



Joseph F. McDonald

September 13, 2021

Joseph F. McDonald, 83, of Willow Valley Communities, Willow Street, PA passed away on Monday, September, 13 2021. He is survived by his wife, Sarah “Suzie” (Darlington) McDonald of 62 years. He was the son of the late James W. McDonald, Sr., and Helen Rose Daly McDonald. He is also, survived by a son, Thomas R. and his wife, Maureen of Austin, PA, daughter, Beth M. Cesarone, wife of Louis of Lancaster, PA and a second son, Timothy J. and his partner, Roy Orecchio of Los Angeles, California. He was preceded in death by his brothers, James W., Thomas M. and Edward F. and a sister, Helen P. McDonald Francesco. He leaves his grandchildren, Natalie Yanochko (Joe) of Orangeville, PA, Thomas and Elizabeth Cesarone of Lancaster, Kelsey Verdekai of the United States Army and Nicole Russell. He is also, survived by many nieces and nephews.

Mr. McDonald was a proud graduate of the Milton Hershey School in Hershey, PA and earned an Associate of Arts Degree from Hershey Junior College prior to earning his BA and MA Degrees from the College of New Jersey (formerly Trenton State College). He did post graduate work at Rutgers, the State University of New Brunswick, NJ earning his Principal’s and Superintendent’s certification. During his 42 years of professional work, he served as a teacher, principal, and assistant superintendent of schools in the Ewing Township and North Hanover Township Public Schools in New Jersey. In addition, he served as a Demonstration Teacher for the Trenton State College at the Antheil

Elementary School in Ewing Township, NJ. He, also, became an Adjunct Faculty member for Trenton State College and taught Elementary Education courses to prospective teachers. Upon his retirement from public school work, in 1993, he was honored with an Annual Scholarship awarded in his name, to a student living in North Hanover Township graduating from Northern Burlington Regional High School.

Following his public-school retirement, Mr. McDonald and his wife traveled overseas, and he served as the high school principal at the International School of Athens, Greece, Hillington, England and the prestigious Nido De Aguillas International School in Santiago, Chile. During his time in Chile, he was honored with being selected to serve on the Southern Association of Colleges and School's (SACS).

Joe served on the Board of Directors of the National Association of Federally Impacted Schools and was elected Vice President of the Northeast Regional area of the program. He had been a member of the Burlington County Association of School Administrators, the New Jersey School Administrators Association, the New Jersey Schoolmasters and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

He was a Lifetime member of the Milton Hershey School Alumni Association and, at one point, served as the Association's President. He was honored by the Association with its Outstanding Service Award in 2014. Joe had the privilege and honor of serving on the Board of Directors of the Willow Valley Communities where he served as Assistant Secretary. He served on the Ann B. Barshinger Cancer Institute Development Committee. He had been a member of the Board of Directors of the Children Deserve a Chance Foundation in Lancaster and at one point he served as its Chairperson. He had been a member of the Amtrak Customer Advisory Committee.

Joe and his wife, Suzie, provided an annual scholarship to teachers at the

Milton Hershey School as a way of thanking the school and staff for all they did for him in his ten years as a student in this great institution.

Family and friends are invited to a Mass of Christian Burial that will be held at Historic St. Mary's Catholic Church located at 119 S. Prince Street in Lancaster PA on Sunday, September 19, 2021 at 3:00 p.m. The family will receive friends from 2:00 p.m. until the time of service. Interment will be private.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Mr. McDonald's memory may be made to the Willow Valley Communities Charitable Foundation, 425 Willow Valley Lakes Drive, Willow Street, Pennsylvania 17584- 9662. Please write on check "Memory Unit."

The family is most appreciative of all the Willow Valley Team Members in their efforts to be so thoughtful, caring and kind to all its residents. As Joe was heard saying, many times, "Moving to Willow Valley was the best move Sue and I made in our many years of marriage." And both are most grateful to the Management and Team Members of this outstanding Community!

