



Joseph Loy Freeland

June 1, 1949 - March 12, 2019

Joseph Loy Freeland (b. June 1, 1949) passed away on the morning of Tuesday, March 12, 2019, around the time he would have finished up his childhood chores on the dairy farm on Robert's Ridge where he grew up.

He is survived by Debra Gurney Freeland, his wife of 42 years; his children J.W. (Aimee) of Wheeling, WV, and Abby (Carl Grey) of Winston-Salem, NC; his grandchildren Luke, Chelsea, and Josephine; his double cousin Byron Freeland; and his sisters Martha (Les) Fish and Gail (James) Mason. He is the son of the late Loy Woodrow Freeland and Beryl Velma Lancaster Freeland.

Joe was a joyful and generous friend, husband, father, and papa. He loved to make others laugh with a joke or a prank, to tell an outlandish story, and to help solve a problem, whether big or small. He kept his family laughing until the end.

At the age of 23, he opened RMS Hair Stylists, his first business, which he owned and operated for over forty years. His selfless hard work granted his children many opportunities. They are grateful for his sacrifice and support.

Always curious, creative, and savvy, he was an entrepreneur throughout his life, developing real estate and working as a renewable energy and oil and

gas consultant for individuals and corporations. He served on the West Virginia Energy Authority Commission and on the West Virginia Infrastructure and Jobs Development Council. He is also the self-proclaimed inventor of pie.

He was a member of the New Martinsville Rotary Club, where he once served as president; St. Vincent de Paul Parish; and Knights of Columbus. In 2010, he was named West Virginian of the Year. He was a faithful breakfast diner at Quinet's Restaurant.

His family will miss his wit, his gentle and calm demeanor, his practical advice, and his generosity, but they also know his traits run deep within them all because of his powerful influence.

As a charming wordsmith, Joe wrote a poem for every occasion. His family wrote this one for him:

Roses are red,
Violets are blue.
Joe is in heaven now,
No need to boo hoo.

Family will receive friends on Friday, March 15, 2019, from 3-7 p.m. at Grisell Funeral Home & Crematory 751 Third St. New Martinsville where Rosary Devotions will be recited at 6:45 p.m. Funeral Liturgy with Mass will be celebrated Saturday at 11 a.m. at St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church 21 Rosary Rd. New Martinsville, WV with Fr. Symeon Galazka as celebrant. Interment will be held at the convenience of the family.

As an expression of sympathy, memorial contributions may be sent to American Association for Kidney Patients or The Kidney Project.

If you know a good story about Joe, family members would love to hear it or have you post it on sympathy expressions at grisellfuneralhomes.com.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 15. 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Grisell Funeral Home - New Martinsville
751 Third Street
New Martinsville, WV 26155
(304) 455-1800
<https://www.grisellfuneralhomes.com/>

Rosary Devotions

MAR 15. 6:45 PM (ET)

Grisell Funeral Home - New Martinsville
751 Third Street
New Martinsville, WV 26155
(304) 455-1800
<https://www.grisellfuneralhomes.com/>

Funeral Liturgy with Mass

MAR 16. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church
21 Rosary Road
New Martinsville, WV 26155

Tribute Wall



“ *Grisell Funeral Homes created a Tribute Video in memory of Joseph Loy Freeland*



Grisell Funeral Homes - March 15, 2019 at 09:22 AM

RB

“ *Deb, I just got a call from Carolyn today and she told me about Joe. I am so sorry, my thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.*

Rita Berry - March 18, 2019 at 01:49 PM

DG

“ *Remember Joe playing football at Moundsville High with my brother, and his sister Gail who I will always consider a very dear friend. So sorry for your loss. Doug Gonzales, Naples Fl.*

Douglas L. Gonzales - March 16, 2019 at 10:08 AM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Joseph Loy Freeland.*



March 15, 2019 at 01:35 PM

AS

“ *Allyson, Matt, and T.J. Shively purchased the Sweet Tranquility Basket for the family of Joseph Loy Freeland.*



Allyson, Matt, and T.J. Shively - March 15, 2019 at 11:04 AM

JG

“ *One of my many fond memories of Joe was the time he took me and his two cocker spaniels on a canoe ride down a creek near New Martinsville. I believe i was a teenager at the time. The nice ride downstream turned bad when we hit the rapids, flipped and sank the canoe, everything in the canoe including the cocker spaniels began floating downstream while Joe and I were trying to un-sink the canoe. Needless to say it was a great time and provided quite a few laughs.*

