoors! With his Grandpa John Weinberger and cousins, Joe pheasant hunted in North Dakota, spent hours talking around campfires with his cousin/close friend Andy and water skied up and down Butternut Lake, WI all summer long. With his Grandma Kate Fleury and his mom, he kayaked all around Cable, WI on the Brule and Namakagon Rivers, and explored every nook and cranny of Clam Lake, with his GK (Joe's nickname for Grandma Kate) and Grandpa Tim at their cabin outside of Hayward. With his extended Justinak Family of aunts, uncles and cousins, Joe swam, boated and water skied along the Chain of Lakes in Manitowish Waters, WI throughout the summer months. In the winters, Joe would downhill ski at Powderhorn, Whitecap or Indianhead in his Dad's UP hometown of Ironwood, MI. In Glidden, WI, Joe loved snowshoeing with his Schraufnagel Family relatives at his great aunt and uncle's cabins. Joe even cross country skied Lake Superior's "Book Across the Bay" in Ashland, WI with his Aunt Christy many times! Joe was the personification of enthusiasm and inquisitiveness!!! We will carry Joe's zest for learning and his love of God's Wisconsin Northwoods in our hearts forever!

Joe leaves behind his parents, (2) sisters, (3) grandparents, (9) Justinak aunts and uncles, along with their spouses, (41) Justinak 1st cousins, his maternal aunt and her spouse, (6) maternal first cousins, many Weinberger and Schraufnagel great aunts, great uncles, and numerous extended cousins from those families. To say that Joe will be missed & treasured forever is an astronomical understatement!

A private family funeral will be held on Feb 1, 2025, at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in Fifield, WI. A private family burial will take place in June, outside of Cable, WI, at Clam Lake Cemetery. Following the burial, a celebration of Joe's life will take place at his home away from home, at his

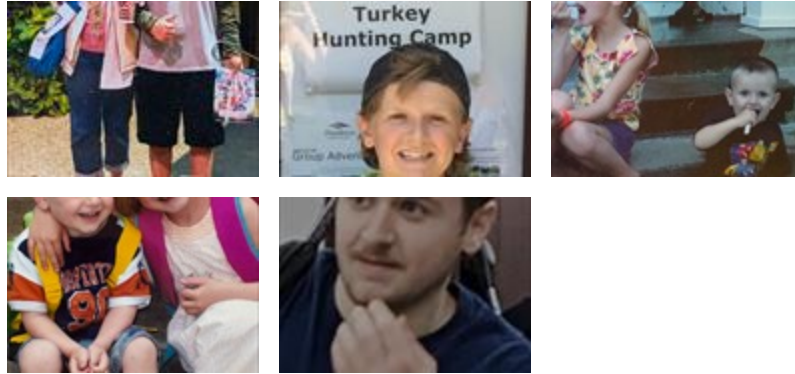
Grandpa John's house, on Butternut Lake, WI (details will be forthcoming).

Joe made the world a better place for having been here. Joe's legacy and example throughout his life was to be kind to others; to have respect for everyone and the unique gifts that each person contributes to society; to live simply, with a heart of gratitude and appreciation; to be of service and generosity whenever the opportunity arises; and to love your family fiercely and deeply.

# Tribute Wall

CJ

“ 5 files added to the tribute wall



Carrie Justinak - May 15 at 10:11 PM

CJ

“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



Carrie Justinak - March 12 at 09:29 PM

KF

Really cute 🐾

Kate Fleury - March 12 at 10:00 PM

CA

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**carrie** - February 14 at 12:03 PM

CA

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



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**carrie** - January 16 at 11:23 AM

KF

*Some of my favs!*

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**Kate Fleury** - March 12 at 10:01 PM

CA

“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



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**carrie** - January 16 at 10:38 AM

CA

“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



carrie - January 13 at 10:22 PM

CA

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



carrie - January 12 at 09:00 AM

CA

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



carrie - January 01 at 08:21 PM

CA

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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carrie - December 23, 2025 at 08:17 AM

CA

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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carrie - December 09, 2025 at 09:51 PM

GM

My very favorite picture!

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Grandma Kate or gk as Joe named me! - December 09, 2025 at 11:31 PM

CA

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



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carrie - December 09, 2025 at 09:46 PM

CA

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



carrie - December 09, 2025 at 09:45 PM

CA

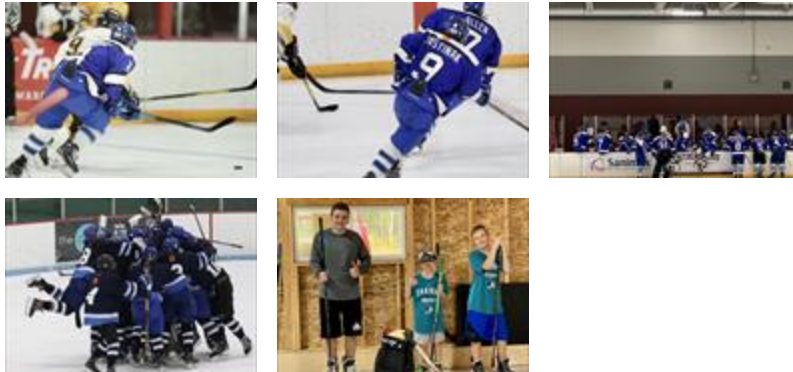
“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



