



Joseph A. Kavulich

October 14, 1942 - December 30, 2014

Kavulich, Joseph A., of Plymouth; passed away on December 30, 2014, age 72. Joseph was an avid sports fan, and officiated college basketball and baseball as well as officiated high school basketball, baseball, and football. Joseph retired from the Detroit School District as a school counselor. Beloved Husband of 40 years to Jan; Loving father of Michael (Julie) Kavulich, John (Susan) Kavulich, and Brett Kavulich; Proud Grandfather of Kara, Kayla, Jim and Jeff;

Uncle of Brian Bauer, Colleen Bauer, and Jonathon Bauer; Joseph was preceded in death by his parents Joseph M. and Stella V. The visitation will be Friday, January 2nd from 2 PM until 8 PM at the Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home, 46401 W Ann Arbor Rd., (btwn Sheldon & Beck) Plymouth. The Mass of Resurrection will be Saturday, January 3rd at 10:30 AM at Our Lady of Good Counsel, 47650 N. Territorial Road, Plymouth, MI. The family will be at church to receive friends from 10 AM until the time of the funeral Mass. Interment will follow at Glen Eden Memorial Park, Livonia. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the American Heart Association, Michigan Humane Society or donor's choice.

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 2. 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home Plymouth
46401 Ann Arbor Road West
Plymouth, MI 48170
(734) 459-2250
plymouth@vermeulenfh.com

Funeral Mass

JAN 3. 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM (ET)

Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church
47650 North Territorial Road
Plymouth, MI 48170

Tribute Wall



“ *Joseph A. Kavulich*

December 07, 2023 at 05:11 AM



“ *Jan and family.... I am so very sorry to hear about your dear husband. Forty years ago I was fortunate to be at your beautiful wedding when you invited the Redford Union Varsity and Junior Varsity Cheerleaders. My heart goes out to you and your family. God bless you all.*

Diane Stadler/PCCS

Diane stadler - January 05, 2015 at 08:17 PM



“ *Ken Zryd*
I would like to extend condolences to the Kavulich family on Joe's passing. We met when John and Mike attended and participated in sports at Norup and Berkley High. Joe's positive attitude and interest in sports made an instant impression on all he met.

Kenyon Zryd - January 02, 2015 at 08:17 PM



“ *I am very sorry to hear about the passing of Joe Kavulich. We shared a lot of great times playing hockey in the over 60 league in Plymouth. He was a true gentlemen and I will miss him a lot. My thoughts and prayers are with his family at this difficult time.*

Chuck Thornell

Chuck Thornell - January 02, 2015 at 04:35 PM

CP

“ Jan,
Joe was a great friend and officiating mentor to me. I impart his words of wisdom often and will miss him dearly. The Michigan officiating fraternity will never be the same.
Please accept my family's heartfelt sympathy.
Chuck Phillipson

Chuck Phillipson - January 02, 2015 at 03:25 PM

DH

“ A fine gentleman and athlete with always a kind word. My condolences to the family.

Don Haberek - January 02, 2015 at 12:18 PM

BA

“ My deepest sympathy to Joe's family. He was a great friend and fellow official. I really enjoyed the time and the games that I worked with Joe.

Bob Allen, President of United Federation of Officials

Bob Allen - January 02, 2015 at 11:07 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Joseph A. Kavulich.



January 02, 2015 at 09:46 AM



“ *Enduring Grace was purchased for the family of Joseph A. Kavulich.*



January 02, 2015 at 09:42 AM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Joseph A. Kavulich.*



January 02, 2015 at 09:41 AM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Joseph A. Kavulich.*



January 02, 2015 at 09:18 AM

SM

“ Dear Jan, Brett, Mike, John and extended family,
Words cannot express my sadness about Joes passing . Joe has always been a great friend, co worker , Father , Husband, and Grandfather. He was a dynamic person. He was always the one to organize the reunions of the old Murphy staff. Joe was part of that Murphy family and loved by us all. We all have great stories and memories. I will miss Joe very much. I will miss his calls and his sense of humor. We loved to share sports stories, family stories , Murphy stories, and pet stories. He loved those cats and good old Murphy the dog, who we rescued from Murphy school. Joe made a great difference in many lives. My thoughts are with you as you go through this difficult time. Stacia Miller

Stacia Miller - January 02, 2015 at 09:12 AM

RH

“ Jan, Mike, John, Brett and Family,

A one of a kind friend. I have so many wonderful memories of Joe, too many to recall here.