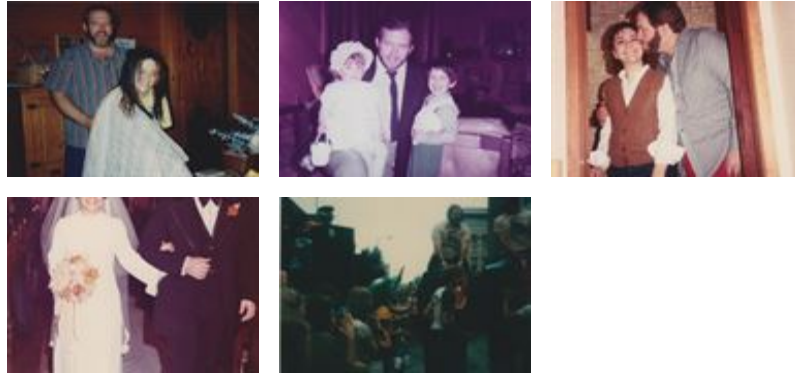
I'll miss you Joe.

Joseph Gurney

Joseph Gurney - March 15, 2019 at 07:56 AM



“ 152 files added to the album *LifeTributes*



Grisell Funeral Homes - March 15, 2019 at 07:55 AM



“ *Love's Journey* was purchased for the family of *Joseph Loy Freeland*.



March 14, 2019 at 04:42 PM



“ *I am so sorry to hear of Joe's passing. Joe was considered a very good friend. He was my barber for over 20+ years and we shared a lot of laughs together during that time. Not only was he a friend but a community and business associate as well. His humor and friendliness will be missed but never forgotten. My condolences go out to the Freeland family and relatives. Larry Tracey*

Larry Tracey - March 14, 2019 at 03:18 PM

CC

“ *The first thing I have always appreciated about Joe was that he was so sharp. Knowing it was an interest of mine, Joe would occasionally talk to me about politics and policy. I remember I was bemoaning some government-funded public-private partnership and, in a few short sentences, Joe completely changed my perspective and opinion on the policy. He had that effect on people. He was smart, but he was also wise. It's no wonder that Joe was regularly asked to serve on community and business boards and that state and local politicians sought his counsel.*

But the most memorable thing about Joe was how much fun he could be. I will always recall a picnic that I attended as a teenager at St Vincent de Paul park. As part of the activities, there was an egg toss event. The exact chain of events are a bit hazy now, but two things are crystal clear over twenty years later. First, the egg toss turned into a hilarious free-for-all with kids laughing and screaming and eggs flying. And second, Joe initiated the events. His fun-loving attitude was contagious—and on that day at St Vincent de Paul park, it was on full display!

My condolences to Deb, JW, and Abby and the entire family. The entire area has lots someone really special — but we were all better for having known him and to have spent time with such a fun-loving, kind person.

Cody Corliss - March 14, 2019 at 02:17 PM

CC

“ *Heartfelt condolences to Debra, J.W., Abby and families. I simply can't imagine this world without Joe. He always lifted everyone's spirits. I was so blessed to have known him - as a professional and as a true friend. May he Rest in Peace. Cathy Carlin*

Catherine L. Carlin - March 14, 2019 at 11:49 AM



“ *Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of Joseph Loy Freeland.*



March 14, 2019 at 10:46 AM



“ *He was wonderful neighbor and friend. We will miss Joe. May God bless him and his family.*

French Cozart - March 14, 2019 at 09:54 AM



“ *I know Joseph only through his wonderful daughter, Abby, so I know he was an amazing man and will be much missed. Sending love to all the family.*

Valerie Nieman - March 14, 2019 at 09:39 AM



“ *Our hearts are heavy to hear about our friend Joe. He was one of a kind and we shared many thoughts, concerns, laughs and many jokes. He could always make us smile. Not only did he cut our hair the best of anyone, his friendship shined through when we were going through a very hard time with our son. I received a phone call at work and it was Joe saying if there was anything he could do to help to let him know. My definition of friendship is when one walks in when the rest of the world is walking out. We will miss him, seeing his smile and waiting for him to try and pull one on us. His love for his family compares to no one, the void will be deep. You are in our thoughts and prayers, may God give you comfort in this huge loss. God Bless. Deaner and Jim Isaacs*

