



Joseph Welch

August 5, 1948 - June 25, 2025

Joe was born on August 5th, 1948 in Pittsburg, Kansas to Clayton and Antoinette Welch. He grew up in Arma, Kansas where he played football and basketball and developed an interest in cars. Following high school he attended the University of Kansas and graduated with an electrical engineering degree which he put to good use when he started his career with Detroit Edison. In 2003 Joe founded ITC Holdings and their first purchase was the transmission assets from his former employer DTE. Shortly thereafter he had a significant trial by fire event with the blackout of 2003 which disrupted power to the midwest and northeast. His leadership was instrumental in getting the issue identified, and power restarted. Despite this rough start, over the course of his 13 year run as CEO at ITC, they listed on the New York Stock Exchange and grew into the nation's largest independent transmission company with operations in 8 states. In 2016, Canadian based Fortis acquired ITC and Joe retired shortly thereafter.

For most people retirement means taking it easy, but Joe only knew one speed and that was pedal to the metal, he was as busy in retirement as ever with his passion projects. He started his drag racing operation, Joe Welch Racing, and won a few NHRA events. His passion for hunting and hunting dogs led to the purchase of a ranch in South Dakota where his vision of a wild bird paradise remains evident today. He loved Northern Michigan and spent time taking the grandkids on the ski boat, or Clare on the pontoon for a leisurely excursion around Lake Charlevoix. Joe enjoyed golf and hunting trips

with his friends, catching up with his ITC colleagues, sitting on various boards, and working on one of his many to-do lists.

Joe was a fierce competitor, but also had a giant heart. He was particularly proud of funding track chairs to enable disabled veterans to access hunting grounds and funding scholarships to rural students at University of Kansas who were pursuing Engineering. Several other charities that he supported devoted their efforts to children's health, the military, and first responders.

Whether you knew Joe as husband, dad, grandpa, uncle, boss, friend, benefactor, or mentor, he could always be counted on and left a big impression. His family will strive to continue his legacy.

Joe leaves a giant hole in all of our hearts. His Catholic faith grew stronger in retirement and he attended church whenever possible. His daily routine included daily readings of the bible, meditations, and prayer in the morning. We are confident that Joe is in Heaven joining his parents and sister Evaughn, and likely hard at work on a to-do list for our Heavenly Father.

Those who knew Joe best, knew he was first and foremost a family man. He was a dedicated coach for his children who were accomplished runners. He was a noticeable presence at cross country and track meets and had an earned reputation of loudly cheering on his children and their teammates. He made many lifelong friends on the cross country courses and tracks across Michigan.

Joe passed away unexpectedly on June 25th. He is survived by his beloved wife of 53 years, Clare. His 5 children, Ann Welch, Jennifer Welch, Jessica (Pete) Uher, Clayton (Katie) Welch, and Brad Andrews, and his 10 grandchildren. His nieces Johnni-Kay (Rob) Smiley, Joy (Barry) Rons, and Jeanene Boswell. As well as his brother in law John Boswell.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to one of Joe's favorite charities.

University of Michigan Mott Children's Hospital

Wounded Warriors

Tunnel to Towers

March of Dimes

St. Jude Children's Research Hospital

Visitation Monday, July 7th from 4 PM until 8 PM, and Tuesday, July 8th from 12 PM until 8 PM at Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home, 46401 Ann Arbor Road West (between Sheldon and Beck) Plymouth.

In state Wednesday, July 9th from 10 AM until the 11 AM Funeral Service at Christ the King Catholic Church, 4000 Ave Maria Drive, Ann Arbor.

To share a memory, please use the share a memory tab on this webpage.

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 7. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

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

Visitation

JUL 8. 12:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

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

Instate

JUL 9. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Christ the King Catholic Church
4000 Ave Maria Drive
Ann Arbor, MI 48105

Funeral Mass

JUL 9. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Christ the King Catholic Church
4000 Ave Maria Drive
Ann Arbor, MI 48105

Tribute Wall



“ Vermeulen Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Joseph Welch



Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home - July 07, 2025 at 09:28 AM



“ Hi Clare, I was speaking to a friend and our childhood came up. Of course my thoughts went to you as you were such a large part of it. Thought I would try to see if I could find you after all the decades....amazingly I did but sadly also found you lost your dear husband recently. Amazingly we live just a few miles from one another, probably for years. I can't tell you how much my heart breaks for your loss. You are so so lucky to have such a wonderful large family to help you heal and keep his memory in all your hearts. Love, Vienna

Vienna Sargent (Robinson) - December 21, 2025 at 12:31 PM



“ Dearest Clare & family, where has all the time gone since we were young Detroit girls together. Your husband Joe was a remarkable, loving husband, father & grandfather. . I enjoyed seeing your family Vermulen memory video. What a life you have had with a loving family. My heart & prayers to all of you. Lupe (Moreno) O'Brien