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP **19**. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

Historic St. Mary's Catholic Church
119 South Prince Street
Lancaster, PA

Mass of Christian Burial

SEP **19**. 3:00 PM (ET)

Historic St. Mary's Catholic Church
119 South Prince Street
Lancaster, PA

Tribute Wall



“ *Joseph F. McDonald*

October 22, 2023 at 11:34 PM



“ *Mr. McDonald will always be in my heart. I first met him as my high school history teacher at the American Community School in Athens, Greece. He then went on to become the principal. His love for teaching and his caring and compassionate character is what I will always remembered. I became a teacher because of him. I am saddened to see that he has passed.*

Athanasia - December 21, 2021 at 03:12 PM



“ *Our most heartfelt condolences on the passing of Joe McDonald, High School Principal at the International School Nido de Aguilas between 1997 and 2002. Joe and Sue are remembered by many for their warmth and generosity during their years in Chile.*

*David Perry, Headmaster
On behalf of the Nido de Aguilas community
Santiago, Chile*

David Perry - September 23, 2021 at 09:51 AM

PB

“ Joe was all heart. A warm human being and a Principal with whom I shared a LOT of laughs. I remember inviting him to my IB Math Studies class after we'd finished two years of work, for a class breakfast and a movie the kids wanted to watch. They chose an Austin Powers movie, and I knew nothing of the film. To my horror Joe showed up and as the movie progressed I was sure I was seeing the end of my teaching career unfold before me. I turned to look at Joe, fearing the worst, and he was howling with laughter. That's the Joe I will remember, always ready to laugh and enjoy kids.

Peter BArnett - September 22, 2021 at 09:30 PM

JB

“ Joe was a wonderful, generous and caring friend. I worked under his leadership, and he was a great and fair leader and mentor. He was very kind to my Triplets during a very difficult time in our lives. He adored Sue , his eternal bride and his family. He will be missed but remembered eternally. Much love and comfort to Sue and his family.

Joan Keane Buenaventura - September 22, 2021 at 07:28 PM

CR

“ My deepest condolences to the family. We have lost a great person, someone who made a difference in this world. It was a privilege to work with him at Colegio Nido de Aguilas, Chile. You will be missed but never forgotten.
Claudio Rojas

CLAUDIO ROJAS - September 22, 2021 at 04:37 PM

HL

“ Joe was a dedicated family man and committed educator. It was my privilege to work with him for five years at Nido de Aguilas International School in Santiago, Chile. I will always remember him for his attention to detail and his empathy for our students. Thank you, Joe McDonald for your life of love and service.

Howard Lovejoy - September 22, 2021 at 02:58 PM

EH

Kenna and I have very fond memories of Joe and we extend our most sincere condolences to Sue and all their family.

Ed Harkins - September 23, 2021 at 08:33 PM

AB

“ I remember Mr McDonald as one of the nicest persons I have ever met, great human being and teacher.
Rest in peace Joseph, and my deepest condolences to the family

Alvaro Bustamante,
Nido de Aguilas, Chile



Alvaro Bustamante - September 22, 2021 at 02:57 PM

NG

“ I remember when he first showed up at our school Nido de Aguilas in Santiago Chile ('97, I was a junior at the time) and warned us all about becoming his “best friends”. Inevitably I found myself in trouble at his office quite often so, as one of his “best friends”, I can surely say he will be missed. He was tough, but ultimately a good and very well intentioned man. He will be missed, I'm sorry for your loss.

Nils Goldschmidt - September 22, 2021 at 10:05 AM



“ *Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Joseph F. McDonald.*



September 18, 2021 at 03:18 PM



“ *When my late husband and I moved into Willow Valley, we soon met Joe and Sue. I have enjoyed Joe's sense of humor so much. We started each New Year at a gathering where Joe was the "wine steward." He livened up every event. His highly-decorated yellow VW bug just brought out a smile every time I saw it. Even during some of his more difficult times, when we talked, he was very honest about his situation and always seemed to be focused on dealing with whatever was happening to him. I will miss his smile, his hearty laugh, and his great sense of humor. Terri*

