



Joseph T. FitzSimmons

June 15, 1947 - October 2, 2021

Joseph Thomas (Joe) FitzSimmons Esquire., 74, passed away on Saturday, October 2, 2021, in his Metropolis, Illinois home with his beloved wife Rima at his side, after a brave battle with pancreatic cancer. Joe was born in Chicago and raised in Oak Park, Illinois. Joe and Rima were united in marriage on Aug 30, 2019 at the McHenry County Courthouse in Woodstock, Illinois.

He graduated from St Ignatius High School, received his bachelor's degree from DePaul University (Chicago), and in 1983 earned his Juris Doctor degree from Loyola University School of Law.

Joe joined the Chicago Police Department as a patrolman in 1970. He rose through the ranks to become a detective, sergeant and eventually a lieutenant. He held several other positions with the CPD including teaching law at the Academy. He was Watch Commander when he retired from the CPD in 2008.

In addition to being a sworn officer, Joe also practiced law in the Chicago area for many years.

Joe was an avid outdoorsman and conservationist. He loved hunting and fishing on the family property ("The Farm") in Johnson County, Illinois where he raised prize winning Hungarian Vizslas and honeybees and spent time with family and friends. Joe took great care to be a good steward of The Farm's timber resources for future generations. He was a past-president of the Illinois Forestry Association.

Joe was a lifelong and loyal fan of the Rolling Stones. Think of him whenever

you hear Satisfaction or Gimme Shelter.

Joe's passing was preceded by that of his loving parents, Dr William and Mary Phyllis Fitzsimmons and his loving sisters Martha, Catherine and Mary. He is survived by his beloved wife Rima, his beloved children Danielle (Kevin Victor) and Brian, his step-son Jon Budzilowicz, his brothers and sisters Brendan (Selena Brown), Venessa, Nora Armstrong, Regina (Todd Olson) and Tom, his brother-in-law Zaven (Lilian) Sevoian and sisters-in-law Rosie Burris and Anita (Larry) Fowler, and many cherished nieces, nephews and cousins.

The family wishes to acknowledge their deep appreciation to Joe's oncologist, Dr. Wederson Claudino, and the oncology staff of Mercy-Lourdes Hospital, Paducah, KY for their loving care and support.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the Chicago Police Memorial Foundation (1407 W. Washington Blvd., Chicago, IL 60607), Illinois Forestry Association (P. O. Box 224, Chatham, IL 62629), or Pancreatic Cancer Action Network (1500 Rosecrans Ave, Ste. 200, Manhattan Beach, CA 90266).

A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date. To share a memory of Joe or to leave an on-line message of condolence for his family, please visit www.bail eyfh.com.

Tribute Wall



“ *I remember Lt. Joe with great admiration and respect. He once said the only thing he ever shot in all his policing years was a refrigerator !! He will be deeply missed.*

Amber Ladeira - June 16, 2023 at 12:20 AM



“ *Joseph T. FitzSimmons*

January 30, 2023 at 12:19 AM

TM

“ Hi Everyone. I am so sorry. I learned of Joe's passing from a St. Ignatius announcement. Joe and I traveled to high school together each morning for the best part of all four years. We were on the swimming team together too. Bill, Fitz's dad cared for my dad in his final years and they were fast pals.

Like it so often is, we didn't keep in touch, but I remember clearly how much as teen agers we saw the world similarly and would engage each other in endless discussions of what we observed and how we thought it should be different.

I am a retired FedEx pilot, and volunteer at St. Ignatius in a violin repair program of my making. Last time I hiked in the woods was last week on the Ice Age Trail in Wisconsin. I am sure he's up in heaven in hiking boots or patrolling around and looking up old friends or connecting Bill and Phyllis and his sisters.

God love you all, and may we feel the relief together that Fitz be free of pain and back to his old self.

I'll miss him, and, Joe, the whiskey was sweet.

*Terry Miles
St. Ignatius 1964
<https://www.stringwizards.org/>*

Terrence Miles - October 19, 2021 at 10:25 PM

MA

“ Rest in Peace Joe. I have many fond memories of working with you and having many great conversations. .

Mark Amati - October 04, 2021 at 08:03 PM

PJ

Roll call has never been the same without you. I especially remember your outdoor roll calls. I'm glad I was able to wear the uniform during the same time as you.

Paul Janus - October 05, 2021 at 01:59 AM

SD

Joe, as your partner for more than 4 years on the Mids, and life long buddy, I was devastated when I heard of your passing. You were the best partner ever, and you always remembered my BD...Rest In Peace "TERMINATOR"....The "ROAD WARRIOR"has the watch...

stephen m duffy - October 05, 2021 at 06:39 AM

PM

R.I.P. Joe. I hunted with you in S. Dakota several times. We partied with you and my brother (CPD) on Father's weekend at U of I. You helped my son out of a beef. May heaven be full of Vizslas and pheasants. Shoot straight my friend.

Pat McDonough - October 05, 2021 at 09:13 PM

VO

Joe was a good man. He was definitely one of a kind

V. O'Brien - October 14, 2021 at 12:58 PM