Lupe O'Brien - October 17, 2025 at 02:56 PM

PO

“ *Godspeed Joe and condolences to all your loved ones. It is wonderful to see how your grandchildren and family meant so much to you.*

Peter Opfermann - August 13, 2025 at 12:08 PM

DK

“ *So sorry to hear of Joe's passing, sending love and prayers to all his family and loved ones. I knew him as a kind, driven, generous and passionate person who had so many great talents to share. Our friendship was from long ago as neighbors in Huron, when the Welch's graciously shared their knowledge and beautiful pond, and fun times with their kids which I have such fond memories of. God blessed us with knowing Joe, even if for just a short time. Joe's memory will live on in us all.*

Donna Keller - July 10, 2025 at 08:13 PM

GC

“ *Love you, Joe. See you on the other side.*
-Grace

Grace Carrington - July 10, 2025 at 11:06 AM

DD

“ I am heartbroken to hear about Joe Welch's passing. As part of the original 38 dedicated former DTE transmission employees I appreciated his commitment to serving the people of Southern Michigan. We were thrilled to be a part of Joe's passionate mission to create something special that we could all be proud of. With a skeleton crew of office and field workers he lead us through the great 2003 national power blackout that struct the northeastern US and later help strengthen the national grid. Beyond that Joe was a wonderful compassionate human being. He will be sorely missed. My condolences.

--- David Doubley, retired Senior Engineer

David Doubley - July 09, 2025 at 02:17 AM



“ A grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Joseph Welch.

July 08, 2025 at 03:55 PM



“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Joseph Welch.



July 08, 2025 at 03:24 PM

DD

“ I was fortunate to meet Joe as a young professional as part of a group of young people that Joe inspired to do things that anyone with experience would have considered nearly impossible. Joe gave us opportunities that would not normally have had. I learned a lot from Joe and my life is better for having known him. Deepest condolences to Clare and the whole family.

Denise DesRosiers - July 08, 2025 at 02:36 PM



“ Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Joseph Welch.



July 08, 2025 at 09:53 AM

SS

“ Sky Systemz purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Joseph Welch.



Sky Systemz - July 07, 2025 at 10:50 PM

SS

“ Sky Systemz planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Joseph Welch.

Sky Systemz - July 07, 2025 at 10:50 PM

JF

“ *Jose C. Castro and Family purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Joseph Welch.*



Jose C. Castro and Family - July 07, 2025 at 08:51 PM

BP

“ We were fortunate to meet Joe in another passion that we shared, called drag racing. While only knowing Joe for a short time our meetings were normally at the track. Joe was very competitive, very concise, very driven to excellence and it showed at the drag strip. Todd first made the connection with Joe when he noticed a KU license tag holder on his race car. Todd is the biggest supporter of KU sports mostly basketball and as a result, he struck up a conversation with Joe along with Allan.

Todd was surprised to know that he was born and raised in Kansas and attended KU university in Lawrence. From that first conversation, they had become fast friends and we even had the opportunity to stay at his home in Sarasota after a racing event. Needless to say it was the highlight of our trip when we got to tour the Sarasota waterway and Bay in Joe’s big boat, “I Did it My Way”. We will never forget that experience and we had a great time along with Clare and some other friends. Joe was the perfect host and made us feel right at home.

Through the years we would see him at the races, Todd and Allan would talk with him on the phone, and text while trying to keep in touch through the years, talking about either KU sports or NHRA drag racing. Through other conversations they had had with Joe they realized he was not only a great businessman, drag racer, car nut, hunter, a big dog lover, and love of water and love of his family. We were shocked & saddened to learn of Joe’s passing. We will always cherish our memories. RIP

Our deepest condolences to Clare and family.
Allan, Todd and Barbara Patterson

Barbara Patterson - July 07, 2025 at 04:56 PM

JD

“ Thank you, Joe, for all you did in helping to create and build ITC, and, in so doing, giving so many opportunities to so many people.

Jeff Dobson - July 07, 2025 at 03:57 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Joseph Welch.



July 07, 2025 at 11:49 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Joseph Welch.

July 07, 2025 at 11:49 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Joseph Welch.



July 07, 2025 at 11:33 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Joseph Welch.

