



Joseph A. Hart

MAY 9, 1934 - JUN 9, 2024



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Bath-Naylor
Funeral Home
& Crematory

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Joseph A. Hart

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Joseph A Hart, 90, of Pittsburg, KS passed away Sunday June 9, 2024, at the Via Christi Hospital in Pittsburg, surrounded by his loving family.

He was born May 9, 1934, in Richmond, KS the son of George and Hilda (Roeckers) Hart. He attended the West Scipio one room schoolhouse through 8th grade. Joe's claim to fame was that he was the class valedictorian every year, being the only student in his grade level. He graduated from Richmond High School in 1952. He worked for a year and then served our country proudly in the US Army, based at Ft. Richardson in Alaska. Upon completion of his military service, he attended college at St. Benedict's in Atchison, Kansas and graduated from Kansas State Teacher's College in 1959.

Joe was married to the love of his life, Sally M. Hart at Our Lady of Lourdes on September 26, 1959. She preceded him in death in October 2023. Joe and Sally's marriage was characterized by love, a deep faith, and unending devotion to one another and their family.

Joe joined Northwestern Mutual Life in June of 1959 and retired from his position on May 31, 2024, after 65 years of loyal service. He was an active member of the Kansas Association of Life Underwriters, serving as the director and building fund member, as well as the State President. He impacted thousands of individuals and families through his commitment to his career. He considered himself very fortunate to have been in the business for so many years doing something he truly enjoyed.

Joe was a 65-year member of Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church in Pittsburg. He enjoyed active membership throughout the years serving as a lay Eucharistic minister, a lector, and a member of the Church Council. He was a faithful member of the Knights of Columbus, a third-degree Knight who was instrumental in assisting with fundraising to support seminarians. He was also a member of the St. Mary's/Colgan Home and School association, School Board, and served as the Booster Club president. Joe was also a constant supporter of the St. Pius X Newman Center at Pittsburg State University where he and his wife met and were active participants in college and throughout their lives. He chaired the campaign to rebuild the Newman Center in 2022 yet another demonstration of his commitment to helping others and moving the Church to greater



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things. He loved serving his parish, working with the Newman Center, practicing reading with children at the school, giving stewardship talks at the church with his wife, and sharing his Catholic faith with others.

One of Joe's great passions was serving the community of Pittsburg. He was a past president of the following organizations: Pittsburg Rotary Club, Pittsburg Area Chamber of Commerce, Red Cross Board, Salvation Army Board, YMCA Board of Directors, PSU Alumni Association, American Cancer Society, St. Mary's/Colgan School Board, United Way Board, Community Foundation of Southeast Kansas, PSU Foundation Board, and the PSU Athletic Drive. He thrived by investing in the community of Pittsburg, planning Christmas Party's for the Salvation Army, serving as a 5-year team captain for "Relay for Life", and dressing up as Santa Claus for schools, parties, and hospital patients. Joe lived his life in service to others with kindness to all, embodying his belief that there are so many kind people in this world if you take the chance to go out and meet them. His lifetime of service earned him many honors and awards over the years, most notably: the 1995 Spirit of Pittsburg Award, the 1999 Kansas Association of Life Underwriters Man of the Year, the 2010 YMCA Volunteer of the Year, and member of the Pittsburg Family YMCA Hall of Fame, 2019 PSU Distinguished Service Award, and induction as a life member of the Salvation Army Advisory Board after 15 years of service.

While he was well known to all, served the community in countless ways, and was consistently known for his selfless spirit, Joe's family was the most important and enjoyable part of his life. He could never have done the great work he did without his wonderful wife praying and sacrificing for him every day. He was always by Sally's side and no matter how busy he was he rarely missed an opportunity to be with his children and grandchildren. Throughout his life, he was always most proud of his work as a husband, father, and grandfather.

Joe is survived by his sister Louise Miley, a daughter: Cindy (Terry Fleck) Shaffer of Asbury, MO; Brian (Susannah) Hart of Overland Park, KS, Pat (Meg Druyor) Hart of Denver CO; grandchildren: Bill Shaffer, Lauren (Parker) Stavens, Lindsey (Kyle) Lauterwasser, Izzy Hart; great grandchildren: Paxton and Lucy Stavens, and dozens of nieces and nephews.

In addition to his wife, he was preceded in death by his beloved son Joey Hart, his parents, brothers: Henry, Arnold, Raymond, and Louis, and sister: Dorothy Miller.



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A Rosary will be recited at 6pm Wednesday, June 12, 2024, at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church in Pittsburg where visitation will follow. Mass of Christian Burial will be at 10am Thursday, June 13, 2024, at the church. Burial will follow in the St. Mary's Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to the Our Lady of Lourdes Memorial Fund and/or The PSU Joe and Sally Hart Athletic Scholarship fund through the PSU Foundation. Memorials may be left with or mailed to the funeral home. Condolences may be left at www.bathnaylor.com. Services and arrangements are under the direction of the Bath-Naylor Funeral Home 522 S. Broadway Pittsburg, KS.

