



## Joe Waicukauski

September 3, 1919 - February 4, 2016

CARBONDALE - Joe Waicukauski, 96, passed away at 10:34 a.m. Thursday, February 4, 2016, at Parkway Manor in Marion.

Joe was born Sep 3, 1919, in West Frankfort, Illinois to Joe and Elsie (Dregansky) Waicukauski. He married Mary Catherine Bigler Feb. 27, 1943, in St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church in Carbondale, where they remained lifelong members. Mary passed away Mar 25, 2013 shortly after their 70th anniversary.

Joe grew up on a small farm near Sesser, Illinois. While showing his pigs at the county fair in the early 1940's, he met the love of his life, Mary. Although he was an only child, Mary had 14 siblings.

He was a farmer in his early career and worked several years at the Prairie Farms Creamery in Carbondale until leaving in 1966 to take over the Dairy Queen. He operated the Dairy Queen in Carbondale until he retired; the Dairy Queen is still run by his son Mark.

Joe's greatest accomplishment was his children. Although Joe only graduated from high school, he and Mary encouraged their children to do well in school. All seven of his kids went to college. His competitive spirit was passed on to all of his kids. This was evident in the almost daily pinochle games; they were not for the fainthearted.

He loved sports. He watched the St Louis Cardinals any time they were on television. He attended high school basketball games and softball games of all sorts until he was no longer able to leave the house. He also was a Saluki fan.

He helped coach softball and baseball teams in which his children (both boys and girls) participated.

Joe loved to garden and in his retirement spent most of the day outside working the garden. He continued this until his late 80's. His produce and flowers were extraordinary. He exhibited at the Du Quoin state fair and always came home with many "Best in Show" and other ribbons.

He helped out people where he could and accepted people for what they were. His faith was a big part of his life. He loved his grandchildren and great grandchildren and always enjoyed their visits.

He will be loved and greatly missed by his family and friends.

Survivors include seven children, John (Shou Ming) of Tualatin, Ore, Ronald (Toni) of Indianapolis, Mark (Cindy) of Carbondale, Rose Mary Arditty of Somerset, N.J., Shirley (Ron) Nowlin of St. Elmo, Carol Arterberry of Edinburg and Susan (Jim) Seubert of Edwardsville; 16 grandchildren, Jerry Waicukauski of Tualatin, Ore., Jim (Miriam) Waicukauski of Bel Air, Md., Christine (Edward) Gotham of Taiwan, Nichole (Jeremy) Dilley of St. Elmo, Jessica (Curtis) Pool of BC, Canada, David (Sarah) Arterberry and Wolfgang (Gina) Arterberry, both of Springfield, Mary Ann Arterberry of Kincaid, Victoria Arterberry of Edinburg, Jennifer Waicukauski of Mill Valley, Calif., David Waicukauski of Bloomington, Ind., Lana Waicukauski of Indianapolis, Andrew Waicukauski of Longmont, Col., Scott Waicukauski and TJ Daily of Carbondale and Erin (Mathew) Frohning of Ingraham; 14 great-grandchildren, Joseph, Annabelle, Katherine, Alexandra, Rocco & Augusta Waicukauski, Aylene Arterberry, Hugo Gotham, Dylan and Braden Dilley, Carter and Kacey Pool, Jennifer Cox and Mallory Frohning; cousin Marie (John) Tagliaferro; sisters in law Betty Bigler, Lou Bigler, Bobby Gooden, Ruth(Floyd) Gooden, Jean Gerstenberger; brother in law John(Karen) Bigler and multiple nieces and nephews on his wife's side

He was preceded in death by his wife and his parents.

Funeral Services for Joe Waicukauski will be at 10:00 am on Monday, February 8, 2016 in St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church in Carbondale with

Father Bob Flannery officiating. Visitation will be from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm on Sunday, February 7, 2016 at Crain Pleasant Grove-Murdale Funeral Home. Interment will follow at Egyptian Memorial Gardens in Energy.

Memorials may be made to the charity of your choice.

# Cemetery Details

## Egyptian Memorial Gardens

3208 S. Park Ave.  
Energy, IL 62933  
(618) 942-6051  
crain@crainsonline.com

# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB 7. 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM (CT)

Crain Pleasant Grove-Murdale Funeral Home - Old 13  
31 Memorial Dr.  
Murphysboro, IL 62966  
(618) 687-2500  
crain@crainsonline.com

# Tribute Wall



“ *Joe Waicukauski*

October 23, 2023 at 06:26 AM



“ *Christine Gotham lit a candle in memory of Joe Waicukauski*



**Christine Gotham** - February 08, 2016 at 06:39 AM



“ *Every time I'd come to visit you, you let me run my hand over your buzz-cut hair ... it always made me smile and laugh. I'll miss that and all the other special times we shared together, including all the family events and reunions that revolved around you and Grandma. I will treasure those memories. I love you Grandpa.*

**Christine Gotham** - February 08, 2016 at 06:38 AM



“ *BRITT AND KRISTY AND PATRICK SULLIVAN purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Joe Waicukauski.*



**BRITT AND KRISTY AND PATRICK SULLIVAN** - February 07, 2016 at 03:52 PM

MS

“ I remember My uncle Joe as a hard working Man. He made Everyone feel very special. When We had our Bigler family reunions He would haul tables and chairs and set up, and We could always count on dairy queen. We will miss our visits with Him and Mary when We visit Carbondale. A very special Man and Uncle.

Margaret and Art Schmitt - February 07, 2016 at 07:19 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Joe Waicukauski.



February 06, 2016 at 12:45 PM

LW

“ All my life, I have never known anyone else who could swear so eloquently and so vehemently without using any profanity the way Papa Joe did. Now it's my turn to yell, "You dirty dog!" I miss you, boss. 😞

Lillian Waicukauski - February 06, 2016 at 11:50 AM

Robert Bigler

“ Uncle Joe is one of those special people who touch so many lives. He is one in a million. I have so many fond memories of Joe, Mary & the Waicukauski Family. Joe is reunited again with Mary. Our loss is Heaven's gain. God Bless the Family at this time with comfort. All the memories of Joe will live forever in our hearts. Robert Joseph & Debra Bigler.

Robert Bigler - February 05, 2016 at 08:30 AM

ME

“ Joe was a great coach for me in softball. Always encouraging.

Mary Ekstrand - February 05, 2016 at 03:44 AM

BB

“ Joe was a man who was admired and loved by everyone he knew. A piece of Carbondale ' s heart is missing now. RIP sweet Joe.

Brenda Moon Barnett - February 04, 2016 at 07:31 PM

BB

“ I have many happy memories of both Mary and Joe. I'm sure they are playing cards with Britt and Margaret or maybe Jim Gooden right now.

Betty Bigler - February 04, 2016 at 06:52 PM

CA

“ I was riding my bicycle tonight and enjoyed a wonderful sunset. I thought that was God's way of welcoming Dad into heaven. I thought that he and Mom would be playing cards and if Mom was his partner he better have something to bid on if he was bidding. Love them both,. How lucky I am to have them as parents!

Carol Arterberry - February 04, 2016 at 06:29 PM

MB

“ Uncle Joe has been a wonderful thoughtful man.. I remember him fondly and know he was happiest playing washers and cards, doing gardening and watching baseball .. And being with the LUV of his life and always his children.. He will be missed by so many but greeted thru those pearly gates to be with those that have gone before him.. We have another angel watching over all of us ---- thanks for being in our lives ! A great man indeed!

Mary and Larry (Bigler) Bossong - February 04, 2016 at 06:22 PM