July 07, 2025 at 11:33 AM

DO

“ *The obituary so well captured Joe's life interests, and accomplishments; and the way he carried out his life. Most notable is his love and care for his family, followed by his care for his friends and the people that work for him. I first met him at ITC's launch party. We got to know each other very well through our business relationship, which evolved into a personal friendship. He and Clare have been so generous to Tammy and me throughout the years. Golf, sports events, hunting, dinners out, and dinners at their homes in Michigan and Florida. Joe & I corresponded with each other 3-5 times a week about things going on in each other's lives, politics, etc. He accomplished so much. I miss my friend. Dean Oskvig*

Dean Oskvig - July 07, 2025 at 11:05 AM

EC

“ *Mrs. Welch, Clayton, Jennifer, Jessica, Ms. Ann and Mr. Brad. I am forever grateful to Joe and Linda for brining me into the fold on day one with ITC. It has been and continues to be a wonderful journey. I truly appreciate how Joe made sure that everyone reaped the benefits here at ITC. No man left behind. When the company prospered, everyone prospered. His caring spirit, love for people, animals, charities, amongst other passions was undeniable. I am so glad I was able to let him know how much I appreciated everything he has done before is untimely departure. For the family, my prayer to you is for the Lord to comfort you, help you through the pain, heal your heart and give you understanding. He may not be with you in the physical, but spiritually he will always be with you. My sincere condolences. Elaine Clifford*

Elaine Clifford - July 07, 2025 at 09:28 AM

LG

“ Love, George & Gretchen purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Joseph Welch.



Love, George & Gretchen - July 07, 2025 at 09:26 AM

LG

“ Love, George & Gretchen planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Joseph Welch.

Love, George & Gretchen - July 07, 2025 at 09:26 AM



“ Gracious Lavender Basket was purchased for the family of Joseph Welch.



July 07, 2025 at 08:03 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Joseph Welch.

July 07, 2025 at 08:03 AM

TD

“ *The Wheatlake's Sue Frank and Duke! purchased the Magnificent Life Spray for the family of Joseph Welch.*



The Wheatlake's Sue Frank and Duke! - July 06, 2025 at 04:38 PM

TD

“ *The Wheatlake's Sue Frank and Duke! planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Joseph Welch.*

The Wheatlake's Sue Frank and Duke! - July 06, 2025 at 04:38 PM

HS

“ *Clare and Family--I originally met Joe due to our business relationships over the years and many subsequent meetings. I got to know Joe through hunting and several trips together. One of his great passions was hunting birds and bird dogs. While he had many "drivers" and passions along with diverse interests I believe one of his enduring pleasures was hunting and his bird dogs. I will always remember those times and the delight he expressed for those days in the field.*

May he be on an eternal hunt with his treasured dogs, enjoying vast fields of promise for the next great adventure.

Hal E Smith

Hal E Smith - July 06, 2025 at 01:14 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Joseph Welch.*



July 06, 2025 at 12:23 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Joseph Welch.

July 06, 2025 at 12:23 PM



“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Susan Cahill Williams - July 06, 2025 at 09:39 AM



Thank you Joe and Clare for your generosity and hospitality. You will always be in our hearts. Hugs

Susan Cahill Williams - July 06, 2025 at 09:44 AM

SW

“ We got to know Joe from years sitting behind Clare and Joe at Michigan Football, section 8, before he moved up to the executive suites. We didn't know who he was outside of seeing him at the games and knowing he was a very PASSIONATE fan. We nicknamed him "Wild Man Joe" because we would watch the back of his neck turn red when the plays didn't go our way, and Joe made it known that he thought the coach or refs were so wrong! We were lucky to be in those seats behind Joe and Clare, smiling with Clare showing up Pregnant many years, having their wonderful girls, and then finally their son. They were so proud of their children, and so joyful when they became Grandparents. Joe was extremely generous and invited us many time to their suites at the Big House to continue to cheer on our boys. Joe also arranged for my husband Curtis and fellow fans Neil and Billy, to fly on their private plane to see Michigan play in Dallas, a memory they will never forget. Joe was one of the most passionate people we ever met and we will always remember him as a true fan, a generous man of principle and a loving husband, father and grandfather. He loved telling us about what his children and grandchildren were up to. Our hearts go out to his entire family and many friends. We love you Joe, till we meet again. Go Blue!

Susan Cahill Williams - July 06, 2025 at 09:34 AM

AJ

“ **JOE’S CROWNING CAREER ACHIEVEMENT! JULY 25, 2005 ITC TRANSMISSION IPO**

SEPTEMBER 23, 2005 ITC HOLDINGS IPO

Joe's vision of an interstate electric transmission grid was confirmed with the IPO (Initial public offering) of ITC Transmission & ITC Holdings on the New York Stock Exchange

Thanks, Joe - Your legacy lives on!



Anne Jinks - July 06, 2025 at 07:22 AM

SW

“ *Joe left an indelible impact on our cause at March of Dimes. He trusted our work, our stewardship, and our mission. Those who had the good fortune to work with him personally will remember his warm smile and spirit. We are all fortunate to benefit from his generous legacy of support.*

We deeply appreciate Joe's dedication to moms and babies in Michigan and will remember him with heartfelt gratitude. We send our condolences to Clare, their family, friends, colleagues, and the community that mourns him.



