



Joseph Edward Graham

May 28, 1931 - June 3, 2021

Col. Joseph E. Graham, May 28, 1931 – June 3, 2021

Joe was a beloved husband, father, grandfather, uncle, friend and devout Catholic. He passed away surrounded by his four devoted daughters at age 90.

He was born in Rochester, New York to Joseph L. Graham and Dorothy M. Kane. Joe had two brothers, Edward and Richard and two sisters, Margaret and Dorothy.

Joe graduated from the Aquinas Institute of Rochester where he played football and boxed in the Mission Bouts. While in high school, he met the love of his life, Ruth Yeoman. They married in 1954 and spent 36 blessed years together before Ruth passed away. Joe and Ruth had five children; Sheryl, Patrick, Susan, Sheila and Sandra.

After High School, Joe went to St. Bonaventure University where he played football and was commissioned through the Army ROTC. He graduated with a degree in Business Administration and later earned an MBA from Syracuse University.

During Joe's career in the U.S. Army, he served with the 82nd and 101st

Airborne, was a Vietnam Veteran, had two tours at the Pentagon, commanded a Field Artillery Battalion at Fort Sill and numerous other assignments.

After Ruth's death, Joe found love again and married Dee Vadas. Dee had 5 grown children that Joe treated as his own; Susie, David, Keith, Greg and Leslie. They were married 27 years until Dee's death in 2018.

One of Joe's greatest sorrows was to lose his son Patrick in an accident when Patrick was 51. To the family's joy, Pat's wife Marjie has remained a member of our family.

He is survived by his brother, Richard, daughters Sherry (Dave), Sue (Mike), Sheila (Dave) and Sandra (Mike), Dee's children Susie (Mike), David (Joan), Keith, Greg (Cheryl), Leslie (Bob), and numerous grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Joe loved to play golf, football, and he was an avid skier. Joe supported many children's charities. He will be greatly missed.

A Memorial Mass will be held on Friday, July 23, 2021, 10:00am, at St. Rita Roman Catholic Church, 1008 Maple Dr., Webster, NY 14580. Joe will be laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery.

Previous Events

Memorial Mass

JUL **23**. 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Rita Roman Catholic Church
1008 Maple Drive
Webster, NY 14580

Memorial Mass

DEC **9**. 8:45 AM - 11:00 AM.

Arlington National Cemetery

Tribute Wall

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“ We spent 2 years with the Grahams at Ft. Sill, Ok. Joe was my husband's boss and Ruth was my shopping partner. Bill and I loved them both. They made us feel special and a part of their family. We are very sorry to hear of Joe's passing and hope that you all will have joy in remembering the wonderful years with your parents. Cathy and Bill Rittenhouse.



Catherine Rittenhouse - July 04, 2021 at 03:10 PM

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“ Sincere condolences to the family and friends of this true American Patriot. May he rest in eternal peace.

TIMOTHY STREB - June 09, 2021 at 09:01 PM