



Joseph W. Heath "Papa Joe"

January 4, 1941 - January 5, 2025

Joseph W. Heath "Papa Joe", 84, passed away on January 5, 2025 in Leesburg, Florida. He was born on January 4, 1941 in Bushnell, Florida to Fred and Zona "Jackie" Heath. He graduated from Leesburg High School and soon enlisted into the Marines in 1960. Dedicated to his country, he served two tours in Vietnam, received the Good Conduct Medal and Marine of the Year recognition. He retired in 1980 at the rank of Gunnery Sergeant. He spent about 15 years working in the agricultural industry. Later in life, Joe fully embraced his role as the "Peanut Man" having had a boiled peanut and vegetable stand in Grand Island for twenty-two years.

During his lifetime he fished many local lakes and was known to have traveled as far as the Frazier Valley in Canada for good fishing. He loved yard work and made sure there were plenty of flowering plants all around the house.

It's clear that his family, especially his grandchildren, cherished him deeply. His love for teaching them to fish, scooter rides, and those memorable sayings like "don't eat my groceries" give a glimpse into his unique personality and the joy he brought to those around him.

Survived by his wife of 27 years, Connie Heath, sons Christopher K. Heath and Joseph W. Heath II, daughters Melissa L. Stephan and Christina M. Howell, 6 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren. He had a rich and full life,

touching many hearts with his kindness, humor and love for his family.
Preceded in death by his parents, Fred E. and Zona M. Heath.

He will undoubtedly be missed by many, and his memory will live on through the stories and love shared by his family and friends.

A visitation will be held on Thursday, January 9, 2025 from 9:30 AM to 10:30 AM at Beyers Funeral Home Chapel, 1123 West Main Street, Leesburg, Florida, 34748 with funeral services beginning at 10:30 AM. Interment will be at Florida National Cemetery in Bushnell, Florida the following day, Friday, January 10, 2025 at 9:30 AM.

Arrangements entrusted to Beyers Funeral Home of Leesburg, Florida.

Cemetery Details

Florida National Cemetery

6502 SW 102nd Avenue
Bushnell, FL 33513

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 9. 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM (ET)

Beyers Funeral Home & Crematory
1123 W Main St
Leesburg, FL 34748
(352) 787-4343

Funeral Service

JAN 9. 10:30 AM (ET)

Beyers Funeral Home & Crematory
1123 W Main St
Leesburg, FL 34748
(352) 787-4343

Interment

JAN 10. 9:30 AM (ET)

Florida National Cemetery
6502 SW 102nd Avenue
Bushnell, FL 33513

Tribute Wall



“ *Beyers Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Joseph W. Heath "Papa Joe"*



Beyers Funeral Home - January 07, 2025 at 04:57 PM

GM

“ *Greg ,Teresa,Logan and Crystal Marshall planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Joseph W. Heath "Papa Joe".*

Greg ,Teresa,Logan and Crystal Marshall - January 08, 2025 at 11:49 AM

GM

“ *Greg ,Teresa,Logan and Crystal Marshall purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Joseph W. Heath "Papa Joe".*



Greg ,Teresa,Logan and Crystal Marshall - January 08, 2025 at 11:49 AM

KN

“ *Joe and I grew up together and had too many memories to list. He has always been my buddy through our youth and will be sorely missed. My condolences to his family and prayers go out for peace and comfort. Kenny Nesselrotte*

Kenneth Nesselrotte - January 07, 2025 at 12:14 PM

PZ

“ Joe and I grew up as friends, living about a block apart. He always offered a kind ear and good advice. This gentle giant who was the star of Leesburg High School's basketball team was loved and respected by all who knew him. My condolences to his family.

Patricia Morris Zellner - January 07, 2025 at 11:13 AM

GA

“ Sending Condolences to Sweet Connie, "SPARKY Beloved Dog" and Family.

Gary/Suzanne - January 07, 2025 at 10:38 AM

SP

“ Suzanne Perez and Gary Plunkett purchased the Sacred Duty Spray for the family of Joseph W. Heath "Papa Joe".



Suzanne Perez and Gary Plunkett - January 07, 2025 at 10:30 AM

SP

“ Suzanne Perez and Gary Plunkett planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Joseph W. Heath "Papa Joe".

Suzanne Perez and Gary Plunkett - January 07, 2025 at 10:30 AM