



## Joseph Philip Orlando

August 9, 1938 - January 5, 2025

On January 5, 2025, Joseph Philip Orlando took the last breath of his earthly journey and passed away peacefully at the age of 86, surrounded by his family. Joe was a soft-spoken, gentle soul who always put others before himself. He was a gentleman who loved to be around and interact with people; everyone was welcomed into his house with a hug. You'd be hard-pressed to find anyone who didn't refer to Joe as "a great guy."

Nothing was more important to Joe than his family, and he left behind a bunch, beginning with his beloved wife Margaret (nee Dorcey), with whom he shared 65 special years. He was the loving father of eight men who were proud to be Joe's sons and whose wives he affectionately referred to as his daughters: Ken (Carrie) Orlando, Tim (Karen) Orlando, Paul (Susan) Orlando, Mark (Cindy) Orlando, Steve (Lisa) Orlando, Matt (Monica) Orlando, Chris Orlando, and Jeff (Carrie) Orlando. Joe was the proud and loving grandfather of Caitlin (Nigel) Orlando-Salez, Alex (Alexis) Orlando, Nick (Jordan) Orlando, Kathryn Orlando and Matthew Spaly, Emily (Charles) Cane, Olivia Orlando, Brian Orlando, Colin (Ashley) Orlando, Erick Orlando, Sarah Orlando, Jacob Orlando, Claire Orlando, Grace Orlando, Benjamin Orlando, Patrick Orlando, Cheyenne Orlando, Connor Orlando, and Madeleine Orlando. He also leaves behind four great-grandchildren, Gabriel Orlando, Dagny Orlando, Leo Orlando, and Eva Orlando-Spaly. His nieces and nephews and their children are too numerous to count, but they all had a special place in his heart, as did

his sister-in-law, Mary Brack. He was pre-deceased by his parents, Filippo Orlando and Frances (nee Pecora) Orlando, and his great-grandson, Rory Orlando-Spaly.

Joe was born on August 9, 1938, and grew up on the east side of Detroit. He proudly attended the Patronage of St. Joseph Catholic School before graduating from St. Joseph High School in 1956. His humble beginnings taught him the value of a dollar and the rewards of hard work – and work he did. Beginning as a toolmaker apprentice at Chevrolet, Joe spent over 47 years working for General Motors. He worked full-time during the day to support his growing family and attended college at night, graduating from the University of Detroit with a mechanical engineering degree in 1968. If anyone was interested in listening, Joe would proudly share stories about his work travels to Germany, Japan, and Mexico, testing brakes and suspensions in the desert and on Pike's Peak, and best of all, "Ya wanna know how they make fiberglass?"

When he was not working, and after he retired, Joe's interests were many and varied. He and Margaret travelled throughout the United States and Canada, and they had treasured memories of the time they spent in Italy, Ireland, England, and Sicily. He loved gardening and looked forward to announcing each year that "Joe's Produce is open." He also enjoyed picking strawberries, blueberries, and apples with his family. Although the wine he produced was unlikely to win any awards, Joe was passionate about wine and enjoyed five ounces every night. Joe was the long-time and beloved Committee Chairman of Boy Scout Troop 1930. He was a proud supporter of Troop 1930 with whom he liked to camp, hike, canoe, and cross-country ski. He was an avid bike rider for many years. Joe was active in the General Motors' Retiree Group and the St. Joe's Alumni Association, and he volunteered as a "wheelman" at Beaumont Hospital. He was always available to help his sons with automobile repairs, home improvement projects, and any volunteer projects that they

roped him into. Joe was a cradle Catholic who practiced his faith throughout his life, attending retreats at Manresa and St. John's, and he began each day with readings and prayer.

Traditions were very important to Joe, from making pancakes on Saturday mornings, to gathering with the family on Sunday nights, holiday celebrations for St. Patrick's Day, Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas, as well as many birthday parties throughout the year. The Orlandos gathered every February to make hundreds of pounds of Italian sausage. The Saturday after Thanksgiving is reserved for Christmas Tree Cutting followed by lunch at McDonalds, Turkey Soup in the evening, and a boisterous round of Christmas carols. These traditions will live on, as will the memories of Joe.

All are welcome to say good-bye to Joe as he watches from heaven. Visitation will be Sunday, January 19, 2025, 2:00-9:00 pm with a Rosary at 7:00 pm at Wasik's Funeral Home, 49150 Schoenherr Road, Shelby Twp., Michigan 48315. Friends and family will gather on Monday, January 20, 2025, at 10:30 before an 11:00 am at St. Michael's Catholic Church, 40501 Hayes Road, Sterling Heights, Michigan 48313. He will be interred at Resurrection Cemetery in Clinton Township. A memorial luncheon will follow the funeral at Fern Hill County Club. In lieu of flowers, please consider donating in Joe's honor to Traditional Redemptorist Missioners, c/o Holy Redeemer House, 15959 Bryce Road, Mussey, Michigan 48014-2906, Scouting America, Michigan Crossroads Council Camp Stewards Program, 14258 Michigan Street, PO Box 129, Eagle, Michigan 48822, or De La Salle Collegiate, The St. Joe's Dad's Club Endowed Scholarship Fund, 14600 Common Road, Warren, Michigan 48088.

