



## Joseph Robert Varno

September 11, 1962 - November 15, 2019

Rensselaer- Joseph Robert Varno passed away surrounded by those he loved on Friday, November 15th, 2019 after a short illness.

Joe was predeceased by his mother, Joann P. (DeGloria) Varno; his father, Robert F. Varno; and his older sister Michelle. He is survived by his loving brother Micheal Varno, his adoring nieces Emily and Natalie Barcia-Varno (Teresita) of Glenmont, his son Andrew Auffredou of Staten Island, and his loyal god sisters Jacqueline Wolfinger and Joann Cahalan. He was the nephew of Margaret Brown (Jack), Rosalie Desorbo (Ralph), James (Josephine), Thomas (Patricia), William (Mary Jane), Edward (Carol), and Father Jack Varno, and the half brother of Tim Bibens, Frank Bibens, and Sue Bibens Huston. Joe leaves behind many cousins and friends who loved him and will miss him dearly.

Joe was born on September 11th, 1962 in Albany where he grew up on Elizabeth Street. He was a graduate of Bishop Maginn High School and attended Wagner College in Staten Island and HVCC. Joe later followed in the footsteps of his father and became a dedicated freelance painter in the area, starting his own business, Varno Painting.

Joe had an indescribable passion for sports. He played football and baseball in high school. He was an avid fan of the Buffalo Bills and the Mets. He also loved going to jazz festivals with friends, attending sporting events, and gardening. Most importantly, Joe was determined to make a difference in the community. As his father had done, Joe was a coach, manager, and board member at American Little League in Albany. He mentored the young men and women on his team, providing them guidance through the power of perseverance, teamwork, and positivity. He hoped to create a better life for those he coached and it left a lasting impression on his players.

The family would like to thank the doctors and nurses of the AMC Cardiac Unit for their outstanding care and support of Joe while he was there.

Relatives and friends are invited to visit with Joe's family Friday, November 22, 2019 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm at McVeigh Funeral Home, 208 North Allen Street, Albany, NY 12206.

Funeral services Saturday, November 23, 2019 at 12:00 pm at St. Francis of Assisi Parish (South End Community 88 4th Street), Albany, NY where his Funeral Mass will be celebrated.

The Rite of Committal will be held at St. Agnes Cemetery, Menands, NY immediately following the Mass.

To leave a message for the family, light a virtual candle, obtain directions or

view other helpful services please visit [www.McveighFuneralHome.com](http://www.McveighFuneralHome.com)

In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation in his honor to American Little League or the Police Athletic League, 844 Madison Ave, Albany, NY 12208.

# Cemetery Details

## St. Agnes Cemetery

48 Cemetery Ave  
Menands, NY

# Previous Events

## Visitation

NOV **22**. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

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

## Service

NOV **23**. 12:00 PM (ET)

St. Francis of Assisi Parish (Formerly St. John's-St. Ann's Church)  
Fourth Ave. at Franklin Sts  
Albany, NY 12202  
(518) 434-4028

# Tribute Wall



“ *McVeigh Funeral Home, Inc. created a Tribute Video in memory of Joseph Robert Varno*



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**McVeigh Funeral Home, Inc.** - November 22, 2019 at 10:30 AM



“ *Joseph Robert Varno*

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October 08, 2023 at 09:24 PM



“ *Cathy Dominy lit a candle in memory of Joseph Robert Varno*



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**Cathy Dominy** - November 25, 2019 at 09:29 AM

LA

“ I am so sad that Joe is gone. Not only was he a kind, lovely, perpetually smiling, fun loving person, he was a perfectionist in his work. There was no finer painter. He was an artist and maintained the highest standards. I doubt we will ever see another like Joe again. I extend my deepest condolences to his family. Joe will be greatly missed.

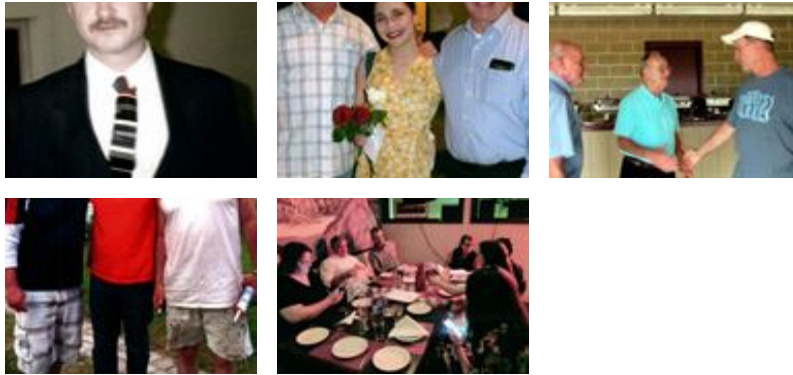
Loretta Ackerman

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Loretta Ackerman - November 22, 2019 at 10:31 AM

MCVEIGH  
FUNERAL HOME, INC.  
(518) 489-0188

“ 49 files added to the album Life Tributes



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McVeigh Funeral Home, Inc. - November 22, 2019 at 10:06 AM

CM

“ So sorry to hear of Joe's passing. I had seen him the week before. Back a few months ago I saw his truck. I had to stop and ask if he was the south end Joe? He said he was. I grew up next door to Joe and Mike. It's been a very long time. But was great to see him again. I will miss seeing him as I pass his house daily on my way to my son's home. May he rest in peace.

