



Joseph John Vitkovich

June 18, 1939 - June 24, 2024

Joseph John Vitkovich, 85, of Mooresville, NC, passed away peacefully on June 24, 2024.

He was born on June, 18th, 1939 to the late John and Anna (Kovacev) Vitkovich.

Following High School, Joe served in the Navy and Coast Guard for thirteen years. His life career was being a master electrician and foreman with the B&M Railroad then turned Amtrak. He enjoyed working on the trains!

In his wellness years, you could find him fishing on his boat, aka The Papatoon. He was a Boston Red Sox fan and he liked to play corn hole. Joe was a true trivia and history aficionado. He liked to relax while enjoying a good cigar and sharing stories with family and friends.

Joe, Papa as we called him, will be remembered as a caring and giving man who loved his family very much. His pride and joy were always his grandchildren.

In addition to his parents, Joe was preceded by his wives, Virginia Schoot and Sherryl Griffith and son-in-law, Roland LaVallee. Those left to cherish his memories are his daughters, Gail LaVallee, Janet Lague and husband, Steve,

Sandra Pasquale and husband, Dave, Angela Harrigan and husband, Kevin, and his only son, Shane Vitkovich and wife Katherine. Joe's two sisters, Lucy Driscoll and husband Mike, and Gerri Brown and husband, Bob. Papa had 7 grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren, and 1 great-great-grandchild along with many nieces, nephews and cousins. He will be greatly missed by all!

A Celebration of Life service will be held at Cavin-Cook Funeral Home, 494 E Plaza Drive, Mooresville, NC, on Monday, July 15th, 6pm-8pm.

The funeral church service will be held at St. Theresa Church, 217 Brawley School Road, Mooresville, NC on Tuesday, July 16th at 11am. The burial is at the Salisbury National Cemetery Annex, 501 Statesville Blvd, Salisbury, NC at 1:00pm.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Joseph's name at the American Parkinson Disease Assoc. [@apdaparkinson.org]

Cemetery Details

Salisbury National Cemetery

501 Statesville Blvd
Salisbury, NC 28144

Previous Events

Receiving Friends

JUL **15**. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Cavin-Cook Funeral Home
494 E. Plaza Drive
 Mooresville, NC 28115

Mass

JUL **16**. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

St. Therese Catholic Church
217 Brawley School Road
 Mooresville, NC 28117

Graveside Service

JUL **16**. 1:00 PM - 1:30 PM (ET)

Salisbury National Cemetery
501 Statesville Blvd
Salisbury, NC 28144

Tribute Wall

MS

“ When I was a young hippie teen in Boston, selling 'The Pheonix' on Boyklston Street, Joe gave me a chance and hired me at the Prudential underground parking garage where I worked from 1969 through 1970. Now that I am retired, (and on a road trip as I write this) I thought I might swing through Charlotte and hang around to see if I could run into Joe after all these years. I am very sorry to find that Joe passed last year. Thanx for the opportunity when I was just 16, RIP Joe.

Michael G. Shanks - August 30, 2025 at 10:34 PM

JL

“ A lot of the best memories I have are with you. Bass fishing in the boat, cigars together, listening to blues, watching 3 Stooges while eating the best breakfast's I've had that you made. You were the best Papa any grandson could ever ask for.

Joseph Lavallee - July 26, 2024 at 09:23 PM

RU

“ 1 file added to the album Videos



Russ - July 22, 2024 at 10:14 AM

RU

Piano Solo by Professor Kevin Wayne Bumpers

Russ - July 22, 2024 at 02:43 PM

JL

A lot of the best memories I have are with you. Bass fishing in the boat, cigars together, listening to blues, watching 3 Stooges while eating the best breakfast's I've had that you made. You were the best Papa any grandson could ever ask for.

Joseph Lavallee - July 26, 2024 at 09:19 PM

JL

“ Joseph L. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Joseph John Vitkovich.

Joseph L. - July 19, 2024 at 10:33 PM

LB

“ Love & prayers, Jane Bridges purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Joseph John Vitkovich.



Love & prayers, Jane Bridges - July 15, 2024 at 02:19 PM



“ Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Joseph John Vitkovich.



July 14, 2024 at 08:31 PM

BE

“ *My fondest memory of me and Joseph is when he would bring me fishing at highland pond as a little girl. We also would go out to eat at Pete’s seafood and his dog Angel was always with him. I wish him a peaceful rest and a happy reunion with his dog Angel.*

-Joseph’s granddaughter, Rebecca Lavallee

becca - July 10, 2024 at 10:26 AM

JL

Thank you for sharing your thoughts! We will miss Papa! Love you.

Janet Lague - July 22, 2024 at 10:34 AM

FF

“ *From the Keenan family purchased the Sweet Tranquility Basket for the family of Joseph John Vitkovich.*



From the Keenan family - July 09, 2024 at 06:37 PM

CS

“ *Whenever I would visit with Joseph he would always give me the biggest smile, and I enjoyed my time with him. My Deepest Condolences to the family and may our Blessed Lord be with them. Sending Love and Prayers,*
Carol Steimetz

Carl and Carol Steinmetz - July 07, 2024 at 12:33 PM

JL

Thank you Carol for being such a great friend and God's Eucharist. Love Angela

Janet Lague - July 22, 2024 at 10:30 AM

DS

“ Debra S. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Joseph John Vitkovich.

Debra S. - July 06, 2024 at 09:57 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Joseph John Vitkovich.



July 06, 2024 at 12:06 PM

LS

“ Love you all, The Sherrills planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Joseph John Vitkovich.

Love you all, The Sherrills - July 06, 2024 at 12:06 PM

WA

“ RIP Joe, my Condolences to the Family along with my nephew Shane 🙏❤️

Wayne - July 04, 2024 at 09:18 PM

SJ

“ Sonja J. lit a candle in memory of Joseph John Vitkovich



Sonja J. - June 25, 2024 at 01:28 PM

TC

Thank You, Joe, for selflessly sharing your vast knowledge of railroad mechanics, and your brave optimism about life.

Tom & Peggy Coughlan - August 12, 2024 at 10:37 AM