



Joseph Anthony Matthews

April 5, 1941 - December 21, 2025

Joseph A. Matthews passed peacefully on December 21, 2025, at the age of 84. Born on April 5, 1941, Joe—affectionately known as “Joe” or “Joey”—was raised in Hempstead, Long Island, New York, by his parents, the late Joseph J. Matthews and Vera (Kraniak) Matthews.

After graduating from high school, Joe proudly served in the United States Army during the Vietnam era. Following his military service, he dedicated his career to public service as a Nassau County, New York, Police Department officer, from which he later retired. He is fondly remembered for his strong sense of duty, commitment to protecting others, and the lasting impact he made on colleagues and the communities he served. Joe was an avid supporter of the American Legion and was also the founder of the Long Island Dart Association, reflecting his love of camaraderie and friendly competition.

Upon retirement, Joe moved to Brosville, Virginia, where he lived for the past 29 years. He cherished the peace and quiet of country life and quickly became an active and beloved member of his community. Among his proudest roles was working with the Tunstall High School Marching Band, “The Trojan Vanguard,” where he served as their equipment driver and supporter. Each summer, Joe joyfully opened his home to host “Camp Joseph,” a treasured family tradition that brought family and extended family together from across the country for an unforgettable reunion.

Joe was known to those who loved him as a gentle giant—a true giver, always ready to lend a helping hand and never expecting anything in return—a father figure to many. Joe was a man of many talents; he was a skilled mechanic with a love of vehicles and camping, especially visits with his extended family in Queen Village Campground in Warrensburg, New York, near Lake George. Joe also loved taking family and friends on cross-country trips in his motorhome. He was also famous for baking the best apple pies, which he proudly shared at family gatherings.

Joe had no siblings, but he considered his cousins and close friends to be his immediate family. He is survived by his cousins Joan Crotty and family, Frances Salonovich and family, Dianne Piwinski, Kathy McDade and family, Susan Bogadus and family, and Barbara Steele and family. He also leaves behind his extended family: Suzanne Summers, Jennifer Miles, Virginia Summers, Jacqueline Vinson, and their children; the remaining Morgan clan; the LaBarge family; Jesse Ceely and her son, Judd Ceely; Don and Dolly Supernault; and their families.

Joe's kindness, generosity, and quiet strength will be deeply missed and lovingly remembered by all who had the privilege of knowing him.

A funeral service will be conducted on Monday, December 29, 2025 at 2:00 P.M. at the Wrenn-Yeatts Westover Chapel with Father Anthony Senyah officiating. Interment will follow the service in Danville Memorial Gardens.

The family will receive friends prior to the service from 1:00 P.M. to 2:00 P.M. at the funeral home.

In memory of Joe and in lieu of flowers, donations can be made to:

Nassau County Police Benevolent Association
<https://www.nassaupba.org/>

Brosville Fire & Rescue
<https://brosvillefire.com/>

American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation
<https://mylegion.org/PersonifyEbusiness/Donate>

Wrenn-Yeatts Westover Chapel is respectfully serving the Matthews family.

Cemetery Details

Danville Memorial Gardens

510 Church Ave
Danville, VA 24541
(434) 822-1617

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC **29**. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Wrenn-Yeatts Westover Chapel
5858 Riverside Drive
Danville, VA 24541
(434) 793-5511
info@wrenn-yeatts.com
<https://www.wrenn-yeatts.com>

Funeral Service

DEC **29**. 2:00 PM (ET)

Wrenn-Yeatts Westover Chapel
5858 Riverside Drive
Danville, VA 24541
(434) 793-5511
info@wrenn-yeatts.com
<https://www.wrenn-yeatts.com>

Tribute Wall

KC

“ *Cousin-Uncle Joe, you will be greatly missed by many, especially our family. We were blessed to have you in our lives, blessed you brought our families together each summer at Camp Joesph! So many great memories and travel adventure's! Thank you for that and taking care of our families the way you did, and your wonderful Apple pies! You are greatly missed, we know you're at peace and with your beloved Mom & Dad. Godspeed. Love always-Kathy Clark and family.*



Kathleen C Clark - December 29, 2025 at 09:37 AM

SS

“ *Jo Jo was in my life approximately 60 years. He was a big brother, my confidant, companion and savior to me and to the rest of my family. He was always there willing to help wherever he could for any of us. He went above and beyond. He loved the children and would take them on these adventures, as he did with me when I was a child. He walked my daughter down the isle when she married. He was their father figure in their lives growing up through all their trials and tribulations. I can't imagine my life without him and I know I am a better person because of him. Too many memories to put on here. Fly high Joe and say hello to Marilyn for me. We All will miss you terribly.*

Suzanne Summers - December 28, 2025 at 09:42 AM

SG

I miss Joe so much! I was so very fortunate to have known him. I first met him around 1992 but I first started to get to know really him around 2002. He was like the big brother I always wanted & since I never had much of a family - Joe meant a lot to me. He helped me out when I was in need & I will never forget that! And we shared some fun times together. I'll always love him. --Sylvia G.

Sylvia G. - January 12 at 12:44 AM

KG

“Papa Joe” was a big part of my exes life and the ten years I was lucky enough to know him I respected him so much. What a gentle giant loved by all fortunate enough to ever have him in their lives. I feel bad that I live so far away; but I know he'll never stop helping everyone he ever cared for just as an actual guardian angel now. RIP Joe ❤️

Kris Grant - December 27, 2025 at 06:36 PM

RP

“Rich and Terry Pav planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Joseph Anthony Matthews.

Rich and Terry Pav - December 26, 2025 at 10:15 AM



“Fairest of All was purchased for the family of Joseph Anthony Matthews.



December 26, 2025 at 10:15 AM

DK

“ Dave Kosotan planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Joseph Anthony Matthews.

Dave Kosotan - December 23, 2025 at 06:28 PM

DK

“ Dave Kosotan purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Joseph Anthony Matthews.



Dave Kosotan - December 23, 2025 at 06:28 PM

MB

“ Marie & Dave Basile planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Joseph Anthony Matthews.

Marie & Dave Basile - December 23, 2025 at 04:10 PM

MB

“ Marie & Dave Basile purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Joseph Anthony Matthews.



Marie & Dave Basile - December 23, 2025 at 04:10 PM