



## Joseph "Captain Joe" Surmann

February 7, 1952 - May 24, 2019

Surmann, Joseph M. "Captain Joe" May 24, 2019 age 67. Joe was born February 7, 1952 in Detroit, MI to the late Henry J. and Eleanor (Lessnau) Surmann. Beloved husband of Beth (nee Flores) of 40 years. Loving father of Melissa (Eric) Sporakowski, Henry (Tiffany) Surmann and Frank (Kate) Surmann. Grandfather of Riley. Dear brother of Mary Ann (Larry) Watts, Bill Surmann, Gloria (Tony) Pantuso, Linda Surmann, Gerard (Kerry) Surmann and the late Tom, Geralyn and Brother Thomas Surmann O.F.M. Mr. Surmann was a commercial shipping captain and a semi-pro tennis player. Visitation will be 12-5 pm Monday, May 27, 2019 and 2-8 pm Tuesday, May 28, 2019 at the O'Brien/Sullivan Funeral Home 41555 Grand River Ave Novi 48375 248-348-1800. Memorial contributions to PBS [[click here to contribute](http://www.dptv.org)][www.dptv.org](http://www.dptv.org)

Expressions of sympathy [www.obriensullivanfuneralhome.com](http://www.obriensullivanfuneralhome.com)

# Events

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**MAY**   **Visitation**   12:00PM - 05:00PM

**27**

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O'Brien-Sullivan Funeral Home

41555 Grand River Ave, Novi, MI, US, 48375

**MAY**   **Visitation**   02:00PM - 08:00PM

**28**

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O'Brien-Sullivan Funeral Home

41555 Grand River Ave, Novi, MI, US, 48375

# Comments

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“ I always enjoyed playing tennis with Joe. What I enjoyed even more was talking to him afterwards. He was always so funny and jovial.

I enjoyed hearing about his family. About his daughter who spent frugally on the wedding even though she could have spent more, about his son who worked at the state capital, about his son the chemical engineer and about the Tuesday movies he would go to see with his wife. I had the pleasure of meeting all of you at the visitation on Monday and I enjoyed talking to each of you. I'm just sorry it was Joe's passing that provided the opportunity.

I leave you with this from former Canadian prime minister Brian Mulroney's eulogy at the memorial service for President George HW Bush: "...There are wooden ships, there are sailing ships, there are ships that sail the sea, but the best ships are friendships and may they always be."

John Howland

John Howland - May 31, 2019 at 12:00 PM

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“ Offering my deepest condolences to the family. May "the Father of tender mercies and the God of all comfort" be with the family during this most difficult time. 2Cor1:3,4- Isa41:10,13.

Stephanie - May 29, 2019 at 12:06 PM

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“ My deepest Sympathy goes to Joe's Family. I went to St. Gabe's with Joe and sister Linda. Joe was such a kind, smart, and fun guy. Amazing that a kid from Vernor Highway went on to become Captain Joe! God Bless You, my Friend.

Ed Kalvenas

Ed Kalvenas - May 28, 2019 at 02:27 PM

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“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



NC - May 28, 2019 at 10:07 AM

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“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Joseph "Captain Joe" Surmann.



May 28, 2019 at 07:59 AM

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“ ALL our Love - Chris Lessnau & Family purchased the Rose Remembrance for the family of Joseph "Captain Joe" Surmann.



**ALL our Love - Chris Lessnau & Family** - May 28, 2019 at 04:18 AM

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“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Joseph "Captain Joe" Surmann.



May 27, 2019 at 12:53 PM

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“ My prayers and sympathy for the family of “Captain” Joe. I have so many memories of Joe; the high school dances at St. Gabe’s, Joe in the school plays, the basketball & baseball games he played in, the debates he could have with his buddies. I could go on, but Joe was a well rounded, beautiful soul. I will miss him.



Yvonne (Stairs) Tadajewski - May 27, 2019 at 09:54 AM

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“ Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Joseph "Captain Joe" Surmann.



May 27, 2019 at 01:45 AM

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“ The drive from Manila to Cavite takes probably 2 hours (on a good day). But my arrival is always welcomed with a cold beer and a game of Pusoy Dos. Ninong Joe was the kindest, always making sure that everyone in his house felt welcome. He was game for anything, and even liked riding on tricycles when going to nearby malls. He would surprise locals with his perfect Tagalog, and would carry the conversation in straight Tagalog. I will miss you, Ninong Joe. You will always be one of my favorite Americans. May you Rest In Peace



Mimi Araño - May 26, 2019 at 10:19 PM

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“ Jim, Nick, Aleks, Baiba and Kelsey Jensen purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Joseph "Captain Joe" Surmann.



Jim, Nick, Aleks, Baiba and Kelsey Jensen - May 26, 2019 at 08:57 PM

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“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Joseph "Captain Joe" Surmann.



May 26, 2019 at 11:47 AM

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“ Donetta Ryan sent a virtual gift in memory of Joseph "Captain Joe" Surmann



Donetta Ryan - May 26, 2019 at 08:10 AM

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“ Joe, and I spent and shared so many GREAT moments . Our childhood friendship ,and later into high school were times I will never forget ! We did virtually everything together and I will cherish al the wonderful times we had growing up in Southwest Detroit. It didn't matter what we were doing. football at Patton Park, hockey in our backyard, basketball at ST. Gabe's , music, high school dances , fishing, going to Northville Down's. playing cards till the sun came up or just hanging around each other which we did so often. I will miss you my brother. I always considered you my brother and I know you felt the same way. God Bless and keep you Joe, and all the love to your wonderful wife and children.

You have been and always will be a wonderful part of my life. Thanks for so many fantastic memories !

All my Love, your Bro.

Chris Lessnau

Chris Lessnau - May 26, 2019 at 07:56 AM

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“ If everyone in the world was like Joe, It would be a better place. What a guy. He will be missed.

David Petway

David Petway - May 25, 2019 at 11:20 PM

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“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Joseph "Captain Joe" Surmann.



May 25, 2019 at 11:20 PM

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“ 5 files added to the album Memories Album



ed santos - May 25, 2019 at 10:24 PM

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“ Incredibly smart, extremely affable and always full of life on and off the court, Joe will stay with me like a beautiful sunset on the open seas. The Sunday Night Tennis crew will miss Joe, as he always played with tenacity and managed to keep us all enthralled with his wit and jovial nature. Joe was a magnanimous human being who brought a sense of beauty to all those he touched. We shall miss him deeply, but carry the memories of his positive influence within our group every week. Happy Tom-aka-Smiley



Thomas McHenry - May 25, 2019 at 10:03 PM

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“ Joe was a great uncle and friend. He always enjoyed family time and getting together. All the board games we enjoyed, karaoke, great jokes especially feeding the Bears. He will surely be missed just as much as he was loved. We truly lost a gem. Love you so much. Beth, Frank, Melissa and Henry may you find comfort in knowing how much he was loved and how much you are all loved.

Love  
Mar, Scott, Matt and Travis

Mary Ann Watts Fisher - May 25, 2019 at 06:06 PM