



Joseph P. Gessell

October 17, 1944 - September 1, 2019

Joseph Gessell, 74 year old resident of Swanville, MN, passed away on Sunday, September 1, 2019 at Quiet Oaks Hospice in St. Augusta, MN. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 11 AM on Saturday, September 14, 2019 at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Swanville, with Fr. Ron Dockendorf officiating. Burial will be in St. John's parish cemetery. Visitation will be from 4 to 8 PM on Friday and 10 to 11 AM Saturday at the church. Christian Mothers will pray the Rosary at 4:30 PM Friday. Military Rites will be provided by the Swanville American Legion Post #313 and V.F.W. Post #6037.

Joseph Patrick Gessell was born October 17th, 1944 to Joseph Patrick, Sr and Elizabeth Josephine (Birchem) Gessell in Little Falls, MN. He was a lifelong resident of Swanville. Joe entered the US Army when he was 17 years old and did his training at Fort Riley in Kansas. He drove school bus for local schools in Manhattan, KS. On January 9th, 1965 he married Shirley Heroux at St Mary's Catholic Church in Little Falls, MN. Joe and Shirley made their home in Swanville and were blessed with two children, Chad and Jessica as well as four granddaughters (Elizabeth, Abigail, Lillian and Anastasia). Joe worked with his brothers in the family milling business, Gessell Feed Mill, Inc. Joe and Shirley built their first turkey barns in 1968, while Joe worked at Gessell Feed Mill, Inc until the early 70's. He then was involved in many businesses including Commodity trading, building modular homes and Tombstone Pizza. In 1987, Joe came back into Gessell Feed Mill after his

brother Donald's death. During this time, he oversaw Gessell Feed Mill, Viking Feeds, Homeland Feeds, Valley Egg, Viking Express Freight as well as being involved with many other family businesses. Joe enjoyed many different activities, especially those that were high adrenalin (going fast and high). Joe really enjoyed moose, deer and duck hunting. He bagged some really big bucks in the Swanville area over the years. He also enjoyed hunting with his father and brothers in Canada. He raced cars on the dirt track as well as racing snowmobiles over the years. Joe also got his pilot license in his younger years, and he enjoyed flying his Cessna around the state. He often provided memorable rides for his lucky passengers. After his heart attack, Joe started flying his power parachute. He was often seen flying overhead in Swanville. In the end, his love of riding motorcycle trumped all his other hobbies. He loved riding his Harley down the highway, traveling all over the country. However, his favorite pass time was being "Papa". He loved being with his granddaughters, playing with them, and would treat them to his made-up games (sound effects included) such as "stretch arm" through the railings, and the "butt biter". He would give four-wheeler rides through the whispering pines! He always had a story to share with family and friends. Joe often talked about being able to go back in time; he just wanted to sit on one of the corners in Swanville on the 4th of July in the early 1900's, and thought it would be great to see just how cool the town had been. He made a once in a lifetime trip to Russia, often boasting of laying in Stalin's jail cell bed. Joe was a lifelong member of St John the Baptist Church. His faith grew deep as a member of the church, with him having a great devotion to Mary and the Devine Mercy.

Joe is survived by his wife, Shirley; children, Chad (Annie Kothe) and Jessica (Chad Hofmann); grandchildren, Elizabeth Gessell, Abigail Gessell (Kevin Joswiak), Lillian Jokinen and Anastasia Hofmann; brothers, John (Marge) and Frank (Helen); in-laws, Noreen Gessell, Lucy Gessell, George Heroux, Joyce Olson and Mary Lentz; many beloved nieces and nephews.

Joe was preceded in death by his parents, Joseph and Elizabeth Gessell Sr.; brothers, Donald and Richard; in-laws, Louis and Gladys Heroux, Robert Heroux, Cordy Heroux and Richard Lentz and his niece Collette (Gessell) Wilkens.

The family has requested in lieu of flowers that memorials be made in Joe's memory to St Jude's Hospital, Love a Child, Inc. or Quiet Oaks Hospice House-St Augusta.