Joe will be remembered as a true gentleman who lived his life with profound joy, was devoted to his faith and family, and spent his life considering the needs of others before himself. Joe loved the community of Pittsburg, had a smile and a joke to share with everyone he met, never met a stranger, and will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved him.



Events

Joseph A. Hart

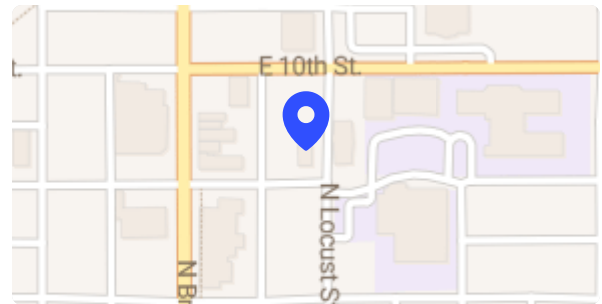
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Visitation

Wednesday, June 12, 2024

6:30 PM CT

Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church
109 E 9th St, Pittsburg KS 66762-4043

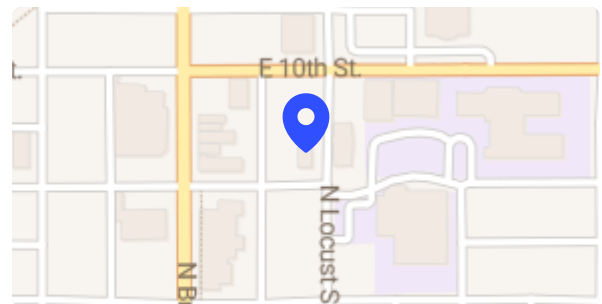


Mass of Christian Burial

Thursday, June 13, 2024

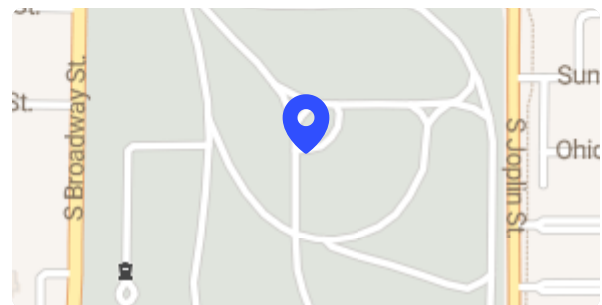
10:00 AM CT

Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church
109 E 9th St, Pittsburg KS 66762-4043



Cemetery Details

St. Mary's Cemetery
2025 S. Broadway, Pittsburg KS 66762





Tribute Wall

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Sara Swearingen posted:

Pat, Brian & Cindy - I am so sorry for your loss. The world will not be the same without Joe. He was one of my favorite people. I gave him trouble every time I saw him, and he gave it right back. You were blessed to have him and your mom as parents. I'm sure you will miss them every day. Do your best to remember the good times and the laughter. There was always plenty of laughter. Sending you a big hug and lots of prayers. Take care of yourselves.

June 14 at 10:10 AM



Kay Hollis August 27 at 3:14 PM

Joe & my husband went to PSU together. He has our life insurance agent for over 50 years. My husband passed away 5/23/24. I talked to Joe Shortly after Doug's death. Joe was the nicest man. We always enjoyed seeing him. I am sorry for your loss Kay Hollis Joplin, MO



Steve D. planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Joseph.



June 13 at 9:50 AM



Linda Grilz posted:

Joe will be missed terribly. That smile and his love for life were infectious. Rest In Peace with your beautiful Sally. ❤️🙏

June 13 at 6:04 AM



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Karen Vanleeuwen posted:

There are no words to describe the loss Southeast Kansas will forever feel after the passing of Joe Hart this past Sunday. Joe leaves behind a legacy of service to this community and a multitude of lives he touched. He was strong in his faith, something that no doubt brought him and his wife Sally through difficult times, especially the death of their little boy, Joey. His family was everything to him, which was evident by the light in his eyes whenever he mentioned his wife or children. He took good care of Sally when she became ill with the same heart of service he put into everything in his life. He was a businessman and he cared deeply for the clients he helped. He was a great friend, always taking the time to give this "kid" his opinion & direction when I asked for his advice. He volunteered for every nonprofit board in the area and never failed to work at an event that would help make our little corner of the world a better place to live. He was a positive man, always with a warm greeting and time to stop and visit, never failing to make one feel like they were the most important person in the world to him. I had the honor of serving on numerous boards with Joe, being a fellow Rotarian, attending the same church and calling him my friend. Joe was larger than life and a man I admired & respected. The world changed last Sunday but Joe will live on through all the good things he did, his love for our community and memories of the smiles he gave. My sincerest sympathy to Cindy, Brian & Pat and all of his family. Karen VanLeeuwen

June 12 at 1:10 PM



Linda K. Boswell posted:

Sending love and sympathy to the Hart family. I grew up on the corner of College and Jefferson and therefore was very close to the Patterson family. Sally was an important part of my growing-up years. Along comes Joe and his dynamic personality and you couldn't help but love him too. I left Pittsburg in 1960 but saw Joe often when we were attending football games. Blessings to the family for most of you will not remember me. Carl and Linda Secrest Boswell.