Terri Asche - September 18, 2021 at 12:43 PM



*Estimada Miss Sue, lamento mucho la partida del Mr Joe
Recordaré con mucho cariño al Mr. La persona más querida, más humana, quien valoró nuestro trabajo, quien le dio el respeto y tantas cosas. Estará siempre en nuestro corazón.
Fernanda Cornejo*

Maria Fernanda Cornejo Riveros - September 22, 2021 at 06:03 PM

MS

“ My deepest sympathies go out to the entire McDonald family. This is a devastating loss for so many people. I have had the pleasure over the past few years of being able to chat with Joe on many occasions. I always loved to hear his stories about the time he spent in education. I always marveled at the many lives he touched. He was so incredibly proud of his family and so in love with his beautiful wife. His generosity, kindness, sense of humor and love for his family will never be forgotten.

Margie Seagers

Margie Seagers - September 18, 2021 at 11:06 AM



“ *Arrive in Style* was purchased for the family of Joseph F. McDonald.



September 18, 2021 at 09:09 AM

LW

“ *Joe shared his generous heart and love for others with all those around him. I loved his stories from his principal days and marveled at all he accomplished and his generosity. Blessings to you Sue, and your family. I was the lucky one to know you as your sales counselor for Willow Valley.*

Lauea Walker - September 17, 2021 at 09:10 PM

WB

“ Our sympathy to Suzie and the McDonald family. Joe was very popular with his high school classmates and a friend to all. He had a great sense of humor and was always smiling. We had a lot of fun together as roommates during our sophomore year in college. Joe's career was a life of meritorious service - "giving back" was very important to him. Joe was very proud of the Milton Hershey School and took every opportunity to speak highly of his alma mater. Mr. Hershey would have been proud of Joe.

Winnie & Bill Brill

William F Brill - September 17, 2021 at 04:53 PM

JD

“ I was blessed to meet Joe and Suzie while attending my father Jack Dillman's alumni '55 memorial service at MHS. He not not made me and my family feel welcome but told me news stories of father while both students. I am so sorry for your loss Suzie and family, may his memory be eternal. RIP Joe and please send my love to Daddy! Xxoo Jill Dillman-Stull and sons.

jill dillman-stull - September 17, 2021 at 01:58 PM

JB

“ My deepest sympathy to your family. I didn't know Joe personally but I knew other educators from Ewing that spoke so highly of him. My sincerest condolences.

Jayne Byer - September 16, 2021 at 12:40 PM

G“

““ *Our deepest sympathy for the loss of this great person and dear friend. Joe will be missed by his family; he will be missed by so many more whose lives are better because of his friendship, smile, positive attitude and approach to life. We loved this Irish icon and will remember forever his green outfit! Jim '63 & Shirley Gould*

Gould James “Jim” - September 16, 2021 at 07:59 AM

CS

““ *I will ALWAYS remember Joe and Sue fondly, He was instrumental in my landing of a teaching job at Fisher School, and was the first person to observe one my early sessions as a rookie educator- he was consistently affirming and instructional, and I recall his contagious and infectious smile and sense of humor. Anyone who calls him/herself an educator does service to Joe by doing it with passion and commitment to the students under their guidance and direction. I feel extremely blessed to have been a small part of his professional career, and will forever be grateful for his influence upon my life. God bless him, his extended family and circle of friends and colleagues.*

*Sincerely,
Chet Snook*

Chet Snook - September 16, 2021 at 07:34 AM

KH

““ *My deepest sympathy to you, Sue, and to your family. Joe was an incredible human being....so kind, caring, fun and always thinking of others. He was truly a gift to many, many people and was certainly loved at Willow Valley. May you find comfort and peace as you go through this difficult time. I will miss seeing him and will always remember him.Kendall Hunsicker*

kendall Hunsicker - September 16, 2021 at 12:23 AM

CW

“ My most sincere condolences to Sue and the entire McDonald family. I used to work at Willow Valley part-time As (what they called it at that time) a Clubhouse Van driver in the evening several years ago and I really got to know Joe as a wonderful person both inside and out. I feel very blessed to have been able to drive Joe, Sue and often friends of theirs from out of town to and from dinner at the Clubhouse. Joe would always treat me like I was part of his family and introduce me to everyone in the van. He touched my life in a great way always making me laugh and enjoy his company! I will always remember him wishing me well with tears in his eyes when I told him that I was leaving Willow Valley for a Full-Time Job. I know that you are in Heaven Joe & I look forward to seeing your smile when you are waiting at the pearly gates. I am a better person for having you in my life.

