

Classmate Obituary – Joseph A. Griesbaum (20 June 2006)



Email received from Joe's wife...Carol Griesbaum...

I thought I would send you this as I don't think this information got into the Quad Cities paper.

Joe died on June 20th after suffering cardiac arrest. He had just finished his 30 minute treadmill run - as he did every week-day for the last 3 years. He always talked of his years at UTHS with such happiness. If we were ever in the area we always had to go check out all of the high school gyms. We were there last winter when Rich Castleman was inducted into the hall of fame at UTHS. We had a really great time.

Joe and I had our 37th wedding anniversary on June 14th. He was a great husband, father and all-around guy.

Remembering Joe

Bill Grimes - Effingham Daily News, Effingham IL

The Effingham St. Anthony High School basketball team will find somebody to announce the starting lineups and the scoreboard clock next season.

But that person won't be Joe Griesbaum, and those involved with the Bulldog program say it won't be the same. "You don't replace people like Joe," said outgoing St. Anthony athletic director Matt Hensley. "You just find somebody fill their shoes."

Griesbaum died earlier this week at 58. He served as the school's PA announcer and clock operator for many years at home basketball games.

But Bulldog basketball coach Mike Wilson said Griesbaum's value to the program far exceeded his announcing and time keeping skills.

"He was one of those people who was always positive," Wilson said. "He was a true friend of the program. We'll find somebody to do the clock, but we won't find anybody like Joe. He will be sorely missed."

Both Wilson and Hensley said Griesbaum was always supportive of their coaching and administrative endeavors. "He's always been real supportive of the coaches," Wilson said.

"He was always a big booster of me," added Hensley, who recently accepted the AD position at Mahomet-Seymour High School.

Griesbaum's skills extended beyond the scorers table, Wilson said.

"He was in charge of the hospitality at our regional tournament," the coach said. "He took great pride in that. Others would have cheese and crackers at their tournaments, but Joe would come up with chicken wings and frog legs."

Griesbaum, the father of four daughters, was also involved with the St. Anthony Booster Club for many years. His contributions there have not gone unnoticed, said Booster Club treasurer Greg Koester.

"I will remember his dedication to the basketball program and St. Anthony in general," Koester said. "He was committed to the kids and committed to the program," added Hensley. "He was a great guy."

Those who cherish his memories...

LOVING WIFE

Carol

DAUGHTERS

Laura, husband Dennis Carta of Clarendon Hills, IL
 Lisa, husband Kurt Strullmyer of Kirkwood, MO
 Libby, husband Scott Moeller of Effingham, IL
 Leslie, husband Rich Probst of Teutopolis, IL

GRANDCHILDREN

Anthony, Vincent and Nicholas Carta
 Benjamin, Eve and Anne Strullmyer
 Tucker and Margaret Moeller

SISTERS

Mary Jo, husband Sid Tucker of Decatur, IL
 Margie, husband Dennis Dove of Mayer, AZ



In Loving Memory
Joseph A. Griesbaum
 January 13, 1948 † June 20, 2006

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The following poem was taken from a book of stories and poems that Jack Buck compiled. This is how Joe lived his life.

My Camelot

<i>When I look back at the things I've done, The battles I've lost and those I have won.</i>	<i>I've had my share of wealth, I enjoy what I own.</i>
<i>I settle on one word that describes it all, That word is Fun. I've had a ball.</i>	<i>I've seen much of the world, I have traveled a lot, And learned that my backyard is my Camelot.</i>
<i>Helping to raise four kids of all shapes and sizes, They've accomplished a lot and created many surprises!</i>	<i>Most important right now, before my life ends, is to try to be kind and earn some new friends.</i>
<i>We've been blessed with good health, our family has grown,</i>	<i>Some say you can live again, I don't know how that could be, but if it is true, I want to come back as me.</i>

JOSEPH A. GRIESBAUM

BIRTH DATE

January 13, 1948

PASSED INTO ETERNAL LIFE

June 20, 2006

FUNERAL MASS

St. Anthony of Padua Church
 Effingham, Illinois
 10:00 AM
 Monday, June 26, 2006

PLACE OF INTERMENT

St. Anthony Cemetery
 Effingham, Illinois

OFFICIATING

Msgr. Leo Enlow

HONORARY PALLBEARERS

Jim Wolters - Larry Niemerg - Joe Larson
 Dave Bartlett - Don Heidbreder