



Joseph Edward Mugavero Jr

February 24, 1947 - March 15, 2023

Joseph Edward Mugavero, Jr. (Joe) passed away March 15, 2023 in St, George, UT from lung cancer.

Joe was born 2/24/1947 in Long Beach, CA to Joseph and Mary Mugavero. They had 3 children; Nick (deceased), Shirley (deceased) and Joye. At the age of 47 his mother found she was pregnant with Joe. Her youngest child was 16 at the time. What a surprise he must have been.

In high school he was in the marching band playing the drums. He continued to play for many years. He was a member of several country and western bands.

Joe graduated from Long Beach Polytechnic High School in 1965. His first job was a candy maker at Knott's Berry Farm. He married at age 19 and they had 3 girls. Susie (Mike), Staci (Mike) and Nancy (Mark).

He worked as a lineman for Southern California Edison and drove a truck for Sparklets Water Co. His career was a Master brake and front end mechanic for Ford Motor Co.

He was an excellent bowler and dart thrower. If Joe wanted to learn something he put his whole heart and soul in it. He bought the best equipment

and practiced until he was at the top of his game.

Baseball: He was a player, a coach, a mentor, an umpire and Umpire in Chief. He memorized the rule book and could quote chapter and verse. He loved arguing with coaches and threw some out more than once. When his daughters got interested in softball he was a happy dad. Susie was a pitcher. Staci and Nancy were both catchers (as was Joe). Work came second to watching his girls play. When Nancy got a scholarship for softball he was over the moon proud.

Joe loved sand rails. He and his buddies would go to Glamis and any place with dunes to ride. They especially liked seeing who could build the best buggy. They broke down and repaired more than they rode. He has many wonderful friends from these good times.

He was an Elk for many years and served as The Esquire and The Inner Guard as well as the kitchen manager.

He married Amy in 1994 and gained 3 more children: Stefanee Eckberg, Chad Forcht (Dawna) and T.J. Forcht (Natalie).

He and Amy moved from California to St. George, UT in December, 2000. They started AJ's Services which took care of all of Southern Utah's HUD homes from foreclosure to when they were sold. It was a successful company but changes came when the economy improved and houses were being sold quickly. His was able to help a few men who were down on their luck by giving them jobs. He remained friends with some until his passing.

In December 2016 Dixie Embroidery was created. Joe was fascinated with digitizing and became very proficient at it. He embroidered all of the hats and his mechanical knowledge of these complicated, commercial machines was

sought out by other owners. January 1, 2023 the business was transferred to Vanessa Eckberg. She interned with us for a year. Vanessa and Papa became extremely close and she learned a lot of him.

He was an intelligent man who could figure out solutions to problems most of us would walk away from. He loved this country but was so sad at the current events that he quit watching the news. He loved his dachshunds (past and present). He often said how much he enjoyed our "boring" life of watching TV with the dogs between us and all of the drama outside of our little world.

Joe is survived by his sister, his wife, 6 children, 14 grandchildren, 2 great grandsons and another one on the way.

As per Joe's wishes there will not be a funeral. Honor Joe by being kind, loving your country, helping when you can, and showing appreciation for kinds deeds done for you.

Tribute Wall

SS

“Dad I miss you so much!! You were the first man to love me unconditionally. For the first 5 years of my life I was a daddy's girl, that never changed I just had to share you after that. You were always on my side no matter what and one of my biggest cheerleaders. I have so many memories with you softball, learning to drive, umpiring, my first date, my wedding and so much more. But the one thing that I will never forget is how you were there for me during one of the toughest time in my life, my transplant. I remember waking up and you telling me that you were doing 90mph on the 15fwy and got pulled over and talked you way out of the ticket. You told the cop you made your daughter a promise that you would be there when she woke up from surgery and he let you go. Dad, what I miss the most is our phone calls, we would have long phone calls about everything. You were the best dad and papa, everyone that met you liked you. Thank you for loving me unconditionally. ❤️❤️

Susie Mugavero Sheldon - March 26, 2023 at 12:24 AM

BP

“We've know Joe for over 40 years. He was Bill's partner for many years so we have many happy memories of Joe. He loved baseball and played on Wilson Fords baseball team. Those after game parties were pretty fun! When Joe married Amy, he asked Bill to be his best man. What a wedding! Joe was a great friend and we'll miss his big smile and laugh. Love you both, Joe and Amy. ❤️ Bill & Carol

Bill and Carol Peardon - March 23, 2023 at 12:26 AM

NF

“ Papa Joe! I miss your big hugs. I still have some Coors in my fridge for you. You're the only one that would drink that crap. 🤪

One of my favorite memories of you was when I was getting ready to deliver your granddaughter, Alora. You and Amy came to visit me in the hospital as I was about to begin pushing you and Amy quickly headed for the door. I whispered to TJ to go tell his mom that she could stay if she wanted to... and I watched the look on Joe's face when he heard that and his eyes got about as big as golf balls and he swiftly turned around and hauled his butt out to the waiting room yelling "I'll be out here!" Lol. So precious. Edrick and Alora loved their papa so much. We are so grateful they got to know you and be with you to even say goodbye.

However, I know... this is not goodbye forever. We will all see you again when it's our turn to leave our vessel. I'm not scared of dying. I'm at peace with it and glad to know you are safe and sound. Love you Papa Joe!

PS- I promise to value and treasure your incredible M&M Collection! I will display it all with pride in one of our bedrooms which will now be known as The M&M Room. I will also be displaying your picture among all of your M&Ms to show the true collector of these chocolate candies!!!!!!

Natalie Forcht - March 22, 2023 at 11:51 PM

TR

“ Big Jim and my boys thought the world of Joe! They loved playing cards and playing golf with him. He was so kind to me and, to this day, Jason remembers getting a Giant Mug from Joe! We loved Joe's great big heart and smile! I will never forget when he said he was "hooked" the first time Amy smiled at him. I told Joe once that I would cook dinner for him and Amy and Jim when we all got to heaven, the offer still stands! All my Love sweet Amy! Love, Tami Jo

Tami Riches - March 20, 2023 at 05:28 PM