carrie - December 09, 2025 at 09:44 PM

CA

“ 9 files added to the tribute wall



carrie - November 29, 2025 at 01:03 PM

CA

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



carrie - November 27, 2025 at 02:27 AM

GM

*A fav!*

Grandma Kate or gk as Joe named me! - December 08, 2025 at 03:49 PM

GM

*Sweeties!*

Grandma Kate or gk as Joe named me! - December 08, 2025 at 03:51 PM

CA

“ 5 files added to the tribute wall



carrie - November 14, 2025 at 09:41 PM

CA

“ 4 files added to the tribute wall



carrie - October 30, 2025 at 08:16 PM

CA

“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



carrie - October 24, 2025 at 05:29 PM

CA

“ 4 files added to the tribute wall



carrie - October 13, 2025 at 08:26 PM

CA

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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carrie - September 27, 2025 at 04:09 PM

CA

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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carrie - September 12, 2025 at 10:49 AM

CA

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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carrie - August 30, 2025 at 06:00 PM

CJ

“ 7 files added to the tribute wall



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Carrie Justinak - August 26, 2025 at 12:17 AM

CA

“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



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carrie - August 07, 2025 at 09:59 PM

CA

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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carrie - July 16, 2025 at 04:56 PM

CA

“ 5 files added to the tribute wall



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carrie - July 06, 2025 at 11:26 PM

CA

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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carrie - June 02, 2025 at 12:39 PM

CA

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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carrie - June 01, 2025 at 08:11 PM

CA

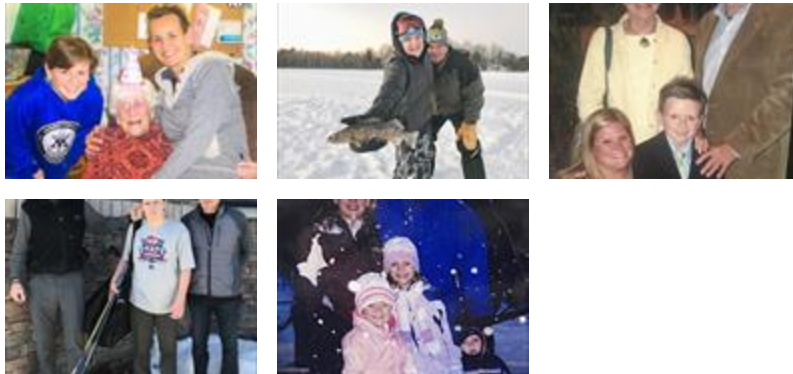
“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



carrie - May 23, 2025 at 02:46 PM

CA

“ 5 files added to the tribute wall



carrie - May 15, 2025 at 09:53 PM

CA

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



carrie - May 11, 2025 at 02:37 PM

CA

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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carrie - May 11, 2025 at 06:02 AM

CA

“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



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carrie - May 01, 2025 at 06:14 PM

CA

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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carrie - April 18, 2025 at 09:09 PM

CA

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



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carrie - April 13, 2025 at 11:41 PM

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“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



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carrie - April 13, 2025 at 11:34 PM

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“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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carrie - April 07, 2025 at 12:30 AM

CA

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**carrie** - April 06, 2025 at 11:53 PM

CA

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



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**carrie** - April 05, 2025 at 01:35 PM

CA

“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



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**carrie** - March 30, 2025 at 04:24 PM

CA

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**carrie** - March 26, 2025 at 08:18 PM

CA

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**carrie** - March 25, 2025 at 02:27 PM

CA

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**carrie** - March 20, 2025 at 11:55 AM

CA

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



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**carrie** - March 14, 2025 at 09:52 PM

CA

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**carrie** - March 10, 2025 at 04:39 PM

CA

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



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**carrie** - March 10, 2025 at 04:25 PM

CA

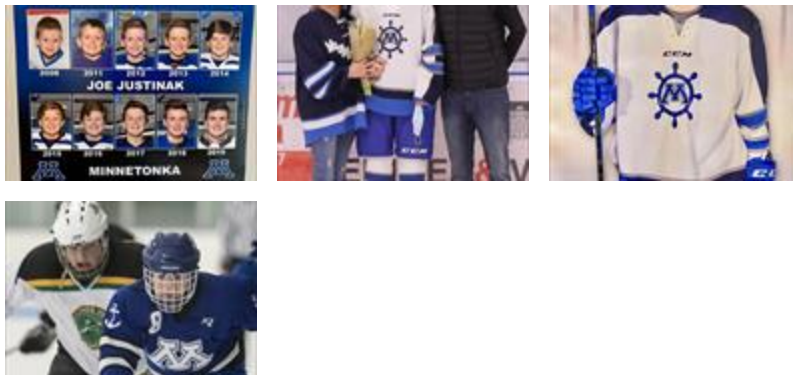
“ 7 files added to the tribute wall



carrie - March 10, 2025 at 04:23 PM

CA

“ 4 files added to the tribute wall



carrie - March 06, 2025 at 10:34 PM

CA

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



carrie - March 05, 2025 at 12:07 AM

CA

“ 4 files added to the tribute wall



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carrie - March 05, 2025 at 12:02 AM

