



Josephine Abraham

August 13, 1931 - February 1, 2020

Josephine “Jo” Abraham, age 88, of Kildeer, IL passed away Saturday, February 1, 2020 at Lutheran General Hospital. She was born on August 13, 1931 in Chicago, the oldest daughter of Joseph and Rose (Barranco) Portiera. Josephine grew up in what is now known as Wrigleyville, and attended Lakeview High School where she met several lifelong friends, the most important of whom was her husband and partner of 66 years, Charles. Chuck and Jo were married on February 6, 1954, and had a close family of five children, Catherine (Louis) Bland, Cynthia (Richard) Stackwell, Diane (William) Vlcek, John Abraham, and David (Amy) Abraham, all born on the Northwest side of Chicago.

Jo was a loving wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. She was a woman with a larger-than-life personality and someone whom you’d meet and remember for her warm personality, infectious laugh and ability to make everyone feel special. During the first 17 years of their marriage, Jo made a happy home in the space of their 6-room apartment at Magnolia and Foster Avenues. What they lacked in material possessions was more than compensated for by the ever-present love and attention of grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins and close friends. In fact, the door was always open to the constant parade of visitors...neighbors, Uncle Tony, Auntie Sarah, and Nana and Poppy. And then there were the weekly Sunday afternoon extended family dinners with an endless supply of Italian delights, both people and food. Jo was happiest entertaining and inspired the expression “Food is Love.”

Jo was also an entrepreneur having been raised by Italian immigrant parents who

believed that

hard work and honest effort was the key to happiness. Jo and Chuck became owners of several franchised service stations in the Chicago suburbs – Chuck was the “on site” labor and Jo was the “brains” behind the organization, handling all bookkeeping and accounting single-handedly.

They eventually purchased and operated an independent station, Millstream 76, in McHenry, IL from which they retired in the early 2000s.

Jo also enjoyed a part-time career – really just a hobby – working at Carson Pirie Scott & Company at Randhurst Shopping Center in Mount Prospect, IL. Since Jo was a fashionista with a “shoe habit,” her work at Carson’s enabled her to indulge many of her passions: helping people, socializing, fine style, ringing the cash register and shopping. She was called back every Christmas (well into her 80s) to help in the Women’s Department. Even as a part-timer, she was a committed worker and customers would seek her out for her helpful and caring attention.

Jo also had a strong Christian faith. She was baptized and confirmed in the Catholic church but, after marriage, found spiritual reward in the Lutheran and Pentecostal faiths. Most recently, she and Chuck were active board members and advisors to Rejoice Ministries in Chicago. Jo was a firm believer in giving back through the church and remained a dedicated servant until mobility challenges prevented her service.

Jo’s family was her pride and joy. Among her most precious treasures were her grandchildren Adrienne (Jeffrey) Stewart, Katherine (Scott) Francis, Nicole (Robert) St. Clair, Michael (April) Abraham, David Stackwell and Alexander (Ashtyn) Thessen. Her life was further blessed by her great-grandchildren Grayson, Zachary, Jacob, Ava, Carson, Olivia and Arya.

Jo is survived by her loving husband, Charles, her five children, her dear sister Rose Marie (the late Kenneth) Small, dear brothers Joseph Richard (Rose) Portiera, Salvatore (Jeanette) Portiera, and many loving nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents Joseph and Rose, and her dear brother Anthony Joseph Portiera.

Visitation on Monday, February 10, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. with funeral service at 12 noon at Matz

Funeral Home, 410 East Rand Road, Mount Prospect, IL. Interment at All Saints Mausoleum, Des Plaines, IL.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be offered to The American Cancer Society, Moody Bible Institute of Chicago, or a charity close to your heart.

Cemetery

All Saints Cemetery

700 N. River Road
Des Plaines, IL,

Events

FEB **Visitation** 10:00AM - 12:00PM

10

Matz Funeral Home - Mt. Prospect
410 E. Rand Road, Mt. Prospect, IL, US, 60056

FEB **Funeral Service** 12:00PM

10

Matz Funeral Home - Mt. Prospect
410 E. Rand Road, Mt. Prospect, IL, US, 60056

Comments



“ From Sarah and George Naxera purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Josephine Abraham.



From Sarah and George Naxera - February 08 at 04:32 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Josephine Abraham.



February 08 at 11:12 AM



“ A New Sunrise Spray was purchased for the family of Josephine Abraham.



February 08 at 12:34 AM



“ Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of Josephine Abraham.



February 07 at 09:10 PM



“ Fairest of All was purchased for the family of Josephine Abraham.



February 07 at 10:24 AM



“ We can't wrap our heads around the fact that you won't be a phone call away. You became so very dear to us - both as a tireless worker for Rejoice Ministries and also as a good, good friend. Always ready with a smile and a joke. Always willing to go that extra mile. We'll miss you terribly, but know that we'll see you again one day.

Marion, Kathy and Darlene Russo

Kathy Russo - February 06 at 04:33 PM



“ After a friendship of 34 years, life will be different without my dear friend and neighbor. I miss her already. Rest in peace Jo!

Grace Nosko - February 09 at 12:52 PM



“ I am not a poet, so I rely on those that are.

From Yehuda Halevi (1075 – 1141) Spanish Jewish physician, poet, and philosopher.

“Tis a Fearful Thing

'Tis a fearful thing,
to love what death can touch.

A fearful thing
to love, to hope, to dream, to be –

to be,
And oh, to lose.

A thing for fools, this,

And a holy thing,

a holy thing
to love.

For your life has lived in me,
your laugh once lifted me,
your word was gift to me.

To remember this brings painful joy.

'Tis a human thing, love,

a holy thing,

to love what death has touched.”

Godspeed Ma, I hope you thought I was "nice."

Tomas - February 05 at 12:07 PM



“ What a blessing all these years to have had an aunt like "Aunty Jo." I grew up looking forward to being in her kind, loving and caring presence. In more recent days, we had long conversations filled with lots of laughs and the and solving of the world's problems. She was vibrant, giving and loving. I will miss her profoundly.

My deepest sympathy to my Uncle Chuck (who will feel her loss like no one else), and to the rest of the family. She will be part of you all forever, and I hope you get to the place where you can reminisce about her life and be joyful for the time you spent together. I love you and God Bless You All, Linda

Linda K Robinson - February 04 at 03:46 PM



“ Heavenly Sentiments Spray was purchased for the family of Josephine Abraham.



February 04 at 03:09 PM



“ What a beautiful Obituary, my thoughts and prayers are with Cindy and the family during these tender times of grief. Best Kathy McBride

kathy mcbride - February 04 at 12:40 PM



“ The IJA Strategies Family purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Josephine Abraham.



The IJA Strategies Family - February 03 at 03:13 PM



“ Trinchero Family Estates Team; Mike, Doug & Jim purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Josephine Abraham.



Trinchero Family Estates Team; Mike, Doug & Jim - February 03 at 03:09 PM



“ Joe and Andrea Chudy purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Josephine Abraham.



Joe and Andrea Chudy - February 03 at 03:08 PM



“ Guiding Light Bouquet was purchased for the family of Josephine Abraham.



February 03 at 02:48 PM



“ A beautiful lady in every human way. Loved by many many and more. She will be missed by many many and more.

perns family - February 03 at 11:58 AM



“ Dear Diane and Family - I am so sorry to hear of your mother's passing. May you take comfort knowing she is resting in the loving embrace of our Lord Jesus.

Louise Aloj-Miler - February 03 at 10:51 AM