



Joseph "Joe" Ketzner, Jr.

June 26, 1949 - June 16, 2024

Albany, NY-Joseph "Joe" Ketzner Jr. entered Eternal Life on Monday, June 16, 2024, in Inverness, Florida, surrounded by his loving family. Joe was a remarkable man whose life was a testament to courage, dedication, and an unwavering love for his family. Born to the late Joseph F. Ketzner Sr. and Dorothy (Ketzner) June, Joe was a proud native of Rensselaer. He graduated from Rensselaer High School in 1968 and soon after joined the United States Navy, where he served honorably until 1974.

Joe's tenure in the U.S. Navy Seabees during the Vietnam War was marked by great courage and dedication. As a member of the Naval Mobile Construction Battalion, he played a pivotal role in constructing crucial infrastructure under arduous conditions, often amidst enemy fire. His service garnered him several prestigious accolades, including the National Defense Service Medal and the Vietnam Service Medal. Joe's military service was a source of immense pride, and his sacrifices exemplified his selflessness and commitment to safeguarding those around him.

After his military service, Joe became a dedicated member of the Carpenters Local Union #291 (formerly #370) for 52 years; remaining a member in good standing until his passing. While with the Local, he worked on many jobs, including the construction of The Egg at the Empire State Plaza. Joe's dedication to his craft and his role as a general foreman and union treasurer

were sources of great pride. For many years, Joe also owned his own construction business, K&T Contracting, along with his lifelong friend, Paul Therrien.

In retirement, Joe split his time between Florida and New York, eventually settling in Beverly Hills, Florida. In his spare time, Joe enjoyed fishing, hunting, camping, cooking, landscaping, home improvements, automobiles, riding his Harley, traveling, and spending countless hours building lasting memories with his many treasured friends.

Joe's greatest joy in life, however, was his family. He was a devoted father and grandfather, teaching his loved ones countless life skills—from fishing and baseball to car repairs and home maintenance. He was always there for them, just as they will in turn always be there for one another. He created numerous cherished memories, from family vacations and holiday celebrations to the funny shirts that made his birthdays unforgettable. Joe's strength, resilience, and unwavering support were unmatched, and his legacy will be proudly carried forward by his children and grandchildren.

Predeceased by his beloved wife of 20 years, Lois Ketzer, Joe leaves behind a loving family: his children Robert (Heather) Ketzer, Michael (Melissa) Ketzer, Melissa (Darrell) Gipson, Mark (Marybeth) Ketzer, Eric (Heather) Ketzer, and stepchildren Alicia Fiorino and Paul Defreest. He was the proud papa of his adoring grandchildren Alex (Mackenzie) and Ryan Weaver, Brayden and Lincoln Gipson, Christopher Fiorino, Jacob, Hannah, Aiden, Emma, Helen, Silas, Maggie, Lorien, and Kayleigh Ketzer. Joe is also survived by his lifelong friend and companion, Faye Whitford, his sisters Joyce (Martin) Sheehan and Jacqueline Decker, his brothers Kenneth Ketzer and Richard "Dick" (Elena) Ketzer, and his many nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

As we bid farewell to Joe, we celebrate a life that was a shining exemplar of

valor, commitment, and unconditional love. His legacy will endure through the countless lives he touched, the structures he built, and the family he cherished. May his memory serve as a source of inspiration, reminding us all to embrace life with the same unwavering spirit and to cherish the moments we share with our loved ones.

Relatives and friends are invited to visit with Joe's family Monday, June 24, 2024 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm at McVeigh Funeral Home, 208 North Allen Street, Albany, NY 12206. Please enter the funeral home from the rear parking lot only.

Funeral services Tuesday, June 25, 2024 at 9:30 am at The Parish of St. John the Evangelist and St. Joseph, 54 Herrick Street, Rensselaer, NY 12144 where his Funeral Mass will be celebrated.

The Rite of Committal will follow the Mass at 12:30 pm Gerald BH Solomon Saratoga National Cemetery.

To leave a message for the family please visit www.McveighFuneralHome.com

Family and friends are invited to attend a reception on June 25, 2024, from 2:00-6:00 PM at the Melvin Roads American Legion Post Banquet Hall, 200 Columbia Turnpike, Rensselaer, NY 12144 to honor his memory and celebrate a life well lived.

Cemetery Details

Gerald BH Solomon Saratoga National Cemetery

200 Duell Road
Schuylerville, NY

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN **24**. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

McVeigh Funeral Home, Inc.
208 N Allen St
Albany, NY 12206
(518) 489-0188
info@mcveighfuneralhome.com
<http://www.McveighFuneralHome.com>

Service

JUN **25**. 9:30 AM (ET)

The Parish of St. John the Evangelist and St. Joseph
50 Herrick Street
Rensselaer, NY

Gerald BH Solomon Saratoga National Cemetery Service

JUN **25**. 12:30 PM (ET)

Gerald BH Solomon Saratoga National Cemetery
200 Duell Road
Schuylerville, NY

Tribute Wall



“ *McVeigh Funeral Home, Inc. created a Tribute Video in memory of Joseph "Joe" Ketzer, Jr.*



McVeigh Funeral Home, Inc. - June 21, 2024 at 09:08 PM

DM

“ *Debbie Therrien Marley purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Joseph "Joe" Ketzer, Jr..*



Debbie Therrien Marley - June 24, 2024 at 08:05 AM



“ *Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Joseph "Joe" Ketzer, Jr..*



June 21, 2024 at 07:50 PM

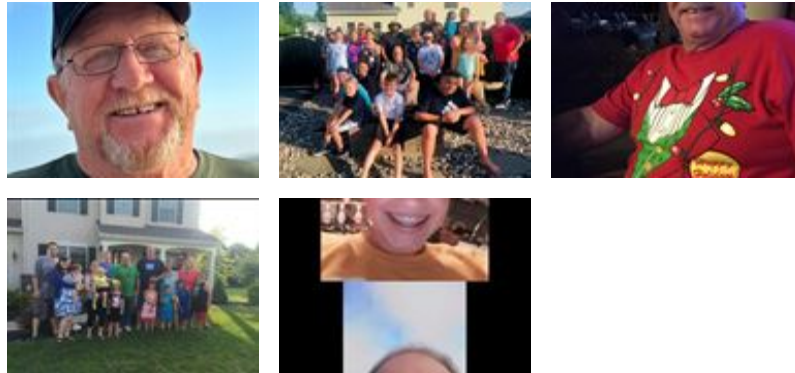
TF

“ *The Hickey Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Joseph "Joe" Ketzer, Jr..*

The Hickey Family - June 21, 2024 at 07:50 PM



“ 66 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



McVeigh Funeral Home, Inc. - June 21, 2024 at 05:05 PM

GC

“ Another good one from *Second Avenue* gone way too soon. May you rest in peace *Joey!!!*

Gail Harwood Connell - June 20, 2024 at 05:40 PM



“ Patricia Hoffman Belterman lit a candle in memory of Joseph "Joe" Ketzler, Jr.



Patricia Hoffman Belterman - June 20, 2024 at 03:03 PM

SS

So very sad to hear of Joe's passing. My sincere condolences to his family and friends. Rest in peace Joe. ❤️🙏🙏🙏

Sheri Schwartz - June 23, 2024 at 06:18 AM