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Claudette Mink - November 22, 2019 at 07:37 AM

AD

“ Joe always put a smile on my face. His quick wit and snarky banter was the thing I adored most about him. He was adored by both of my children. He stayed close with my family and attended graduations ( he watched my son go from little league to college) and every birthday party.. even though he was always late 😞. We would joke about his lateness but he would always say “I showed up didn't I?” He will be truly missed and never forgotten. I send strength and love to all of you.

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**April Dawn** - November 21, 2019 at 09:09 PM

SO

“ I am forever grateful I was able to see and be with Joe before he departed. Our recent visit in ICU allowed us top catch up and rehash Maginn memories as if they happened yesterday. Even with his illness, physical discomfort and being in ICU, Joe's humor and goodness remained in tact. And his radiant smile never wavered. He will be greatly missed by his friends and classmates from Bishop Maginn, and the many people with whom he shared his goodness and love. To the best of our ability, we will try to pass on,... what he so generously passed on to us.

*Be at peace, Joe.*

*Fr. Sean O'Brien, OFM,*

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**Sean E. OBrien** - November 21, 2019 at 03:10 PM

MW

“ To Joes family: heart broken to hear of Joes passing. A fellow Bishop Maginn alum same class. Joe was a home room buddy. Take comfort in your memories. RIP my friend

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**Mary Ward** - November 21, 2019 at 09:35 AM

JC

“ Mike, Emily & Natalie - we are so sorry for the loss of Joe. Joe was a special friend, brother, uncle etc. who was very loved by many. Joe touched a lot of people over his lifetime. He was an excellent painter who always had a smile on his face. He will be sadly missed but never forgotten. All of our great memories of Joe will carry on forever. We love you Joe! Forever in our hearts, Rest in Peace and keep looking down on us all!  
Love, Joanne, Bob, Caitlin, Conor & Kelly

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**Joanne Cahalan** - November 21, 2019 at 07:31 AM

JC

“It’s hard to describe exactly who Joe Varno was to me. I don’t think there’s a word in the dictionary unique enough to do our bond justice. In my book, Joe falls into his own, perfectly imperfect box. More than a friend, he was someone I especially revered. I looked up to him as a mentor, and equally appreciated his quirky persona. On the surface, Joe was a full-time painter who worked hard to get by...but in reality he was a part time guardian angel/part time cartoon character. He both amazed and amused me. In his dirty white painter pants and vibrant blue American little league coaching shirt, Joe dressed every day as a superhero who flew under the radar. Unaware of his impact, he lived each day with profound simplicity, and the type of exuberance that is both infectious and rare. A storyteller who would always make you smile, Joe lived up to the hype. He loved to chat with people, and often started each story with his city slicker phrase, “Let me tell you somethin!”. He had a great sense of humor and a charming wit about him that was hard not to like. Lastly, and most importantly I think, Joe Varno was a volunteer baseball coach who dedicated countless hours of working with underserved youth. This is where I met him, and this is where Joe shined the brightest - in spite of the harsh blight that often trickled into the ballpark. Joe cared about all the kids at American little league, and he protected them the best he could. I learned more from Joe about working with those kids than I did in teaching school. We would often play good cop/bad cop. I would play the ‘good’ cop - only because it was easier, and Joe played the ‘bad’ cop and handled everything so effortlessly. He ran the show, and knew how to get through to those kids. Before me, it was Joe coaching on his own for years...alone, with no one watching. Now he’ll be coaching God’s children. A man who put the character in character, Joe Varno was as authentic as they come, and will always reside in a rarified atmosphere...one of purity. I’ll really, really miss him. But I’ll always remember who he was. Thanks for being a guiding light. I love you, Joe.

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**Jay Conde** - November 20, 2019 at 10:05 PM

KV

“ Dear Joe , we've been friends for along time. It was great having you as a teammate for many years on the YeOlde !! U were a helluva glove. I'm sure your having a laugh now with Kevin Phillips and Downtown Wesley Brown!! Tell them I said hello. Till we meet again my friend

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**kevin vita** - November 20, 2019 at 08:43 PM