



Joe Earl Hutchcraft

May 21, 1940 - November 27, 2023

IN MEMORY OF:

Joe Earl Hutchcraft

Serving Location:

CRAIN FUNERAL HOME – EGYPTIAN MEMORIAL GARDENS
3208 South Park Avenue, Energy, Illinois

Joe Earl Hutchcraft, 83, of Herrin, passed away on Monday, November 27, 2023 at Herrin Hospital.

Joe was born on May 21, 1940 in Benton to Joe Logan and Mildred Diana (Smith) Hutchcraft. He married Elizabeth Russell on March 3, 1977 and she survives.

Joe graduate from Benton High School. He was a member of First Baptist Church in Benton. Joe served in the U.S. Navy for four years and was on the aircraft carrier USS Ticonderoga CVA 52 assigned to attack squadron 52 in San Diego, California. He worked at Barnes Jewish Hospital and then Herrin Hospital for 39 years before retiring in January 2005. Joe loved playing golf, and spent many years enjoying goose hunting and raising Labrador Retrievers – his favorite, Whitey, was his faithful companion for many years.

Survivors include his wife, Elizabeth Hutchcraft of Herrin; daughter, Brandi (Edward) Brookhouse of Marion; daughter, Nicole Foster and former spouse, Chuck Foster; and grandchildren, Chase and Hannah Foster all of Las Cruces, New Mexico; sister, Joann Seaway of Fort Myers, Florida; nephew, Bill Seaway; niece, Tammy Wetmore; and nephew, Kevin Seaway; and other relatives, and friends.

Joe had many lifelong friends from high school and the time he spent in the Navy.

He was preceded in death by his parents; brother-in-law, William T. Seaway; aunts and uncles.

Funeral services will be on Friday, December 1, 2023 at 1:00 PM at Crain Funeral Home-Egyptian Chapel. Military rites will be performed.

Visitation will be on Friday from 11:00 AM until the time of service at the funeral home.

Inurnment will be at a later date at Egyptian Memorial Gardens in Energy.

Memorials may be made to the Angelina Foundation www.theangelinafoundation.org

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 1. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (CT)

Crain Funeral Home - Egyptian Chapel
Hwy 148 just north of Illinois 13, next to the Williamson County Airport
3208 S. Park Ave
Energy, IL 62933
(618) 942-6051
crain@crainsonline.com

Funeral Service

DEC 1. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Crain Funeral Home - Egyptian Chapel
Hwy 148 just north of Illinois 13, next to the Williamson County Airport
3208 S. Park Ave
Energy, IL 62933
(618) 942-6051
crain@crainsonline.com

Tribute Wall

MA

“ Met Joe when I was 18 years old and he hired me as a respiratory therapy technician. The job was ideal for a college student and many others followed my lead to work in inhalation therapy. Joe knew my entire family and he was instrumental in helping other members receive benefits due such as black lung benefits and quality inhalation therapy services during hospital stays. I learned today that Joe had passed and can't say enough kind things about him as a person. May he rest in peace. Mike Auman, CPA (inactive) and good friend.

Mike Auman - December 20, 2023 at 01:39 PM

JM

“ I had the honor of meeting Joe and his wife. He was always cheerful and together they make an incredible couple. My deepest sympathy to Joe's family and friends. We were fortunate to meet a great guy.
Jody Moore

Jody Moore - December 01, 2023 at 07:04 AM

SS

“ Joe came into my life about 35 years ago when I came home from college and my dad, Tom Swalls, introduced me to Joe. At the time I had no idea that Joe would become, not only my dad's best friend for the next 30 years, but also like an uncle to me. While I never lived in Herrin after college, every time I would come to visit I would usually see Joe and if I failed to see him, I would get a phone call.....as soon as I answered I can hear him say..."my maaaaan" he was my dad's best friend until my dad's passing in 2018. Joe was by our side as we went thru that sadness. I got the opportunity to stop by the hospital about 12 days ago.....not knowing what to expect (as I had recently found out Joe was in Herrin Hospital)....when I got there he was surrounded by his wife and 2 daughters....and much to my surprise...he was awake....I was so happy I got to see him one last time and tell him how much he meant to me and my family. As sad as we all are here on earth with his passing.....i know one guy that's really excited.....thats my Dad....because now he got his best friend and running buddy back.....they will both be looking down on us....probably getting I to all sort if mischief up there in Heaven.

Scott Swalls - November 30, 2023 at 12:18 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Joe Earl Hutchcraft.



November 30, 2023 at 11:35 AM

TM

“ Joe was a wonderful man and an inspiration to many. Many years ago my parents told us that if there was a problem to call Herrin Hospital and ask for him. I met him, years later, at the Presbyterian Church. He was always kind, gracious, and a joy to be around. Rest in peace, Joe.

Trisha Miller - November 29, 2023 at 01:46 PM

NW

“ Joe and I grew up together in Benton, Illinois and have remained friends forever. Joe always kept me informed about Benton and mutual friends. I considered him the "glue" that kept the home fires burning. I have wonderful memories of past times and will celebrate his life with a hot cup of coffee. Nikki and I send our deepest condolences to Elizabeth and all of his family.

Nikki Walker - November 29, 2023 at 01:41 PM

MS

“ Elizabeth, I am so saddened to hear of Joe's passing.. he was such a good friend to Jim and I when we first got married. I am working Friday so will be unable to attend the funeral. You are in my thoughts and prayers

mary snider - November 29, 2023 at 01:37 PM

CT

Elizabeth, dear Joe is at rest. A wonderful, talented and skilled Herrin Hospital leader for years. He was funny, loved his girls, you Brandi and Nicole. He was a good friend to us, he made us smile, he had stories to tell. Our prayers for comfort are with you. Bob and Cheryl

Cheryl Trench - November 29, 2023 at 04:35 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Joe Earl Hutchcraft.*



November 29, 2023 at 01:14 PM



“ *Jeanine, I am sorry for your loss and there really are no words. I do know this, though. He was a good and kind-hearted man who pulled many a patient through their illness with his knowledge and skills and was well-respected by everyone in our medical community that worked with him. He was an amazing man and had a WICKED sense of humor. I have so many "Joe " stories which will give me chuckles for the rest of my life and I pray that your many years of memories will do the same for you. God bless. Dixie*

Dixie Richardson - November 29, 2023 at 07:10 AM



Joe and I grew up together in Benton. I will never forget the many fun times over the years and the occasional mischief. I will miss him and the great memories we shared.

John Mitchell

John Mitchell - December 01, 2023 at 07:04 AM



so sorry to hear of Joe's passing. we grew up in Benton and had a lot of good times together. he was one in a million and will be missed. a lot of good memories. prayers are with his family.

Deanna Wilkerson - December 03, 2023 at 12:56 PM