June 12 at 5:23 AM



Marsha Mauersberger posted:

Was so saddened to hear of Joe's passing. He was always seen with a smile on his face & never met a stranger. Pittsburg just won't be the same without him. My heart goes out to his family.

June 11 at 6:09 AM



Anonymous sent a Medium Dish Garden to the Hart family.



June 11 at 5:07 AM



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Debra Humble posted:

I am so very sorry for your loss! Joe was a very special person. I met him in 1979 while working for Mike Loy, CPA. Joe used to come in the office and always called me Red because of my red hair. We would exchange quick witted remarks every time I would see Joe. Joe always had a smile and his eyes had a twinkle in them right before he would say something to tease. I know the family will miss him very much and I will miss our conversations. Sending prayers to Joe's family.

June 11 at 4:13 AM



Montie Taylor posted:

I feel honored to have had Joe Hart as a friend and considered him to be a long time mentor. He loved his Family, his friends, and his community. Job well done, my friend. Montie Taylor Parsons, KS

June 11 at 3:59 AM



Helen Daley posted:

I worked the front desk of the Pittsburg Public Library for 21 years. Every time Joe came in, everybody smiled. That was his special gift; he always said hello and treated us all like close friends. I had met Sally first, so when I met Joe, I said, "Oh. You're Sally's husband." When Sally heard that, she said that most people who meet her for the first time say, "Oh. You're Joe's wife." Joe had a special Christmas suit he would wear to the PPL Christmas Party. It always made us smile. Joe and Sally Hart were such a wonderful couple! May Their Memory Be Eternal

June 11 at 3:57 AM



Valerie Meier posted:

Joe consistently showed his love whenever we saw him. Our family proudly selected him as the honorary starter of our Get Busy Livin Race in 2018. Rest In Peace...all is well ❤️ The Meier Family

June 11 at 3:31 AM



Anonymous sent a Lavender Reflections Spray to the Hart family.



June 11 at 12:42 AM



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Bob & Debbie Stringer(Dittmann) & Family planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Joseph.

June 10 at 2:53 PM



Anonymous sent a Full Of Love Bouquet to the Hart family.

June 10 at 2:53 PM





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Dr. Mark L. Johnson posted:

Joe was an icon of service in the community. He was one of the few men in the community I based my role in community after. Always a kind word, always upbeat and positive, witty and so good natured. He had a heart of compassion and caring. When I received the Spirit of Pittsburg Award in 2022, I felt honored to join Joe as a fellow community leader and servant. He will be greatly missed. Thank you Joe for being a positive light of influence on me and the citizens of Pittsburg. - Dr. Mark L. Johnson

June 10 at 12:02 PM



Wes Green June 14 at 10:06 AM

Amazing man, Joe Hart came into my world when I was The Salvation Army officer back in the early eighties for six years. He was a faithful advisory board member with contacts all across the community who were invited to join him. I recall the years we held our Christmas distributions in store fronts downtown so activities and services could continue in our building. He secured the space (free of charge) so our building could continue services. So many of our board were invited by Joe to serve. I also had the opportunity to become a patron of Joe's employer as my young wife and I began our planning for our future. He shines in my memories as someone whom God could use in every community who desires to serve the needs of the people. Hoping he was training many people to take his place in the Pittsburg. He has left some big shoes to fill. Wes Green, Major (retired).



Chuck Smith June 14 at 5:21 AM

Had Norman Rockwell created his rendering of the dedicated Community Leader/American Insurance Salesman, he surely would have chosen Joe Hart to represent that image. Chuck Smith



Gene Bestgen June 13 at 5:38 AM

I never had a bad day when I was with Joe Hart. Gene Bestgen



Donna Bogner June 12 at 2:32 PM

Condolences to his family. He was a personality that knew no stranger and made this earth a better place to live. He will be missed by all who were fortunate to know him.



Joyce Mishmash June 12 at 7:58 AM

What a wonderful man he was! He was so kind and generous with his time and energy. Pittsburg lost an Icon.



Lisa Gerstenkorn June 10 at 7:11 PM

Joe invited me to perform with Susie Lundy at the Senior Pageants for a handful of years and we had the best time! :) He was so kind... and ornery! Those are great memories that I cherish! We will miss you, Joe!



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Linda Collar June 10 at 5:07 PM

Joe and Sally would occasionally sit behind us at church at Our Lady of Lourdes. One particular mass, years ago, TIM reached to the front and to each side to give the peace sign to his fellow churchgoers. No one responded back to TIM with a handshake or greeting of any kind. Then, Joe tapped Tim on the shoulder and said "I will shake your hand even though no one else will." For years and years after that, every time Tim would see Joe, he would tell everyone around him "Do you know that Tim can't get anyone to shake his hand and give him the peace sign at church except for me? We will miss your dearly friend and hope to shake your hand soon! Linda and Tim Collar



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Joseph by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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