



Joseph E. Rood

June 14, 1940 - February 16, 2007

Joseph E. Rood, Jr., 66, (the “Voice of Thunder”) passed away at Deaconess Gateway Hospital on Friday, February 16, 2007. Joe was born to Joseph E. Rood, Sr., and Adeline (Brammeier) Rood on June 14, 1940, (Flag Day, and proud of it!) in Ohio. Joe was a gourmet chef and loved to hunt, fish, and spend time with his family at their home in “Pelzer Wildwoods” near Boonville, IN.

Joe graduated from Wyoming High School in Wyoming, OH, in 1958 and attended the Medical College of Wisconsin in Milwaukee. He retired from Deaconess Hospital in 2005 having achieved a career in emergency medical management and quality assurance that spanned four decades. Since retirement, Joe had continued to consult in the areas of emergency preparedness and crisis management. He possessed thorough knowledge and experience in team leadership, emergency management, disaster preparedness and crisis communications.

In 1970, Joe was certified as an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) instructor by the Wisconsin Department of Health and as an EMT-Paramedic by the Medical College of Wisconsin in Milwaukee. He was the founder of the Wisconsin EMT Association and served as the editor of the Wisconsin EMT Association Journal from 1971 to 1975. Also, in the early 70’s, Joe served as the training officer for the Medical College of Wisconsin EMT-Paramedic

Program. In 1975, he moved from Wisconsin to College Park, MD, to become the senior instructor and coordinator of EMT training for the University of Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute.

Joe joined the staff of Deaconess Hospital as the emergency medical services coordinator in 1977 and served in that capacity for ten years. He was directly involved in the organization of an emergency medical services network for a broad area of southwest Indiana and from 1979 to 1987 was a primary emergency medical technician and paramedic instructor trainer for the Indiana EMS Commission. During that time period, Joe also served on the Indiana EMT Test Construction Commission and as an Indiana EMS Commission ambulance competition judge.

Joe shared his emergency management expertise willingly with numerous organizations in the Tri State. From 1982 until 1987, he was a member of the Indiana Heart Association's affiliate faculty and served as a certified instructor for both basic cardiac life support and advanced cardiac life support training.

In 1987, he was appointed to the board of directors for Evansville Freedom Festival and served as its president from 1993 to 1995, and again in 2001. Joe was the "Voice of Thunder," broadcasting details of the highly competitive hydroplane races from the riverfront for each of the races until 1993. Recently, Joe expressed his excitement and was looking forward to being involved once again with Thunder's leadership team.

During his 28-year career at Deaconess Hospital, Joe held a primary role on the hospital's emergency management team and served as the external liaison for emergency communications. He was a clinical quality improvement analyst and a member of the faculty of the hospital's continuous quality improvement program. Joe also served in the US Navy as a surgical technician at Great Lakes Naval Hospital from 1960-1964.

Joe was preceded in death by his parents and a granddaughter, Ashley M. Merrick.

Joe is survived by his wife Gayle B. Rood of Boonville; son, Matthew J. Rood and his wife, Clare, of Cedar Rapids, IA; daughters, Cathy M. Merrick of Evansville, and Julie L. Rager of Bradenton, FL; grandchildren, Kayte and Emily Wigginton of Evansville and Kendyl and Casey Rager of Bradenton, FL; brother, Richard Rood of Brazil, South America; mother and father-in-law, Millie and Harold Boyette of Orange Park, FL; an aunt, Jeanne Wipperman; and cousins, Jerre and Tom Wipperman, all of St. Louis, MO.

A gathering of family and friends will be held from 2 to 6:30 p.m., followed by a Closing Service at 6:30 p.m., Monday, February 19, at Pierre Funeral Home, 2601 West Franklin Street, Evansville. The Reverend Joe Foster will officiate.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in memory of Joe to the Pet Adoption Center located on Vann Avenue in Newburgh or the Twin Bridges Waterfowl USA c/o Jason Grier 2201 Covert Ave. Evansville, IN 47714.

Previous Events

Service

FEB 19. 6:30 PM (CT)

Pierre Funeral Home
2601 W. Franklin Street
Evansville, IN

Tribute Wall



“ *Joseph E. Rood*

January 16, 2023 at 06:53 PM



“ *Dear Gayle, Matt and families,
Richard emailed me, and I was so sorry to hear about Joe. I have a lot of great fun memories of y'all. When we came up for Thunder, being with you when you were married, etc. Please know my thoughts and prayers are with you, Matt and your families. With deepest sympathy. Gail*
McGuire

February 19, 2007 at 11:02 PM



“ *Matthew,
We love you and want you to know that we are all hurting with you. From your brothers and sisters and folks,
Joe, Carey, Barbra, Marc Jr., Erin, Todd, Michele, Connor, Cody, Cole, Lauren, Gavin, Marc and Pam*
Pam and Marc Chase

February 19, 2007 at 10:02 PM



“ *Dear Gayle,
You are in our thoughts and prayers - we are so proud to have met Joe and will never forget him. You must have many fond memories - he was quite a guy.*
Pam and Marc Chase (Clare's family)

February 19, 2007 at 09:54 PM



“ Sorry for your loss Uncle Matt. Hope you feel better. Love
Cody##imported-begin##Cody Snitker##imported-end##

February 19, 2007 at 07:49 PM



“ Our heartfelt sympathy goes to all. You are in our hearts and
prayers.##imported-begin##Dr. Thomas and Karen
Fuhrman##imported-end##

February 19, 2007 at 07:31 PM



“ I'm sorry you lost your dad Uncle Matt. I feel sad. I love you very
much!

Cole Snitker##imported-begin##Cole Snitker##imported-end##

February 19, 2007 at 12:30 PM



“ I'm sorry for your lose Uncle Matt.
I love you! Connor Snitker##imported-begin##Connor
Snitker##imported-end##

February 19, 2007 at 12:26 PM



“ MY DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO YOU AND YOUR FAMILY. MY
THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS ARE WITH YOU. I AM OUT OF
TOWN, CANNOT BE AT YOUR SERVICE.##imported-
begin##CAMILLA JULIAN##imported-end##

February 19, 2007 at 09:17 AM



“ *Gayle and family,
We are so very sorry and in disbelief to read of Joe's death. And even sadder to be on vacation and unable to pay our respects personally. Joe was very special, a close friend, and a valued member of our Thunder and Freedom Festival teams. We will keep you and your family in our prayers. Your loss is so great and your pain unimaginable. May God give you comfort and healing.##imported-begin##Jan and Bill Thuerbach##imported-end##*

February 19, 2007 at 12:20 AM



“ *We have many memories of Joe during our 30 years in EMS.##imported-begin##Larry & Jane Allen, retired Advanced EMTs, Gibson Co.##imported-end##*

February 18, 2007 at 03:58 PM