

## Joseph George Forrester

August 9, 1944 - July 9, 2016

Joseph George Forrester II, age 71, of St. Ignace, Michigan, died suddenly on July 9, 2016, on Mackinac Island, Michigan. He was born on August 9, 1944 in Jamestown, New York to Joseph George and Marjorie Elnora (Tanner) Forrester.

Joe grew up in New York and also spent some time in Brazil, when his father's work took the family there. When he was 14, a U.S. Navy ship came in to port in Brazil where they were staying. Joe was so impressed he decided, then and there, that was what he wanted to do. He worked hard and, by the time he finished high school, was able to earn an appointment to Annapolis. At the Naval Academy he earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Nuclear Science. He served on three nuclear submarines based out of the east coast of the United States, and earned the distinction of spending more than a year of his life under water. Joe was a hard worker and excelled at all he did. Following his service on the submarines, Joe became an active training planning and program officer and went on to be the Commanding Officer of the Naval Maintenance and Training Base in Orange, Texas. There he met and married a Nurse Corps Officer named Lynn Berryhill. Joe and Lynn continued their service until Joe retired from Great Lakes in Illinois in 1989.

Retiring after 20 years of military service, Joe tried his hand at publishing, which led to sign manufacturing, which led to screen printing, engraving, and

eventually cemetery monuments in Florida. Joe loved life and lived every day with enthusiasm. He and Lynn eventually moved to Cedarville, Michigan, near her parents, and Joe decided he wanted to become a funeral director. He studied through the Pittsburgh Institute of Mortuary Science and was an apprentice in Cheboygan and Pickford. Joe was licensed as a Funeral Director in 2005 and worked at R. Galer Funeral Home in Pickford. He worked as needed, which allowed him time to pursue his interests in everything from high school sports to politics. He was a “super fan” and would specifically cheer on and help student athletes who did not have much family support. He attended sporting events wearing the sweatshirts of all of the local teams. He raised thousands of dollars for Cedarville, St. Ignace, Pickford, and other area schools with his sports schedules.

Joe was a devout Christian and worked constantly on programs for adults as well as things like “Fire Up” for students. He belonged and participated in the Fundamental Baptist Church in Kinross, the First Union Church in Cedarville, and the Little Stone Church on Mackinac Island. Joe was the ultimate patriot. He was constantly teaching the constitution. He would listen and evaluate every point of view, but once he made up his mind about what candidate was right, he would throw himself behind them completely. Joe was a lifetime member of the VFW and a member of the American Legion Post #323 in Pickford. Joe and Lynn were active in the Les Cheneaux Lions Club. In 2015, Joe and Lynn created and operated the Liberty Lego Display on Mackinac Island. They used Legos to create patriotic and educational scenes that was fast becoming a must see item for the thousands of visiting tourists to the island.

Joe is survived by his wife, Lynn Forrester of St. Ignace and Cedarville; father and mother-in-law, James and Madge Berryhill of Cedarville, Michigan; many nieces and nephews; brother, John Forrester of San Diego, California; sister, Joan Musgrave of San Diego; brothers-in-law, Steven (Wende) Berryhill, Paul

(Kathryn) Berryhill, Jon (Katie) Berryhill, and Andrew (Melinda) Berryhill; sister-in-law, Amy (Robert) Bristol; and many nieces and nephews.

Joe is preceded in death by his parents and nephew and his wife, Christian and Shayna Musgrave.

Services will be held Thursday, July 14, at R. Galer Funeral Home, 24549 S. M-129 in Pickford. Visitation will be from 12:00 Noon to 4:00 P.M. Funeral Services will begin at 4:00 P.M. Pastor Jeff Meyers will be conducting the service.

Also, for Joe's countless friends on Mackinac Island, there will be a memorial service at The Little Stone Church on Mackinac Island on July 20, 2016 at 3:00 P.M. Pastor Fred Zobel will conduct the service

Interment will be at The Naval Academy Cemetery and Columbarium in Annapolis, Maryland.

Condolences may be sent to the family at [www.rgalerfuneralhome.com](http://www.rgalerfuneralhome.com).

