



Dr. J. Matunis

January 10, 2019

Dr. Joseph J. Matunis passed away on January 9 at the age of 90. Born November 1, 1928 in Shenandoah, PA, he was the child of Lithuanian immigrants Frances (Meluskey) and Joseph Matunis and brother to Rosemary (Gluckow), Dorothy (Clancy), and Eleanor (Gegwich).

He graduated class of 1946, Frackville High School and served in the US Army from 1946-48, stationed in Osaka, Japan.

Joe attended Penn State University on the GI Bill, graduating in 1953, Phi Kappa Phi, and graduated Hahnemann Medical College, Philadelphia, 1957. He completed his family practice residency at Harrisburg Hospital and then served two years for the Public Health Service in Kotzebue, Alaska.

This funny, wise, generous, amazing man never did anything half way. He became a family doctor in rural Perry County, Pennsylvania, delivered thousands of babies and cared for the people there as their family doctor for 45 years. Recognizing the need for centralized health

services, he was a founding organizer of the Perry Health Center. He was the first recipient of Drexel

University's Nataniel Alston Service Award for mentoring countless medical students and physician assistant students. He was Board Certified in Family Practice and Geriatrics, a member of the Pennsylvania Medical Society, Perry County Medical Society, Alpha Omega Alpha Medical Honor Society, and the American Academy of Family Physicians.

His wife of 61 years, Suzanne (Hoban), was the love of his life. He told her on their first date that he wanted to live on a farm and have 13 children and she agreed. He sang to her every night before going to sleep.

He was most proud of his 13 children: Frank (Ruth), Mary Jo (Bob Houston), Suzanne (David Pustinger), Joe (Jackie Chang), Ellen, Kate (Tom Wolfe), Mike (Erika), Megan (Jim Schaper), John, Becky (Andy Schriber), David (Jennifer), Marybeth (Mark Ventura), and Emily (Kym). He loved his grandchildren: Matthew, Stephen, Becky, Robert, Abigail, Ryan, Joey, Allison, Claire, Maggie, Maya, Nathan, Jonathan, Tausey, Annaka, Milo, Max, Katie, Emma, Alek, Aidan, Adam, Max, Olivia, Jillian, Noah, Madeline, and Logan, and great-granddaughter, Rory. He also deeply loved an adopted daughter, Roslyn, and her family.

He was a farmer, an Eagle Scout, a proud Penn State Alumnus, a historian, genealogist, and story-teller.

He knew the name of every constellation in the sky and every tree, mushroom and shrub in the forest, and seemingly everything else worth knowing. He loved a good laugh, loved getting his hands dirty, and loved being with family. He enjoyed Lawrence Welk, the opera, finding arrow heads on his farm, gardening and canning/freezing the bounties, making wreaths from the greens in his woods, cider from the apples, and preparing fruits so that Suzanne would make him a pie.

He was a member of St. Bernard Catholic Church.

Visitation with the family will be at the Boyer Family Funeral Home, New Bloomfield, on Monday, January 14 from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. A funeral mass will be celebrated at St. Bernard Catholic Church, New Bloomfield, at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 15 with the Rev. Robert Sharman officiating.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to St. Bernard Catholic Church, New Bloomfield , PA or the Family Practice Center PC (Perry Health Center), Loysville, PA.

The Boyer family is honored to handle the arrangements for the Matunis family.

Tribute Wall



“ Hello, just wanted to tell you, I loved this blog post.
It was helpful. Keep on posting!

?????? ???? - January 10, 2019 at 12:00 AM



“ Ellie, I'm so sorry to hear about your loss. I noticed your dad passed away at 90 on my father's birthday who would have been 101. I just happened to be looking you up when I saw the obituary. My condolences. I pray God would provide you and your family with comfort during this difficult time.

Cindy Hess (Fera) - January 10, 2019 at 12:00 AM