



## Joseph "Joe" Steven Safko

December 15, 1935 - March 26, 2023

Joseph (Joe) Steven Safko, 87, of The Villages, Florida passed away on March 26, 2023. He was born in Akron, Ohio on December 15, 1935 to Steven and Anna (Kocis) Safko. As a beloved husband to Karen (Taylor) Safko; devoted father to Andrea Johnson, Paul (Joann) Safko and Thomas Safko; and caring grandfather to James "JJ", Anna, Courtney and Katarina (Kevin), Joe will be deeply missed.

Joe attended University of Notre Dame and graduated from Saint Louis University Medical School. He and his first wife, Helen, lived in Baltimore, Maryland and Norfolk, Virginia while Joe was in the Public Health Service. Their three children were born in Baltimore.

For more than 30 years, Joe was a radiologist and partner with Radiology Associates in Zanesville, Ohio. His friendships and connections in Zanesville were tremendously important to him. After Helen's death, Joe married Karen (Taylor) Safko. For more than 38 years, Joe and Karen have enjoyed Ohio and Florida, eventually moving full time to The Villages, Florida.

Joe lived his life to the fullest, enjoying polo, motorcycle racing, hunting, trap and skeet shooting, skiing, sailing on Lake Erie, Canadian fishing trips, road rallies, antique collecting, golf, tennis and pickleball. He was a wonderful woodworker and crafted Nakashima-style raw edge tables, large furniture pieces, intricate boxes and carvings. He also created beautiful stained glass

pieces, pottery and paintings.

Most importantly, Joe was generously devoted to his family and wife, Karen. Karen and Joe's faith and love for one another sustained him through his final days, and his family will greatly miss his big heart.

Arrangements entrusted to Beyers Funeral Home of Lady Lake, Florida.

# Tribute Wall

FM

“ I am so sorry to discover Joe’s passing. Joe and four of our best friends attended and graduated from Saint Mary High school in Akron Ohio. There was myself, Joe, John Crano, Bob Zolnerzak and Charles Magistro. We all were inseparable in High School. The summer after High School, we were playing football at Joe’s house. As I caught a pass Joe’s elbow broke my nose. Joe and John Crane left for Notre Dame that fall. Bob Zolnerzak and I started at Akron University. During football season, Joe and John would find out who in their dorm were going home that weekend and would get their Notre Dame ID cards. Bob and I would go to Notre Dame, stay in the dorm and attend the game. When I got married in 1958, Joe was in our wedding. I have many more wonderful memories of Joe. A great friend. My prayers are with him and his family. I too had woodworking as a hobby. I have included a few pictures.



Frank G Mungo - August 03, 2023 at 07:11 AM

SW

“ I will always remember Joe at the farm playing Pickleball or tennis! He always amazed me how talented he was. There was absolutely nothing he couldn’t do. His art work, his pottery and his beautiful handcrafted wood pieces. You will always be in my heart. Miss you and will see you again! RIP 🙏❤️

sheri Whiteman - April 04, 2023 at 05:19 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Joseph "Joe" Steven Safko.*



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April 03, 2023 at 02:54 PM



“ *What a profound loss for anyone who was privileged to know Joe. Several years back Joe and Karen hosted Cathy and I for an overnight in the Villages. It was our first trip there, and we were treated to the big tour! Great fun and congeniality, just about the time when Pickleball was coming to the fore, and having the opportunity to catch up on memories of the Zanesville years. Joe will truly be missed. Love to Karen, the entire family, and to Joe's many close friends.*

*Cousin Bill Taylor and Cathy*

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**William Taylor** - March 30, 2023 at 09:51 AM



“ *Karen, will always remember our first meeting when I moved across the street from you both 😊😊. Will remember the very fun poker parties you and Joe hosted. Joe had a zest for life and what a beautiful couple you made. God bless you both and your families.*  
*Mary Moody*

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**Mary Moody** - March 29, 2023 at 10:08 AM

SB

“ Karen and Family,  
Will treasure my memories and Joe’s friendship Thing of you and so  
sorry,Sandy B

Sandy Boedeker - March 28, 2023 at 07:25 PM

DW

“ Karen, so sorry for your loss! You two were more than just clients, I  
always enjoyed seeing what Joe had accomplished every year and  
sharing ideas with him. Take care of yourself! Doug Waltman

Doug Waltman - March 28, 2023 at 05:52 PM

MK

“ Took up pickleball b/c of joe and karen. Especially enjoyed his wood  
carvings. He was a gracious host.  
Marilyn Knell

marilyn knell - March 28, 2023 at 04:07 PM

LR

“ Will miss walking by their house and seeing the the door up and  
seeing Joe carving another beautiful piece of art or making an  
awesome stained glass work of art. He would show me what he was  
working on. Will dearly miss sharing that with Joe.