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUL **14**. 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Family Life Funeral Homes - Pickford  
24549 S. M-129  
Pickford, MI 49774  
(906) 647-3400  
flfh@familylifefh.com  
<https://www.familylifefuneralhomes.com/>

## Funeral Service

JUL **14**. 4:00 PM (ET)

Family Life Funeral Homes - Pickford  
24549 S. M-129  
Pickford, MI 49774  
(906) 647-3400  
flfh@familylifefh.com  
<https://www.familylifefuneralhomes.com/>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Joseph George Forrester*

October 05, 2023 at 09:54 AM



“ *Joseph George Forrester*

October 02, 2023 at 10:14 PM



“ *Joseph George Forrester*

September 01, 2022 at 07:49 PM



“ *Dave, Tammy, Abby, Emma, Isaac, & Ellie Bell purchased the Sweet Liberty for the family of Joseph George Forrester.*



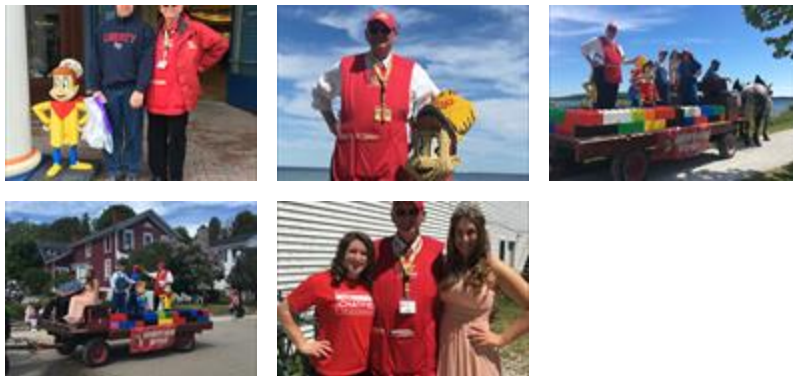
**Dave, Tammy, Abby, Emma, Isaac, & Ellie Bell** - July 13, 2016  
at 02:20 PM

TB

“ Just some recent fond memories of our family's time with Joe. We all loved him and considered him a true friend. We were impressed with his zeal for life and his genuine enthusiasm for every project he was involved in. He was always smiling, always giving, always positive regardless of the circumstances that came his way, and quick to point out the Lord had a plan and he was listening for God's direction. We observed him weather life's storms with grace and dignity, always viewing problems as opportunities. We all dearly loved him and are grateful for his influence in our lives. He made us better people, stronger Christians, and opened up many doors of opportunity for our children. Many verses come to mind when I think of Joe but I am choosing to share Proverbs 27:17 "Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend." An encounter with Joe always improved your day and brightened your countenance. We appreciate his friendship, are humbled to have known him, and grateful for his lifelong service to preserving freedom for all Americans. He truly "died with his boots on"!

*Lynn - we love you and will continue to uphold you in prayer.*

*Dave, Tammy, Abby, Emma, Isaac, and Ellie Bell*



Tammy Bell - July 13, 2016 at 01:41 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Joseph George Forrester.*



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July 13, 2016 at 01:17 PM



“ *Lynn and extended family,*

*Joe and I started Plebe summer together at USNA in 1962 in the 20th company. We were split up in the fall as he went to the 30th company and I went to the 29th. We spent four years there together before joining the fleet and I was always impressed with the enthusiasm he brought to every task we endured. Our Navy careers took us in different paths, so we were not close as classmates and alums, but I treasured the time that we had together more than 50 years ago.*

*I'm originally from Montrose, way down by Flint, and envy the time you were able to spend together on Mackinac Island and in the St. Ignace area. I wish you all fond memories of him and peace in your hearts that he is with the Lord.*

*Joe Stewart, Springfield, Ohio  
USNA '66*

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**Joseph S. Stewart II** - July 13, 2016 at 12:49 PM

CE

“ Lynn,  
We are so sorry for your loss and the loss of a wonderful man. Joe was such a figure at all of the area sporting events. He was the true example of sportsmanship for all the area schools! We will all truly miss his cheers and support for all the athletes. He was the face in the crowd that made you smile seeing his different vests and shirts supporting both teams playing! We know he will be still there cheer on the athletes from heaven. Our thought and prayers are with you!  
Mark, Carol and Nicole Elmblad

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**Carol Elmblad** - July 13, 2016 at 09:08 AM

KD

“ Joe was always friendly and enthusiastic and he will be missed. I will always see him in my mind greeting people and handing out bulletins as they came into First Union Church at the entrance nearest to the Sanctuary. Our love and prayers go out to Lynn, Jim, Madge and the rest of the family. Spread your love, joy and enthusiasm in heaven, Joe! See you there someday.

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**Kim Dunn** - July 13, 2016 at 08:04 AM

DH

“ Joe and I were in the same group in Pensacola for our Aviation Summer in 1964. I was so sorry to hear of his passing.

*My thoughts and prayers go out to Joe's family and friends.*

*Dick Helm,  
USNA '66,  
Brother Submariner*

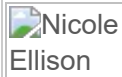
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**Dick Helm** - July 13, 2016 at 06:42 AM



“ Joe will be terrible missed at all of the area schools games. Thanks for your love and support. Hope we look as good from heaven.