There was never a dull moment when officiating a b-ball game with Papa Joe. I always looked forward to his smile, his laugh and of course I couldn't wait to hear his latest "story". I had the pleasure of working with Joe in his last MHSAA state final...it was pure fun.

Someone once wrote: "Life isn't about how to survive the storm, but how to dance in the rain."

Joe always danced in the rain...

*Respectfully,
Randy Hutton*

Randy Hutton - January 02, 2015 at 07:58 AM

DV

“ Dear Jan, Mike, John, Brett and Family,

Please accept our sincerest Christian Sympathy. Joe and I had many good times officiating over these many years. Some of my best memories are of our work together. Years ago I saw him work a state final. At that time I was impressed by his work and tried to emulate for myself how he handled the game. Little did I know, one day I would be fortunate enough to be one of his partners. He taught me not only how to become a better official, but also how to become a better man. I will miss him and the games without him will never be the same. Joe was a great family man, great official and am very proud to say, great friend. God bless you all and my he rest in eternal peace.

Nancy and Don Vogt

Don Vogt - January 01, 2015 at 09:29 PM



“ Let It Snow was purchased for the family of Joseph A. Kavulich.



January 01, 2015 at 09:00 PM

GW

“ Had the opportunity to work basketball Mr. Kavulich and I learned a lot. He was a wise and kind man.. My prayers are with Mike and the rest of the family...

Gaylon B Williams - January 01, 2015 at 07:41 PM

AN

“ *Angela.Evans*



Angela.evans - January 01, 2015 at 07:34 PM

AN

“ *To the Kavulich Family My name is Angela Evans and I worked with Mr. Kavulich at Murphy Middle School for a number of years. Mr. Kavulich was a kind and loving man one of the best Counselor that I have know always saying kind words and helping the students with their needs. When Mr Kavulich left Murphy it was not the same we missed him so much as we did all the people that left Murphy we were one big family we worked together. The last that were left still kept going but we still kept in touch with each other I have so far talk to about 25 people in two days and they have all say the same thing Mr. Kavulich will truly be missed our friend.We will keep him and his family in our prayers. May you rest in peace and the Lord be with you.*

Mrs. Angela.Evans

Angela.evans - January 01, 2015 at 07:28 PM

JM

“ My wife Cathy joins me in sending you our deepest sympathy and condolence during this time of sorrow. We were all shocked to hear of the tragic and untimely death of Joe. In addition to his loss being felt by his family it is also felt in the officiating community, as he worked so long and hard with many of us. The memory of his leadership will remain a source of inspiration and encouragement to each of us.

Our thoughts are with you and your family and we pray God provide you strength.

Joseph McCormick

Joseph McCormick - January 01, 2015 at 06:50 PM

HJ

“ Hugh Jewell lit a candle in memory of Joseph A. Kavulich



Hugh Jewell - January 01, 2015 at 04:53 PM

HJ

Thanks Joe for making so many of us who officiate understand that we must take pride in what we do. In my 41 years many of the biggest games I worked were with Joe, always the consummate pro. God bless Michael, Jan and the entire Kavulich family.
Hugh Jewell

Hugh Jewell - January 01, 2015 at 05:11 PM

JT

“*Jan and family...my deepest sympathy and condolences. I worked with Joe at numerous schools and we met for breakfast monthly since we retired. He was a class act and my good,good friend. May God keep his arms around you and yours during this difficult time. Rest in peace Joe K...*” ~ Joe Taglioli

Joe Taglioli - January 01, 2015 at 03:17 PM

MJ

“*Marceline Jones lit a candle in memory of Joseph A. Kavulich*



Marceline Jones - January 01, 2015 at 03:10 PM

BE

“*I always enjoyed covering games that Joe officiated because he was so efficient. What a gentleman, so friendly and personable. He'll be so missed.*
Brad Emons

Brad Emons - January 01, 2015 at 03:00 PM

IH

“*Imani Hinesy lit a candle in memory of Joseph A. Kavulich*



imani Hinesy - January 01, 2015 at 02:52 PM

IH

I pray the Kavulich family will have peace of mind during these difficult times. Joe and I were both Counselors at Murphy Middle School.