CA

“ 4 files added to the tribute wall



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carrie - March 02, 2025 at 06:55 PM

CA

“ 6 files added to the tribute wall



carrie - March 02, 2025 at 06:45 PM

CA

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



carrie - March 01, 2025 at 07:37 PM

CA

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



carrie - March 01, 2025 at 07:22 PM

CA

“ 5 files added to the tribute wall



carrie - March 01, 2025 at 05:38 PM

CA

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



carrie - March 01, 2025 at 05:16 PM

CA

“ 4 files added to the tribute wall



carrie - March 01, 2025 at 05:10 PM

CA

“ 6 files added to the tribute wall



carrie - February 23, 2025 at 07:50 PM

CA

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



carrie - February 23, 2025 at 01:58 PM

KF

Way to fly, Joe!

Kate Fleury - February 23, 2025 at 04:11 PM

CA

“ 8 files added to the tribute wall



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carrie - February 23, 2025 at 01:46 PM

CA

“ 6 files added to the tribute wall



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carrie - February 23, 2025 at 12:37 PM

CA

“ 10 files added to the tribute wall



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carrie - February 23, 2025 at 11:59 AM

CA

“ 7 files added to the tribute wall



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carrie - February 23, 2025 at 11:36 AM

CA

“ 4 files added to the tribute wall



carrie - February 23, 2025 at 11:24 AM

CA

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



carrie - February 21, 2025 at 05:10 PM

CA

“ 5 files added to the tribute wall



carrie - February 21, 2025 at 05:08 PM

CA

“ 4 files added to the tribute wall



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**carrie** - February 21, 2025 at 05:02 PM

AL

“ *Marc, Carrie, Anna, and Grace*

*We're surrounding you in prayer as you mourn the loss of sweet, Joe. May you treasure the many memories and have comfort in knowing how much joy he brought to others. We pray that the peace of our good Lord, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds. With our deepest sympathy, The Lurie Family Adam, Angela, Bella, Charlie & Tommy*

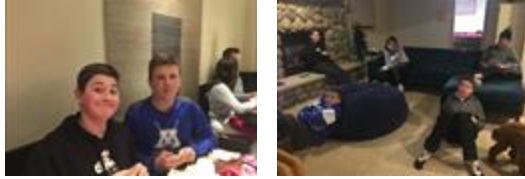
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**Angela Lurie** - January 29, 2025 at 04:28 PM



“ Our hearts go out to all of you during this difficult time. We have a lot of great memories of Joe. All the hockey teams, baseball, waterpark trips, hanging out/playdates and more. He and Evan had a lot of fun together. We also remember the special bond he had with Grandpa John. May the love that surrounds all of you comfort you.

*Wishing you God's peace and love,  
Melissa and Evan*



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**Melissa Butenschoen** - January 29, 2025 at 11:44 AM

CA

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**carrie** - January 29, 2025 at 08:52 AM

CA

“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



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**carrie** - January 29, 2025 at 08:47 AM

GI



Ginny - February 01, 2025 at 03:33 PM

CA

“ 9 files added to the tribute wall



carrie - January 29, 2025 at 08:22 AM

GI

So many memories, so much love!

Ginny - February 01, 2025 at 03:36 PM

CA

“ 4 files added to the tribute wall



carrie - January 29, 2025 at 08:11 AM

GI

*My heart and prayers are with you!*

Ginny - February 01, 2025 at 03:36 PM

CA

“ 4 files added to the tribute wall



carrie - January 29, 2025 at 08:06 AM

CA

“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



carrie - January 29, 2025 at 07:33 AM

MW

“ I was Joe’s hockey coach his senior season at Minnetonka. For many reasons, this was one of favorite teams in 20 plus years of coaching hockey. We were the self described “island of misfit toys”. We were considered the weakest of the three Tonka JG B teams but we had 7 seniors, including Joe, that bonded and got really close. Joe was the guy that kept the guys loose with quips and jokes but Joe and the leaders also helped a troubled sophomore superstar grow into a great player with thier leadership. In playdowns to state, we were the lowest of 36 seeded teams. Yet, our guys beat the top ranked team in the State Edina in the first playdown game. When we needed to win the next playdown have versus Wayzata, we needed to win the faceoff in our zone to win. Joe said to me “I got this” as he went out and we went to the State Tournament. It was such a treat to be Joes coach that special season and I will never forget him and the memories we shared in 2021. I miss you #9. Rest in peace.

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**Mike Woodley** - January 28, 2025 at 02:11 PM