Cemetery Details

St. John the Baptist Cemetery - Swanville, MN

Swanville, MN

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP 13. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

St. John's Catholic Church - Swanville
12 First Street
Swanville, MN

Mass of Christian Burial

SEP 14. 11:00 AM (CT)

St. John's Catholic Church - Swanville
12 First Street
Swanville, MN

Tribute Wall



“ *Lemieur Funeral Homes created a Tribute Video in memory of Joseph P. Gessell*



Lemieur Funeral Homes - September 09, 2019 at 04:19 PM



“ *Joseph P. Gessell*

January 21, 2023 at 11:59 AM



“ *Shawna Wester lit a candle in memory of Joseph P. Gessell*



Shawna Wester - September 14, 2019 at 08:20 AM



“ *Lee & Bunny Johnston lit a candle in memory of Joseph P. Gessell*



Lee & Bunny Johnston - September 13, 2019 at 11:32 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Joseph P. Gessell.*



September 12, 2019 at 09:43 AM



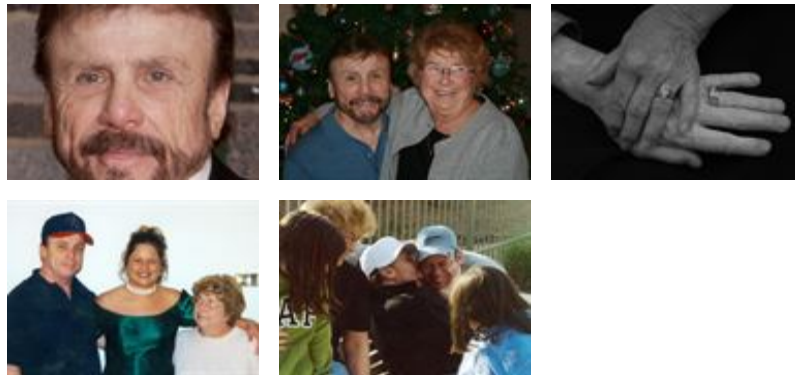
“ *Large Basket Garden was purchased for the family of Joseph P. Gessell.*



September 10, 2019 at 12:40 PM



“ *51 files added to the album Life Tributes*



Lemieur Funeral Homes - September 09, 2019 at 04:18 PM



Precious photos of a great man who will be missed by many!!!!

amanda anderson - September 11, 2019 at 07:15 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Joseph P. Gessell.*



September 09, 2019 at 03:50 PM



“ *Brenda Baum lit a candle in memory of Joseph P. Gessell*



Brenda Baum - September 07, 2019 at 01:03 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Joseph P. Gessell.*



September 06, 2019 at 12:23 PM



“ *He will be greatly missed. Love you uncle Joe. May you rest in peace. Always loved never forgotten!*



Hailey Wysocki - September 05, 2019 at 09:47 PM

AM

“ He was always so kind to us and more so our children in church.
We will miss sitting by him during Sunday mass. We send our
deepest condolences to the family.

Amanda - September 05, 2019 at 02:30 PM

JH

“ Jerry And Julie Hollermann lit a candle in
memory of Joseph P. Gessell



Jerry and Julie Hollermann - September 05, 2019 at 12:18 PM

GT

“ Gayl Tschida lit a candle in memory of Joseph
P. Gessell



gayl tschida - September 05, 2019 at 01:53 AM

JF

“ Joe was a very special man
Always had a smile oh his face
Also made my kids feel special
We will be missed from my family



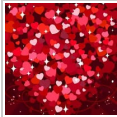
Jerome and Mary Koetter and family - September 02, 2019 at 04:29 PM

BR

“ *Sending prayers to the family. RIP Joe*



Brenda - September 01, 2019 at 09:46 PM



Prayers to your family, what a great friend, R. I. P. Joe

Dottie Baum - September 03, 2019 at 11:18 AM

PC

“ *Pam Czech lit a candle in memory of Joseph P. Gessell*



Pam Czech - September 01, 2019 at 04:26 PM

JS

I rode motorcycles with Joe in the Florida Keys he was always a classic guy and I enjoy his company He will be missed by many

Joseph Stickney - September 02, 2019 at 07:24 PM

RL

Joe and I have been friends since the early "50's in our beautiful little town of Swanville. During the late 50's and the 60's, Joe kept our tow truck, and my Uncles body shop very busy. I will miss my friend Joe very much. Rest in peace my friend

Royal Loven - September 03, 2019 at 02:05 PM

NK

Sweet Gessell family: My husband worked for Joe at Homeland Feeds for 10 years. During that time, our 3 kids and I would come to the office to visit or share lunch. Whenever they stepped foot into the office, the kids ran right past the reception desk and down the hall to Joe's office. He always welcomed them and made them feel valued by listening to their stories and letting them look at all the cool souvenirs he had accumulated through his travels. Joe had a way of making everyone feel valued. He was a good guy. We send our condolences to Shirley, the kids, and the grandkids. Joe was very proud of all of you, and he was loved by many. Peace to you all!

Kevin and Nancy Kapsner

Nancy Kapsner - September 03, 2019 at 07:47 PM

CS

Such fond memories of Joe when we were young. It was fun to be around him and his friends. Because he is cared about, he and his family will be kept in our heartfelt prayers. So sorry for your loss Shirley.

*Cathy Schlumpberger
and Gene*

cathy schlumpberger - October 09, 2019 at 01:54 PM