



## Joseph George Defino Sr

June 24, 1930 - December 21, 2023

Saugerties -Joseph George Defino Sr passed away peacefully on the morning of December 21, 2023, surrounded by loved ones. He was 93 years old.

Born in Yonkers, NY, to George and Alice Defino, Joe was a Korean War veteran, and a graduate of the State University of New York at Cortland, where he met and married Beverly Ann (nee Corrigan). They had nine children--Melissa, Dawn, Joseph Jr., William, Noel, Dean, Nicole, Gabrielle and Vanessa—as well as twenty-five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren, all of whom survive Joe. Joe was preceded in death by Bev, and by his two younger siblings, Alice and George Jr.

Joe was a beloved teacher at Kingston City Schools for nearly forty years. During that time, he served as both Junior Varsity and Varsity basketball coach; founded an annual elementary school track meet that now bears his name; and endowed a need-based scholarship program to benefit exceptional student athletes.

Joe was a member of, and Eucharistic Minister to, St. John the Evangelist Church in Centerville, NY for more than fifty years; a member and officer of Ulster County Cursillo for more than forty; and volunteer Minister at Benedictine Hospital in Kingston for more than thirty.

Whether known as Joey, Dad, Grandpa, Coach, Mr. D., or Uncle Joe, he dedicated his life to bringing others closer to God, and to helping them to better understand and embrace their worth.

A funeral procession will form 9:15 am Wednesday, December 27th at Buono Funeral Service, Inc, Saugerties and then proceed to St. John the Evangelist Parish Center in Centerville where a 1000 am Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated. Friends may call Tuesday, December 26, 2023 from 2:00 pm until 4:00pm and 7:00 pm until 9:00 pm at Buono Funeral Service, Inc. Please offer you condolences for Joe and his family online at [www.BuonoFuneralService.com](http://www.BuonoFuneralService.com). In lieu of flowers the family suggests donations in his memory be made to Hudson Valley Hospice.

To DONATE to Hudson Valley Hospice CLICK the link below or paste it into your browser.

<https://www.hvhospice.org/donate-now/#Donate>

# Cemetery Details

## Blue Mountain Cemeteey

Cemetery Road  
Saugerties, NY 12477

# Previous Events

## Visitation

DEC **26**. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Buono Funeral Service, Inc.  
100 Main Street  
Saugerties, NY 12477  
(845) 246-2600  
pbuono100@hvc.rr.com  
<https://www.BuonoFuneralService.com>

## Visitation

DEC **26**. 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM (ET)

Buono Funeral Service, Inc.  
100 Main Street  
Saugerties, NY 12477  
(845) 246-2600  
pbuono100@hvc.rr.com  
<https://www.BuonoFuneralService.com>

## Mass of Christian Burial

---

DEC 27 (ET)

St. John the Evangelist Parish Center  
915 Route 212  
SAUGERTIES, NY 12477  
fr.williamwoodruff@yahoo.com  
<http://sjechurch.org/>

# Tribute Wall

JS

“ About 12 years ago I started attending daily Mass at Saint John’s in Centerville and after a couple of years I slowly met all of the “regulars,” and so eventually came to know them all. Joe had the looks and voice of a former Yankees player turned announcer. He would ring the bell before every Mass which was very cool to me. He would also recite the Devine Metcyc Chaplet every Wednesday at 3:00. I decided to go and he was the only one there and that’s when we really started talking together. He was very passionate about The Church, his family & politics and what I so greatly admired about Joe was that we could argue very freely and he never took anything personally about my political and religious sentiments. In that sense he reminded of my mother - we could (and did!) get very heated in our discussions but in the end we parted with smiles: friends always - first and foremost. My sincere regards and ‘thanks’ to the entire family: you made me feel like one in the family at the reception after the funeral Mass; everyone was so kind and welcoming to me and I had a truly wonderful and very special time that I will always remember!

---

**John Stockdale** - December 31, 2023 at 06:31 PM

LG

“ To all the Defino family , Doug and I are so very sorry for your loss. Your dad was an amazing man to all who knew him💙Memories will help each and every one of you! Rest peacefully Mr. Defino❤️🙏

---

**Linda Getman** - December 26, 2023 at 01:33 PM



“ Our prayers are with the Defino family. Joe was an incredible man. He adored his family and community. His legacy will always live on in his children and grandchildren. May he rest in heavenly peace.

---

**Audrey Felton** - December 26, 2023 at 07:30 AM

EM

“ For all of the Defino Family , our prayers , condolences & love especially during this time of loss .Joe & your mother were very special people ,giving & doing in so many ways for others. We feel blessed to have known Joe & Bev & had the honor call them friends. With regrets because of health issues , we are unable to attend Services in person. Prayers for Joe , peace is his & now he is reunited with his Bev ,enjoying God's Love . Ed & Linda McClernan

---

**Ed & Linda McClernan** - December 23, 2023 at 05:52 PM

SZ

“ Dear Missy, Dawn, Joey, Billy, Nicole, Dean, Gabby, Noel and Vanessa and the whole DeFino family. I am so sorry about your loss, he was an amazing man who loved and helped everyone he could. Now he is with his beloved Bev and I know they are hugging each other tightly.  
I'm in Florida now but wish I could be there for you. ❤️❤️

---

**Sandy Zduniak** - December 23, 2023 at 06:40 AM

SR

“ Joe Jr., Gabby, Noel and the entire Defino family,  
I am very sorry to hear of your dad's passing. Although I don't believe I have ever met him, I know that he was a loving Christian and passed his love for the Lord and his kindness to others onto his family. It is so difficult to lose a loved one especially at the holidays, but I'm sure he was happily greeted by your mom and the Lord.  
Stay strong all of you!! Fondly Sue Rinaldi

---

**Sue Rinaldi** - December 22, 2023 at 04:13 PM