Rose Firack - July 12, 2016 at 03:13 PM



“ The first day I met Joe when he came into the Law office he smiled this ear to ear smile and said well hello there dear you must be Nicole. He was so sweet and always so happy His smile would light up a room. Everytime he would call the office and i answered he would say " hello sunshine". I am going to miss him. he was one of the kindest sweetest men I ever had the pleasure of knowing.

Rest easy Joe,

Love.

Nicole

Nicole Ellison - July 12, 2016 at 12:46 PM



“ I am Sam kling, i work at Starline as a deckhand and every single day joe would salute are crew as he got on the boat and we always gave him one back. He was a awesome man and will be missed R.I.P Joe.

sam - July 12, 2016 at 11:03 AM



“ Joe was a wonderful man and a "always-smiling" fixture at many sporting events. We particularly appreciated his presence at our track meets when we coached in Detour. Thank you Joe, you made a difference! Prayers to his family. Matt and Jody Peterson

Matt & Jody Peterson - July 12, 2016 at 10:39 AM



“ *Stephenie Jacobson purchased the America the Beautiful for the family of Joseph George Forrester.*



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**Stephenie Jacobson** - July 12, 2016 at 09:54 AM

RM

“ *Our prayers to Lynn and family  
The world has lost a great, caring person but heaven has gained an angel  
our love goes with you Joe you will be greatly missed  
Mike and Rose Miller*

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**Rose miller** - July 12, 2016 at 09:00 AM

SN

“ *Everyone is right...Joe was the ultimate fan. Always remembered kids names and you would see him at every game cheering both teams on. He had a heart of gold as most students know what I am talking about.. .He needs to be honored at all area schools for his dedication as a fan... RIP Joe...continue to watch over all of these kids you thought of as your own and we will all see you on the court again someday*

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**Staci Nelson** - July 12, 2016 at 07:05 AM

KC

“ Joe was an amazing guy!!! Truly one of a kind. I will miss standing at the boat with him and having early morning conversations or walking by and yelling across the street "good morning Joe" he would always shout back "Good morning Kelly" it always brightened my day. He will be missed by many.



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**Kelly Cummins** - July 12, 2016 at 06:01 AM

CS

“ I will miss seeing him at the docks and on the boat; it won't be the same. Always smiling, always happy. I always looked for him standing next to his Snap, Crackle or Pop Lego creation. He waved and shouted "hi" or "good morning"; a very positive person. Makes me so sad that he is gone. I know without a doubt that I will see Joe again in Heaven!

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**Cindi Styes** - July 11, 2016 at 10:30 PM

SS

“ God's speed Joe, I always enjoyed our chats.

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**Stuart Spencer** - July 11, 2016 at 10:19 PM

MW

“ So sorry of his passing.  
Sam and Marcia White

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**Marcia White** - July 11, 2016 at 09:31 PM

JA

“ So sad ... This man was a true fan of sports he came to all games and watched and each time he cheered for a different team ! He didn't pick sides he just supported the players ! He literally knew every players name and when you did something he cheered for you ! He was a true model of sportsmanship and a true ultimate fan ! Rest easy and prayers to his family

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**jaimi** - July 11, 2016 at 09:19 PM

AP

“ Very Very Sorry to hear of Joe's passing. He was truly the ultimate fan at the school functions. He was at so many of my girls' games. He always knew everyone's names on the teams and cheered for both sides. He was a very nice man. Prayers to his family.

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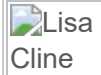
**A. Portice** - July 11, 2016 at 09:11 PM



“ I am so glad to have shared in Joe's amazing life. As a friend of the family said, "he was the ultimate fan"...in fact, I think he was the ultimate at whatever he set his mind to. He always put his heart into everything he did and did everything bigger and better than anyone else. He was a founding member of the Cheboygan Tea Party Patriots and though he couldn't be at every meeting he was always a guest of honor when he could pop in. He always greeted everyone with a huge hug, grand plans for the future, and words of encouragement that kept everyone fighting the good fight for salvation and the fate of this great country. I will treasure all the memories I have of my time with him. My prayers go out to Lynn and the entire family as you mourn this loss.

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**Stephenie Jacobson** - July 11, 2016 at 08:45 PM



Lisa  
Cline

“ *Joe was the "ultimate fan". He will be truly missed. May it bring comfort to know he is in a better place now. It is an honor and pleasure to have known both he and Lynn!*

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**Lisa Cline** - July 11, 2016 at 06:57 PM