



Joseph W. Kirn

November 18, 1950 - August 2, 2024

Joseph W. Kirn, age 73, of Sheldon Illinois, passed away on Friday August 2, 2024 at his home.

Joe is survived by his ex-wife, Nelly Rodriguez of Reading PA; sons, Ivan Alejandro Kirn (Alexandria Joy Kremp) of Myrtle Beach SC and Daniel Kirn of Reading PA; grandchildren, Sylas James Kirn & Lukas Grant Kirn; brother, John T. Kirn; sisters, Mary C. (Dixon), Margaret C. (Mark) Torbit, Kathleen M. (David Levinson) Kirn, Joan R. (Patrick Dixon) Kirn, Patricia A. (Doug) Zubrenic; as well as many nieces & nephews.

He was preceded in death by his father Joseph W Kirn, mother Margaret R Kirn, tragically in 1966 by brother James M Kirn, brother-in-law Michael J Dixon & his beloved African Grey "Loui".

Joe attended the Bulova School, New York. We look at the beautiful clocks he enjoyed making & think of our time with him. As a CNA, Joe gave loving care to the sick & elderly at Sheldon Health Care in Sheldon, IL, St Anthony's in Crown Point, IN, and Remington House in New York, NY.

Joe's family will always be grateful to Steve & Mike Wolfinger for loving care they extended to their 'brother' in both the best & worst times.

As a lifetime American Civil War enthusiast some of Joe's happiest moments were spent touring the battle fields of Pennsylvania with his sons Ivan & Danny.

Joe enjoyed cooking and loved the forest, rivers, collecting arrow heads & using Native American history to determine his travels.

In his memory, please take a walk in the woods or paddle a river.

Tribute Wall

MT

“ Here are some of my many memories of & gifts I received from my big brother Joe.

There was that great fort Joe & Jim built in our home's back yard: 117 Marr Court Crown Point Indiana.

Remembering the times we joined Joe, Jim & the neighborhood boys playing Civil War or The Alamo complete with head bandages & Mike Cowan's dad's old army rations. I will never forget 'cleaning' the toy cannon, that to a 4-year-old seemed big enough to be real. Joe loved history as we all did. I will always treasure Joe's 'young Jesus preaching in the temple' statue on our bookcase. Awarded to Joe for a history essay by St Mary's 5th grade teacher Mrs. Mahoney & will someday be with Ivan & Danny.

At Goodwill, Spring 2021, I was thrilled to find Ulysses Grant's autobiography. Just days earlier Joe told me how much he thought of Grant & his book. Well, there it was, meant to be his gift from me. Now Ivan can read this work his dad loved to Joe's grandsons Sylas James & Lukas Grant.

Joe & Jim making Christmas breakfast with their goalie gloves as oven mitts. The Goldfinger album & record player Christmas of 1965 & all those great records from Blanchards: Beatles, Byrds, Rolling Stones, The Animals, Dylan & later Pink Floyd.

I will never forget Joe's face July 8, 1966, walking in the front door, seeing Father Hammes there & being told his 13-year-old brother Jimmy had drowned & all the hurt that followed.

April 1967 my appendix, Joe sent me a "Dr. Seymour Butts hospital gown" get well card. I will always love that joke.

In 1969 did my promised "24 hours" before telling dad & mom Joe had hitch hiked to California. This would be repeated into the early 70's. July 3, 1971, Joe attended a flute audition at the Grateful Dead's studio, spending the night as a guest of Jerry Garcia. On one these trips, Joe brought back a copy of the art magazine

Realites for me. This along with pouring through his Janson art history from Indiana Univ. Northwest caused my love of art history, leading me to my art teacher & dear friend Adine Paradis.

Joe gave us the 60's through music & more. Joe-thanks for Jethro Tull.

I endured my Tull albums, all gifts from Joe, being confiscated for 7 days by the Ancilla Domini High School nuns. Joe lent me his JT songbook. I used this in the classroom, writing lyrics on the board for all to enjoy. Lost count of my Jethro Tull concerts.

Joe came to Ancilla, took Kathy, Joan & me out to eat. He had the Rolling Stones "Sweet Virginia" blasting from his Triumph, so cool while riding through the backwoods of Donaldson Indiana. Thinking of all the times I laughed with Joe.

Joe was in many bands playing drums or flute. Joe was also a roadie for a band very big on the Chicago & Midwest circuit. My wedding day, Nov. 4, 1978, Joe & Mike Wolfinger in the family kitchen, Joe saying, "I can't believe my sister is marrying a member of The World Column", that being bassist Mark Torbit. Little did Joe or I know, his early 70's World Column roadie years with Earl Witt were for his future brother-in-law Mark & our best man, guitarist Gary Zerza.

Joe loved food. His great line: "I wish I didn't get full". With moving away, he was always analyzing moms' recipes & cooking up her dishes. Regret I never got to cook up that pasta meal for him at mom's before she died.

I am happy that in earlier days he enjoyed my pizza at our home.

In 2021 I bought Dylan's Desire album & had to turn Joe onto what I could only think of as 'his song', Isis. He loved it!

Joe, that adventurer & sometimes lost soul brother of mine.

I'm so grateful for all Joe did for me, our many conversations about history, politics & turning me on to Lee Camp.

Joe, I loved that you reached out to me & you had to know how much I looked forward to hearing for you. Will someday read all the work of your life story you've been writing these recent years.

Here I send you lots of love.

Joe, you can now be at peace & I will always miss you.

Margaret

Margaret Torbit - August 18, 2024 at 09:15 PM

MO

“ *Joe was a fixture in my life , one of my father’s (Steve Wolfinger) dearest friends . I always knew him to be kind and soft spoken. It is sad loss and I hold his children , grandchildren and friends in prayer*

Myra Ottoson - August 18, 2024 at 01:57 PM

BD

“ *Joe was one of the CNA's at Sheldon Healthcare, who take care of my mom, Shirley. She was very fond of him. When she moved from there to another nursing home back in early 2009, she missed seeing him, & would ask about him. He fixed her crucifix for her after it broke. Rest in peace, Joe.*

Barb Dams - August 09, 2024 at 08:16 PM

DK

He was my father. I love and miss him so much

Daniel Kirn - August 17, 2024 at 12:53 PM