



Joseph Charles Stranger, Sr.

March 26, 1931 - November 16, 2023

Joseph Charles Stranger Sr. 92, of Woodstock VA, passed away Thursday November 16, 2023. A graveside service will be held on Saturday, November 25, 2023, at 2:00 P.M. in Sunset View Memorial Gardens in Woodstock. Military honors will be presented by the United States Marine Corps.

Joe was born in St. Vincent, Minnesota on March 26, 1931, and was the son of Charles Stranger and Evelyn (Davis) Murch. After his father's passing Joe went to Father Flanigan's Boys Town in Omaha, Nebraska. While at Boys Town, Joe played several sports including Football and Basketball. Joe often said that Boys Town gave him his foundation for life. He graduated from Father Flanigan's Boys Town in 1948. He would often say what an impact Father Flanigan had on him.

After graduation he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps. Joe said that the Marines gave him everything, he ever needed including a wife. Joe went through boot camp at San Diego, California and his wife Marian went through boot camp at Paris Island, South Carolina. Joe and Marian enjoyed over 50 years of marriage. Joe played football for the Marine Corps and has always said that his football injuries hurt worse than his war wounds. The Marine Corps sent Joe all over the world. At just 19 years old Joe fought at Chosin Reservoir and was at the Inchon landing during the Korean War. Joe always said Minnesota had been cold, but -50 in Korea was true cold. He went on to

serve in the Vietnam War and the Cuban Missile Crisis. After 20 years of distinguished service Joe retired as a Gunnery Sergeant.

Joe was a bit of a celebrity as during his time in the Marines He had a pivotal role in The Sands of Iwo Jima. A young fresh-faced Joe was stationed at Camp Pendleton during the filming. Just his eyes can be seen while he was driving a tank that was used to incinerate a bunker. He was always upset they made him close the hatch thus ruining his big movie moment.

After retiring from the Marine Corps, Joe settled in Woodstock, VA with his wife and children to start his next career. Joe would spend the next 33 years selling cars and telling stories at Woodstock Garage. He could often be seen sitting on the bench out front smoking his trademark cigar.

When not working, Joe was very active in his community. he served as Commander of Woodstock American Legion Post #199, was a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #2447, and a member of Woodstock Moose Lodge #575. Serving in many roles throughout the years. When not serving his community, Joe and Marian could be found at the bowling alley several nights a week for league bowling. Joe was proceeded in death by his wife, Marian Ring Stranger.

He is survived by his son Joseph Charles Stranger Jr. and his wife Constance, and his daughter Helen Kaye Stranger. Four Grandchildren: Sarah Markel and her husband Ryan, David Stranger, Lesley Stranger, and Shannon Stranger. Three Great-Grandchildren; D.J., Haylee, and Harrison Stranger.

Honorary pallbearers will be The American Legion Post #199.

In Lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to the Shenandoah County Animal Shelter, 268 Landfill Road, Edinburg, Virginia 22824 or Blue

Ridge Hospice, 333 West Cork Street, Winchester, Virginia 22601.

To those who knew Joe, please raise your glass and toast "Tally-ho The Fox"

Tribute Wall

RW

“ Joe will be missed by all who knew him. He was quite a piece of work. He and his wife, Miriam, were best buds with my parents, Stan and Betty Lee Wakeman. They attended many American Legion Functions together; dances, conferences, shooting matches Their friendship was extended to me, my wife, and our kids and Joe's memory lives on with us. A good, good, man - always smiling! Our thoughts and prayers to his family.

Randy and Amy Wakeman - January 04, 2024 at 12:00 AM

BD

“ My condolences to your family. I just heard about Joe's passing today. I am actually Joe's cousin from Minnesota. His Mother, Eveylen was my favorite aunt. I remember meeting Joe a few times in Monticello and in Pine City, MN. He was a good man, I am thankful he served his country.

Barry Davis - December 23, 2023 at 12:00 AM

EW

“ My condolences to the Stranger family. I met Joe at the American Legion in Woodstock many years ago. He was a lot of fun to be around always laughing and telling stories. He really had a sense of humor. He will be missed by all who loved and knew him. RIP Joe.

Edward Wood - November 23, 2023 at 12:00 AM

KF

“ Joe was quite a guy. I never remember him without a smile, laugh, story and a cigar (not necessarily in that order). Joe always made you feel good just to be around him. He was a great part of the Woodstock Garage crew and the Woodstock community as a whole. He will be missed. Another true patriot gone.

Kevin Foltz - November 20, 2023 at 12:00 AM

KP

“ I know of grandpa through his wonderful granddaughter, Sarah Markel. Sarah always brightened my day with stories from her life with grandpa, his stogie stories, his love for her and how much she loved him. These ratings are not for the faint of heart as he was strong willed, strong language, but a loving heart. Sarah and I will forever be connected as I love her as if she were my own. We should all have a Joseph Stranger in our life to appreciate all that we are .Love and sentiment to all as he will be missed.

Kym Perrella - November 20, 2023 at 12:00 AM

MA

“ I only met Joe once just recently in the hospital when we brought him a Marine Corps flag. He became very talkative. We all shared some stories. He told us of the Chosin Reservoir which is a big part of our history. It was an honor to meet him. Fair winds and following seas, Marine. Semper Fidelis. Major Dave Andersen, US MC (Ret.)

Major Dave Andersen - November 20, 2023 at 12:00 AM

EQ

“ Joe had a great impact on me the last year of his life. I even have a revamped vocabulary now that I picked up from him. Thank you Joe for allowing me into your life, and for being a friend. I will miss our visits.

Ellery Queen - November 20, 2023 at 12:00 AM

TS

“ I have lots of great memories of my Uncle Joe. He taught me to drive. He always told the best stories at family gatherings and he had that laugh and twinkle in his eyes that made you want to hear more. Even though this happened over 45 years ago, I still remember when he was getting ready to tell a story that was not appropriate for my younger sister, Sharon, to hear, that he told her to get a trash bag. We still laugh about that. We'll miss him.

Tracy Seymour - November 20, 2023 at 12:00 AM

DR

“ Joe was a very special to me . We would set out on the bench and talk and it was a pleasure getting to know him. Rest in peace. Love Debbie

Debbie Ross - November 20, 2023 at 12:00 AM

KB

“ Joe was a very sweet man I will forever cherish our time together. I was a med tech at Commonwealth. I was his friend at all times. Even at 2 in the morning I would go out so he could enjoy his famous cigars. I love you Joe I am going to miss you forever. Rest In Peace my friend. Love you always Kay

Kay Bowman - November 19, 2023 at 12:00 AM

NV

“ I know him and will miss him dearly and I use to work and the housekeeper on his hall he was the most sweetest person and cared about everyone and loved his outside cat and u fly high and u will be missed and spread them wings joe and i will miss u, Love norma jean

norma vaughan - November 19, 2023 at 12:00 AM

VO

“ Joe was a very special person to me. I worked as a housekeeper for Joe, but ended up being a very close friend and family to one another. Joe and I had many talks about life present and past. He appreciated all the small things in life . He always looked me in the eyes and said I appreciate you and you are very special person. I will always hold a place in my heart for you forever”

Vanessa Orr-Buracker - November 19, 2023 at 12:00 AM

KL

“ So many fond memories and heard so many stories while working with Joe at Woodstock Garage. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all.

Krista Lutman - November 19, 2023 at 12:00 AM

DW

“ So sorry to hear about Joes passing. He was a very close friend of mine. Im hoping there is Beer in heaven.

Debbie Walker - November 19, 2023 at 12:00 AM