# Cemetery Details

## Resurrection Cemetery

18201 Clinton River Road  
Clinton Township, MI 48035

# Previous Events

## Memorial Visitation

JAN 19. 2:00 PM - 9:00 PM (ET)

Wasik Funeral Home, Shelby Township  
49150 Schoenherr Rd.  
Shelby Township, MI 48315  
(586) 532-8600  
shelby@wasikfuneralhome.com

## Rosary

JAN 19. 7:00 PM (ET)

Wasik Funeral Home, Shelby Township  
49150 Schoenherr Rd.  
Shelby Township, MI 48315  
(586) 532-8600  
shelby@wasikfuneralhome.com

## Instate in church

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JAN 20. 10:30 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Michael Catholic Community  
40501 Hayes Road  
Sterling Heights, MI 48313

## Funeral Mass

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JAN 20. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Michael Catholic Community  
40501 Hayes Road  
Sterling Heights, MI 48313

# Tribute Wall

DH

“ Joey Orlando lived across the street on Knodell, we were just a bunch of kids playing out summer days Joe left Patronage to go to St Joseph I remember when graduated, his Mom bought him a 1957 Chevrolet and we were all excited. He told me he met a girl who lived by Outer Drive. Then I got married and moved. We lost contact but in 2000 he came to my mom's service we were so surprised, it was great to see him. I have pictures of us kids from back then we must of been 8 or nine.

Dorothy Hood - March 03, 2025 at 06:57 PM

RP

“ Sincere condolences to your family for your loss. Peace, love and comfort during your time of morning. All the best...

Richard St. Pierre - January 22, 2025 at 08:41 AM

MS

“ Mark, Jessica, Mason, Sloane & Josie Strek purchased the Large Basket Garden for the family of Joseph Philip Orlando.



Mark, Jessica, Mason, Sloane & Josie Strek - January 19, 2025 at 03:44 AM

CG

“ When I was a little girl I always knew that Uncle Joe would someday walk me down the aisle. Although he had lots of boys to marry he had no girls to give away. One of my favorite memories was Oct 11 2003, he grabbed my hand and said "are you ready" and held my hand tightly as we approached the altar.

*I always thought that Aunt Marge and Uncle Joe were great parents to raise 8 boys and have them be amazing. They were grounded and that's the type of family I wanted when I became a parent. Always admired them.*

*The last time I saw my Uncle Joe was at St. Patty's day party and we had a few moments together and I told him I loved him and he told me he loved me too.*

*Uncle Joe(Godfather) will be in my thoughts and I'll miss him.*



Colleen Goralski - January 18, 2025 at 07:55 PM

LK

“ Love Jim and Becky Kehoe purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Joseph Philip Orlando.



Love Jim and Becky Kehoe - January 18, 2025 at 04:45 PM

LK

“ Love Jim and Becky Kehoe planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Joseph Philip Orlando.

Love Jim and Becky Kehoe - January 18, 2025 at 04:45 PM



“ 1031 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



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**Wasik Funeral Home, Inc.** - January 18, 2025 at 02:06 PM



“ *Arrive in Style* was purchased for the family of *Joseph Philip Orlando*.



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January 18, 2025 at 01:37 PM



“ *Basket Full of Wishes* was purchased for the family of *Joseph Philip Orlando*.



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January 17, 2025 at 10:09 AM



“ *Forever Our Angel Bouquet was purchased for the family of Joseph Philip Orlando.*



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January 16, 2025 at 03:15 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Joseph Philip Orlando.*



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January 16, 2025 at 01:45 PM



“ *Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Joseph Philip Orlando.*



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January 15, 2025 at 05:38 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Joseph Philip Orlando.*



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January 14, 2025 at 11:24 PM

JG

“ To the Orlando Family - my prayers and thoughts are with you during this time. I hope you find solace in knowing he is at peace. - Joe Gleason (General Motors)

Joe Gleason - January 14, 2025 at 09:25 AM



“ Sacred Duty Spray was purchased for the family of Joseph Philip Orlando.



January 13, 2025 at 07:36 PM

EF

“ E&J Rainer and The Clifford Family purchased the Blue Caribbean Bouquet for the family of Joseph Philip Orlando.



E&J Rainer and The Clifford Family - January 13, 2025 at 07:06 PM

CH

“ Orlando family you lost a hero. I worked with Joe for many years possibly 30 great guy to work with.  
God bless  
Chuck halpin

chuck halpin - January 13, 2025 at 04:51 PM

RG

“ The first time I met Joe i had no idea how things would go. See i was there with Colleen(Dorcey) and needed to ask for her hand in marriage, as he was her Godfather. We were at the house and I remember I was a little nervous as the room we were in had no television. Things went as planned and now I had a new uncle. Although we didn't have a lot of contact, he was always curious about how life was treating us. I remember one family reunion when he was late due to a triathlon a few generations were involved in. I said later on"this guys an Iron man". I know he passed down some great values because around his kids/wives I've always been treated like family. I wish there were more people like Uncle Joe In the World. Thoughts are with Aunt Margaret and family.

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**Roger Goralski** - January 12, 2025 at 07:22 PM

JL

“ Joseph Alvord and Meghan Lawlor purchased the Fairest of All for the family of Joseph Philip Orlando.



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**Joseph Alvord and Meghan Lawlor** - January 12, 2025 at 12:49 PM



“ Serene Reflections Bouquet was purchased for the family of Joseph Philip Orlando.



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January 10, 2025 at 01:13 PM



“ Dreams From the Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Joseph Philip Orlando.



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January 09, 2025 at 06:23 PM



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

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January 09, 2025 at 06:23 PM



“ We were neighbors in Warren and belonged to the same parish ( StLouise) back then. Our children went to the same high school - ( Mott). We became close friends through Marriage Encoubter however. As Team couples giving weekends-and as registration teams for that organization for a couple years My memories of Joe are of a very caring man and a loving family man. He had an understanding heart and a cheerful attitude. My late husband Jim and Joe became good buddies too. I am sure God is saying to him “ welcome good and faithful servant”. Rest in peace dear friend.

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**Maryann Musser** - January 09, 2025 at 12:36 PM