



Joseph "Joe" John Waselak

February 20, 1956 - December 4, 2025

Joseph John Waselak, Jr. of New Brighton, MN earned his eternal wings on December 4, 2025 at the age of 69 after a brief illness. Born on February 20, 1956 in Minneapolis to Joe and Barb Waselak, Joey was their third child and first son. He grew up on the North side of Minneapolis attending St. Bridget's Catholic School and Patrick Henry High School where he graduated in 1974.

Following graduation, Joey held a variety of managerial hospitality positions before he realized cooking was a passion. He started working as a chef at his parents' restaurant, Leon's Supper Club in Columbia Heights, where he remained an integral part of the staff and experience until it closed in 1994. He then started his career as a U.S. Postal Carrier, where he stayed until an injury on the job forced him to resign.

Following his injury and numerous back and neck issues, Joe started working part time selling pull tabs at various locations in the Twin Cities area, which he did until illness caused him to stop in October.

Joey's love language was food - preparing and serving it to family and friends. He took great pride in watching others enjoy his recipes and creations. Joey loved spending time with his family and friends, and his great nieces and nephews brought him an incredible amount of joy.

Joey was preceded in death by his father, Joseph Sr., in February of 2025. He is survived and will be greatly missed by his mother, Barbara Waselak.

Siblings: Kathy Hartley, Debi (Jerry) Hubbard, Michael Waselak, Paul Waselak, Patti (Jim) Aune, Mary (Paul) Ullom and Becky Korsunsky. His nieces and nephews: Mike Hubbard, Barb (Paul) Lofgren, Courtney (Jason) Wetherbee, Jessica (Brandon) Klein, Jennifer (Ben) Mahlik, Stephanie (Mike) Bergeron, Samantha (Dan) Schmidt, Nolan (Kiana) Frink, and Eli Waselak. Great nieces and nephews: Danika, Calvin, Haik, Miles, Wren, Emerson, Harriet, Greta, Mabel, Daphne, Louise, Mila, Rilan, Hugo, Emmie, Evelyn and McKenzie.

Our family will never be the same without our Joe, Joey, and Uncle Doe Doe!

A Mass of Christian Burial will be 11am, Saturday, Jan 24, 2026, with visitation one hour prior at Church of St Paul, Ham Lake.

Washburn-McReavy.com

Coon Rapids Chapel 763-767-1000

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 24. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Church of St. Paul (Ham Lake)
1740 Bunker Lake Boulevard NE
Ham Lake, MN 55304

Mass of Christian Burial

JAN 24. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Church of St. Paul (Ham Lake)
1740 Bunker Lake Boulevard NE
Ham Lake, MN 55304

Reception

JAN 24. 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM (CT)

Church of St. Paul (Ham Lake)
1740 Bunker Lake Boulevard NE
Ham Lake, MN 55304

Tribute Wall

SB

“ Dear Family: I want to send my utmost condolences to you on the passing of Joe. I met Joe, along with his best friend, Geoff Andrews (now passed, too), on a vacation to Minneapolis. I have fond memories of his/their visits to see me at my home in Toronto, Ontario, CANADA, and of my many visits to Minneapolis. Joe was a witty, intelligent man with a great sense of humour. He brought so much joy to my life and will forever be missed. Again, my deepest sympathies to you and to your family.

Steven Dwayne Bryk - February 21 at 01:56 PM

JS

“ Dear Barb and all Family, Joe and I shared a precious friendship for many years having worked together at Majestic Oaks. We lost contact and over the last several months I have been thinking about him so strongly. This morning I again woke up remembering his birthday coming soon. I was trying to reconnect with him somehow thru FB, people search etc. I am so very sad to learn of his passing, so very sad and yet believe God is in the midst. He adored you Barb and all his Family and he was a blessing to all of us. With Deepest Sympathy and Prayers. Joey (JoAnn) Batinich Smith

Joey (JoAnn) Batinich Smith - February 10 at 03:08 PM

LC

“ Dear family, Kathy, Joe and Jennifer were lovely neighbors for many years. So sorry to hear of Joey's passing. I will cherish his cooking, sense of humor and loving presence forever. May his life be a blessing to all.

Louise Clyde - January 23 at 11:49 PM

BL

“ One of my favorite memories of my Uncle Joey is when my grandpa owed Leon's we would close for one day of the year and that was Thanksgiving. We would as a big family clean and decorate for Christmas. When I was younger Joey would play some music on the jukebox and we would dance. He would dip me and twirl me around. I will never forget that.

Love you Joe Joe

Barb Lofgren - January 15 at 04:46 PM



Barb, when I was talking to Floyd at your Grandpa's funeral, he also shared with me, the fond memories he had decorating for Christmas with your family at Leon's.

RIP Joe 🙏

Denise Swanson Peterson - January 16 at 09:30 PM