Iris R. Isaacs - March 14, 2019 at 08:49 AM

DD

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you 🙏
Condolences
Dave and Donna Durbin



dave and donna durbin - March 14, 2019 at 08:29 AM

CC

“ Dearest family,
Our family is so saddened by this news. In 2004, Joe encouraged me to run for City Council. He gave me all kinds of ways to introduce myself to Ward 6. Because I so respected Joe and his sense of awareness (and humor), I followed his instructions...I won the election with 76% of the vote, based largely on his instructions. I served on Council for three terms, thanks to the tutelage of Joe. I'll never forget his honesty and kindness toward me. Our community lost a very fine human...sincere sympathies
Casey Corliss and family

casey corliss - March 14, 2019 at 08:12 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for
the family of Joseph Loy Freeland.



March 13, 2019 at 10:16 PM

“ Debra, our friendship goes back to our childhood at St. Francis Xavier grade school and Bishop Donahue High School. When we moved to New Martinsville, Joe was one of the first people I met. I’d gone in for a hair trim, and he told me that he was engaged to you. The reconnection with you made the new friendship with Joe an added pleasure.

I have three dear Joe stories....

1. It was around 1984, Juliana was about 5yrs old and she had had an emergency shunt revision in Morgantown . Juli had beautiful thick long blonde hair and the surgeons, as a precaution, parted her hair right down the middle and shaved one half off. They brought me her hair in a plastic bag explaining that they really didn’t need to shave it after all. When we got home, there was little Juli shaved completely bald on one side and hair long beyond her shoulder on the other side. I called Joe and he said, “bring Juli right in.” He cut the long side and fashioned the biggest comb over in the history of man. We put a beret on her head to hold it in place. Now Juli had a new chin length do, of course, at no charge.

2. Summer 1990 Joe, Deb, Tom and I took a long weekend trip to Cape May/Atlantic City

NJ. We had flown there; we were getting settled in our rooms, and outside Joe drives up in a beautiful white rented convertible. We had such a fun time seeing the sites in that car. Joe had brought a new contraption called a cell phone. It was in a large carrying case, like a small piece of luggage. Joe said, “Everyone’s going to have one of these one day...”

3. March 1992. We had lived here in Dayton about a year and a half. I was trying very hard to stay connected to all of our old friends . I was celebrating my 40th birthday, had gone to work. About mid afternoon, the elevator opens and off comes this very over costumed character of a woman, a “bag lady” . She starts yelling and going desk to desk, looking for me, making all these claims about my past, my numerous marriages, the breast surgery that didn’t work, raising such a ruckus. She ended up screeching happy

birthday. Of course, later I found out Joe had sent her. He was just trying to make his old friend laugh at her big birthday in a new place. Bless him....

There are going to be so many great Joe stories. Joe loved life and was bigger than life.

How I would love to join you this weekend when Joe is honored, but it is impossible for me to do so. I am chairing a 12 hr Women's Welcome Retreat Day on Saturday with 53 registered to attend. So I will be in the midst of a total day of prayer and reflection throughout Joe's special day. Be assured of my prayers that day and the long days of adjustment that lie ahead. I will be in touch.

Sending love to the entire Freeland family,

♥️ Connie Dvorak

connie Dvorak - March 13, 2019 at 07:55 PM

JB

“ *Debra, J.W. & Abby: my sincere condolences on Joe's passing, he was a great man. Memories from st. Vincent de Paul catholic and RMS both are flooding my mind as I type this. Wish I could be there to say goodbye to a great friend. Fondly, Juli(Dvorak) Buschagen*

Juli Buschagen - March 13, 2019 at 05:38 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Joseph Loy Freeland.*



March 13, 2019 at 05:19 PM



“ *Garden Cross was purchased for the family of Joseph Loy Freeland.*



March 13, 2019 at 02:41 PM



“ *Magnificent Life Spray was purchased for the family of Joseph Loy Freeland.*



March 13, 2019 at 02:22 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Joseph Loy Freeland.*



March 13, 2019 at 02:15 PM