imani Hinesy - January 01, 2015 at 02:57 PM

KA

“ *Karen lit a candle in memory of Joseph A. Kavulich*



Karen - January 01, 2015 at 01:59 PM

LN

“ *We remember Joe as a Vibrant, active and energetic man. When he put on that black and white referee shirt he took control of the game and nobody questioned joes calls. He let the teams play competitively and fair. He was one in a million!
We will miss Joe.
Our sympathy,
The Nimmerguth family*

linda nimmerguth - January 01, 2015 at 01:26 PM

FB

“ *What a pleasure it was to serve as Principal of Murphy Middle School with Joe Kavulich as one of the caring counselors. Mr. Kavulich, as a Guidance Counselor, served in a long time position of caring, inspiring and guiding young middle school students to choose the right path. I enjoyed his sense of humor, team spirit and his sense of dress and style. He was a role model for those he served. Thank you Joe for all the years you dedicated to the Detroit Public Schools and the lives of children that were touched and changed because of you. Faye Baker*

Faye Baker - January 01, 2015 at 11:59 AM

DR

“ I had the honor of meeting and umpiring with Joe beginning in the late 70's and we stayed in touch all these years. He was a great umpire, official, and friend. He now joins the elite group of other Michigan umpires who have past away. Joe, beware they will make you work the plate. Rest in peace my friend.
Dick Runchey

Dick Runchey - January 01, 2015 at 11:09 AM

JS

“ Joe was one of the finest people I have had the privilege to call an officiating partner. He always had your back on the court and was there for the crew at crunch time. Joe had a great sense of humor and will live on forever in countless stories. God bless you , my friend. Rest in peace.

Jeff Spedoske

jeff Spedoske - January 01, 2015 at 10:19 AM

DD

“ Donna, Allison, and Alex Donnelly purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Joseph A. Kavulich.



Donna, Allison, and Alex Donnelly - January 01, 2015 at 08:07 AM

RW

“ To know Joe is to Love Joe, being up and down the pike countless times in my 45 years of my officiating career enjoying some of the best times in my entire life. A great family man, along with his insight of sports, and let's not forget his love for "HIS" cats, he was an awesome individual. Joe will be missed by many, but he will live on by the many stories that we will all have to share. Some called him the "Governor", the respect he always commanded. Rest in peace my friend!!

Bob Williams

robert williams - January 01, 2015 at 05:54 AM

BA

“ Jan, We send our deepest sympathy and love to you. We feel so fortunate to have been able to share so many wonderful times with you and Joe over the years! Know that even though we can't be with you, you are in our thoughts and prayers.

Bob and Marty Atkins



Bob and Marty Atkins - January 01, 2015 at 12:36 AM

KA

“ Our dear Joe. I remember a lot of great laughs and good times; too many to count. One of the best, Jan, you, Bob, and I on Mackinac Island for the 4th of July. Can't share details as we all agreed, what went on, on the island, stays on the island. LOL I hope you know how loved and respected you were on this earth. I am sure you have already secured a game or two on the heavenly field. My love and prayers to Jan, Mike, John, Brett, and the rest of the family. Jan, whatever you need and whenever. Love, Karen

Karen - December 31, 2014 at 09:44 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Joseph A. Kavulich.*



December 31, 2014 at 07:35 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Joseph A. Kavulich.*



December 31, 2014 at 06:33 PM



“ *Holiday Homecoming Basket was purchased for the family of Joseph A. Kavulich.*



December 31, 2014 at 04:55 PM



“ *Joe was a wonderful family man and a great neighbor! He will be truly missed. Love and prayers to Jan, Brett, and family. Much love from the Gonzalez Family*

Dianne Gonzalez - December 31, 2014 at 04:51 PM

KJ

“ I will miss Joe's daily calls from vacations to check on his beloved cats, and Joe bringing Scratch Cat over for "playdates" with cat-friendly dogs...Love you Joe, Kathlyn

Kathlyn Juras - December 31, 2014 at 04:50 PM

JP

“ Joe was a wonderful man that will be greatly missed!! Strength and prayers for Jan, Brett and the rest of the family!

jan Pickard - December 31, 2014 at 04:44 PM

DE

“ Jan and family,

We are so sorry to hear about Joe, such a good man taken much too soon. We will always remember what great pride he took in his lawn on Red Maple Drive :)

Please know you are in our thoughts and prayers.

Deb, Tony and Oriana Vigliotti

Debbie - December 31, 2014 at 04:39 PM



AR

“ AJ Rassi purchased the Truly Beloved Bouquet for the family of Joseph A. Kavulich.



AJ Rassi - December 31, 2014 at 04:20 PM



“ *Basket Full of Wishes was purchased for the family of Joseph A. Kavulich.*



December 31, 2014 at 03:13 PM