Chris Watterson - September 15, 2021 at 08:17 PM

SW

“ My most sincere condolences to Beth, Sue and the entire family. I had the great opportunity to get to know Joe and Sue through Beth's and my friendship many years ago. I was always so happy when Joe and Sue would come to visit when I was at the house, and have fond memories of outings with the whole family. Joe was a very special human being. Always had the best smile on his face. Very kind and had nothing but the best intentions for people he met. A little bit rough while playing Rummikub though. :o) I was always made to feel like part of the family. I will miss Joe and his smile. My thoughts and prayers are with all who came to know him. May the peace and tenderness of God console all.

Susan

Susan Wisniewski - September 15, 2021 at 03:15 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Joseph F. McDonald.*



September 15, 2021 at 02:59 PM



“ *My most sincere condolences to Sue and the entire McDonald family. I used to work at Willow Valley and shared so many wonderful memories of Joe and Sue with my husband. He was one of the most supportive, warm, kind, loving and encouraging people I have ever known. To know Joe was one of the biggest blessings of my life. He will be greatly missed.*

Kristin Hambleton - September 15, 2021 at 10:54 AM



“ *My sincere condolences to the family on losing this gifted human being. He inspired greatness and was loved by all. And now, he's lighting up every room in heaven. He will be missed, but never forgotten.*

Ross Fairweather - September 15, 2021 at 10:10 AM



“ *Thoughts and prayers to the McDonald family! Joe was a incredible person both inside and out. Always had a smile on his face and nothing but kind words to say. He will be missed by all of us at the Giant Center and with the Hershey Bears. A true fan. Thank you Joe for allowing us into your world!*

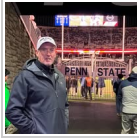
Brian Bucciarelli

Brian Bucciarelli - September 15, 2021 at 08:12 AM

MP

“ Words cannot express how sorry I am for Joe's loss. The world has lost a real gentlemen but the sky has gained a bright new star. You will be missed, Joe, at the Giant Center as you brought a smile to everyone. R.I.P. Joe.

Marion Pearl - September 15, 2021 at 08:06 AM



“ The absolute best Uncle a nephew could have ever wanted. Uncle Joe lit up a room with his laughter. Many Great memories of a great man. Love You Uncle Joe, rest easy, the 4 Hershey boys are home with your sister, Mom and Dad. ❤️

Tom McDonald - September 15, 2021 at 05:29 AM

TB

“ My deepest sympathies to Susie and Joe's family. He was truly a Gentleman's gentleman who touched both the young and old. He was not only proud of his family but he was also proud of others some he did not really know. On behalf of my fellow workers at the Giant Center we will miss you.

God speed my Friend

Tim Burns

Tim Burns - September 14, 2021 at 08:31 PM

JH

My respect and admiration for Joe was/is limitless. And I could go on at length about him—and his inspiration on me and so many others—for quite a while. However, I'd rather just offer what I—as a fellow graduate and brother from Milton Hershey School—believe is the highest praise I can think of:

Joe was one of Mr Hershey's finest. Period.

My condolences to Suzie and his whole family. You are in my prayers.



John Hanawalt '70

John Hanawalt - September 17, 2021 at 10:03 AM

AH

“ Hello Suzie and Family,
Our deepest sympathy to you and your family on Joe's death.
I recall fondly some of the stories Joe told me about when he had
my father, Andrew Kovach, for a teacher at Milton Hershey.
Joe and I also liked to swap tales of our days in education. Many
similarities, even though I'm eight years younger. (and that's not
young!)
Suzie, my thoughts and prayers are with you and your family at this
difficult time.
Sincerely,
Larry and Alice Hummer

Alice Hummer - September 14, 2021 at 06:07 PM