Laura Rictor - March 28, 2023 at 10:25 AM

SH

“ My sympathy to Joe's Family as you honor a treasured life.

Stephanie Harnetty - March 28, 2023 at 09:42 AM

KL

“ My husband, Todd Louk, is a nephew to Joe’s beautiful and loving wife-Aunt Karen. .I have known Joe for over thirty years. Joe was always action packed. He was taking a golf cart out or a motorcycle, perhaps a horse-maybe he’s playing cards, or golf, often Pickleball . He never wasted a day-moss never grew under his feet. We feel privileged to have known him.

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**Kelly Louk** - March 28, 2023 at 08:56 AM

TS

“ Karen. I’m at Kim And Tom’s. We are so sorry. God’s blessings to you and your family. I sent the pictures to Matt to share with Fraya. He has her cell. A lovely obituary. 🙏❤️ Tami

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**Tami Swope** - March 28, 2023 at 08:34 AM

MA

“ What’s a marvelous man! A true treasure to have known. What an example of true love, strength and respect for each other he and Karen shared. I remember him so very fondly and cherish the great friend he was. I will always smile thinking of him. Deepest condolences

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**marcy** - March 27, 2023 at 11:08 PM

PM

*Dearest Karen, I have so many fond memories of you and Joe, I could not begin - I remember when you first started dating and you told him "I don't cook!" And smart guy that he was-he knew he had found a treasure and that cooking did not matter!!and when we went riding I remember the two of you did not stop talking about your plans. Diane D. Just looked at each other cause we knew you would forever love each other! Joe was a good fathers,grandfather and friend-so proud of his family - and then Joe was so creative wiith any subject- the painting, ceramics, furniture ,polo- goodness, he did it all with energy and and skill, and of course Karen was right there,supportive, creating with him ,always as a team- tennis ,pickle ball., golf, oh my ,just endless.*

*I was fortunate to know him. We spoke the week before he died and he was very hopeful about an afterlife, he said that he put his hand in the HAND. Karen was very instrumental in his revived faith. So I send my ( and SIDS) condolences and so much love, paula*

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**paula mccoll** - March 28, 2023 at 01:23 PM

KC

*It always warmed my heart to see Joe and Karen together. The love and respect that they had for each other clearly reflected in their eyes when they looked at one another.*

*In reading the entries above, it is evident that Joe was quite an artist, a gracious host, and a man that not only loved life, but knew how to enjoy it.*

*Joe will be missed by many but will live in our hearts forever.*

*I thank God for the pleasure of knowing Joe and Karen and being one of the lucky ones that is also a friend and neighbor.*

*Love to Karen and her family! XXOO Konda Cobb*

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**Konda Cobb** - April 02, 2023 at 11:29 AM

LS

*My deepest condolences to my sweet friend Karen and family, may our Lord comfort you and strengthen you as you mourn your most loved and wonderful husband, Father, Uncle, Grandfather that he was. I remember the day I met you on the Pickleball courts and from there on the friendship just bloomed. I had the pleasure to have met your wonderful sweetheart Joe, you two showed so much love for each other~ may he rest in peace and someday you will reunite in heaven❤️*

*God Bless ~ Lupe Schwab*

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**Lupe Schwab** - April 03, 2023 at 11:38 AM

PL

*Karen, as you may know, Joe was instrumental in my going to Mallinckrodt Institute for radiology residency which launched a 20 year academic career capped by a university chairmanship. He taught me the fundamentals of radiology while in the USPHS and did so with much patience and skill. God used Joe to redirect my professional career for which I've been forever grateful!*

*My condolences to you and all who were close to him. I will never forget him!*

*Patrick D. Lester, MD, FACR*

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**Patrick Lester** - April 04, 2023 at 11:33 AM