



## Joseph Thorald Russell

April 13, 1921 - March 10, 2023

### JOSEPH THORALD RUSSELL

Obituary - April 13, 1921 - March 10, 2023

Joseph Thorald Russell of Minneapolis, age 101 years, died on March 10, 2023 in the presence of family. Beloved husband of Carola Ann Russell (née Loonan) †. Loving father of Ann Brown † (Randy) of Long Prairie, Patricia Evans (Richard) of Alexandria, Virginia, Mary Winters (Kendall) of Falcon Heights, Margaret (Peggy) Russell (William Dane) of Minneapolis, Joseph James Russell (Barbara) of Knife River, Kathleen Russell (Joyce Zifko) of Washburn, Wisconsin, and Carol Vastveit (Johan) of Finnøy, Norway. Cherished grandfather of 14 grandchildren; 20 great-grandchildren. Predeceased by his sister, Mary Lorraine Voelker and brothers, Angus Sterling and John Evan Russell and by his parents Angus and Yvonne Russell (née Gareau). Joe will be remembered by his many cousins, nephews, and nieces.

Joe was born at the Hôtel Dieu hospital, in Cornwall, Ont. and held Canadian citizenship. He grew up on farms on the U.S. side of the St. Lawrence River near Massena, N.Y. He became a U.S. citizen on June 26, 1931. In 1942, he studied Industrial Engineering at the University of Minnesota and joined the U.S. Army Air Corps ROTC. He was commissioned a 2ND LT in Feb. 1943

and trained as a co-pilot. In Oct. 1944 Joe was assigned to fly the B-24 "Liberator" out of Venosa, Italy (15th Air Force, 485th Bomb Group, 828th Squadron) and completed 18 missions. He returned to the U.S. and married Carola Ann Loonan, June 16, 1945 in Easton, MN. He was honorably discharged as a 1ST LT, earning the Air Medal with cluster, and returned to complete his B.S. degree at the U of M.

Joe and Carola made their home in S.E. Minneapolis, raising seven children and finding community in St. Lawrence Catholic Church and local organizing and politics. Joe worked as an engineer at Honeywell; he and Carola acquired and maintained rental duplexes in S.E.

Joe will be remembered for his keen interest in people; his tenants from all over the world, his cousins in Canada, neighbors at Ruth Lake in Emily, MN, and the young people he mentored at the St. Lawrence Newman Center. His gift to all was his strong faith and love of connecting people and keeping communication going ... for a lifetime. Once a friend, always a friend.

Visitation 10:00-11:00 am and Mass of Christian Burial 11:00am will be held on Saturday, March 18, 2023 at Carondelet Village Chapel, 525 Fairview Ave S., St. Paul, MN, 55116. Interment will follow on 11:30 am on Sunday, March 19, 2023 at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Cemetery in Easton, MN. For those who wish, memorial donations to the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet Ministries Foundation, 1884 Randolph Ave., St. Paul, MN 55105 or online at [csjministriesfoundation.org](http://csjministriesfoundation.org) would be appreciated by the family.

# Cemetery Details

## Our Lady of Mount Carmel

Easton, MN 56025

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAR 18. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Carondelet Village Chapel  
525 Fairview Avenue South  
Saint Paul, MN 55116

## Mass of Christian Burial

MAR 18. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Carondelet Village Chapel  
525 Fairview Avenue South  
Saint Paul, MN 55116

## Graveside Service

MAR 19. 11:30 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Our Lady of Mount Carmel  
Easton, MN 56025

# Tribute Wall

MD

“ So sorry to be writing this now. I was thinking about him and saw that he had died. I was speaking to him about 2 years ago and he had such a good memory of our time with him. We had moved to Minneapolis while my husband was doing his residency and I was about 3 mo pregnant. When we arrive with our Uhaul Joe welcomed us and continued to help us move every thing into his rental. ( Boy were we lucky to have him as our landlord) We told him he didn't need to help us but he insisted on seeing the truck empty. Besides he would give us a commentary on what was coming out of the truck ie crib - I see you are expecting - Congratulations. After all was done a few hours later he came by with a bouquet of flowers which we placed on a table in the front window. Later that night a future colleague came by and apologize, said he must have the wrong number but he was looking for someone who was moving in today. We told him that was us and he couldn't believe how settled we were - that was all Joe's doing and the flowers was Carola touch. He made our time in Minneapolis so enjoyable - he was a kind and generous person and a friend to all. I know God will bless him as he blessed so many by his kind words and deeds. When we spoke last I told him that our son who was born while we were there now lives in Sweden. He liked the nordic connection. Thank you Joe and welcome home!

*Marie and Bill Dafoe - Allan and Joanna*

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**Marie Dafoe** - February 07, 2025 at 02:35 PM

TC

“ Was so sorry to learn of Joe’s passing. I remember Joe (and Carola) with much fondness. Rest in peace, Joe. May the angels and saints and Carola welcome you to Paradise. Please pray for we who remain.

*Father Patrick Johnson, CSP*

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**The Rev Patrick Johnson, CSP** - March 20, 2023 at 03:26 PM

LL

“ Mr. Russell was always a class act. I have known the Russell family for over 60 years. Spent many years playing sports in Minneapolis with their son Joe. Mr. Russell was typically in the stands showing his support and encouragement. He and wife Carol were great people and always treated me like one of their own. RIP sir!

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**Larry Lundberg** - March 17, 2023 at 08:59 AM

JM

“ Will always remember the visits he & Aunt Carola made to Cheektowaga. The stories they shared & memories of growing up with our dad. Trips to Massena & Canada to visit relatives. When visited them in Minneapolis he made sure I went to "DInky Town" Heaven has welcomed a new Angel to watch over his family.

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**Judi Morrow** - March 15, 2023 at 06:00 PM

JZ

“ Jz lit a candle in memory of Joseph Thorald Russell



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**Jz** - March 15, 2023 at 09:49 AM