Stefanie Worth - July 05, 2025 at 07:16 PM

“When I first met Joe Welch, I was a bit intimidated. He was passionate, outspoken, and never afraid to tell it like it was. But as I got to know him, I realized that his intensity wasn’t something to fear—it was something to admire. Joe’s passion wasn’t just professional; it was deeply personal. He cared about people. He cared about doing things right. And he always made sure you knew exactly where you stood. Personally, Joe took an interest in my development in a way that few leaders do. He pushed me because he saw potential and wanted me to succeed. He didn’t just lead from the front; he brought people along with him. I remember when Joe moved to the transmission side of the business. He had this bold idea—what seemed like a far-off vision—to create an independent transmission company. When he started building the team for this new endeavour, I didn’t hesitate. I had worked with Joe long enough to know that if he believed in something, it was worth believing in. Thirty Eight of us embarked on a journey that became ITC. Joe was the kind of leader you wanted on your side. He was relentless, strategic, and fiercely loyal. You never wanted to be on the opposite side of the table—because he would do everything in his power to win or prove his point—and he usually did. I’ll never forget attending a regional meeting during ITC’s early days. Someone from another company mentioned, “I applied to ITC, but Joe hired some Canadian guys.” I smiled and replied, “Nice to meet you, eh?” It was a small moment, but one that reminded me how Joe’s decisions were always intentional. He hired the people he believed would get the job done. Joe’s impact on my life went beyond the office. I’m both professionally and personally grateful for the trust he placed in me, and for the example he set. He showed us all how to work hard and play hard—how to lead with passion, and how to live with purpose. To Clare and the entire Welch family—losing someone so central to your lives is never easy. But please know that Joe’s legacy lives on in every one of us who had the honour to work with him, to learn from him, and to follow him. He cared deeply for his family, and we are certain he’d want you to keep living life the way he did—with heart, humour, and determination. You have our deepest condolences. May Joe rest in

peace and may his memory be eternal.

Gregory and Voula Ioanidis

Gregory and Voula Ioanidis - July 05, 2025 at 06:18 PM

KR

“ *Kathy Ringger purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Joseph Welch.*



Kathy Ringger - July 05, 2025 at 11:50 AM

RH

“ *Clare and Family, so sorry to hear about the passing of Joe. Pat and I only knew Joe for a few short years. Joe bought the old farm in East Jordan which my wife's family had owned for many enjoyable years. His visions matched my father-in-laws for the property. Joe was a very kind man with a big heart. Our deepest sympathy to you and your family.*

Randy and Pat Hauk

Randy Hauk - July 04, 2025 at 12:17 PM

AJ

“ Joe and I became friends in 1977 (48 years ago) when we worked side by side - Joe as an engineer (pictures of Clare and Ann on his desk) and across from his desk, me as a Secretary in the Rate Department. It was the start of a great, mutually respectful friendship, working, socializing outside of work, lunches at various Detroit restaurants, especially Mexican Village. His encouragement and confidence in my abilities made me achieve career goals I would never have dreamed possible.

My last conversation with Joe was a call wishing me a Happy Birthday from his hunting lodge in South Dakota. It was a special call because from the sound of his voice, I could tell he was happy spending time with Clayton hunting. He deserved every minute (and more) he was able to spend enjoying his passions. He texted a video of the deer roaming around his lodge at night, along with pictures of the lodge. Even though we rarely saw each other, whenever we met it was just like old times.... I'll always remember the ride with Clare and Joe on their cabin cruiser in the Gulf of Mexico, and celebrating his race victory in their beautiful Longboat Key home.

A loving, caring husband, father, friend, and boss, he was always there when you needed his help. He was a remarkable visionary and helped everyone on his team succeed. I am blessed for the opportunity to have shared a small part in his life. Allan and I have been blessed with our friendship with you and Clare. Thanks Joe!

Our hearts and prayers go out to Clare and the family during this sad time.

Anne Sawicki Jinks & Allan Jinks

Anne Sawicki Jinks - July 04, 2025 at 08:13 AM

DP

“ Doug Parks purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of Joseph Welch.



Doug Parks - July 03, 2025 at 04:52 PM



“ Rose Remembrance was purchased for the family of Joseph Welch.



July 01, 2025 at 09:40 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Joseph Welch.

July 01, 2025 at 09:40 PM

AE

“ Joe Welch has been a part of my life for 45 years. My relationship with Joe included huge mountains and small valleys. It is safe to say that Joe’s impact on those who knew him was more than huge.

My relationship with Joe included colleague, counsel, board member and friend. Joe was both complex and simple. He was complex in that he had two main strengths and weaknesses – (1) his strength is that he told you exactly what he was thinking; (2) his weakness is that he told you exactly what he was thinking. He was simple in that he found his targets, focused on solving the problem and solved it against all odds – even if he was on his own road.

I remember issues that included Joe against the world. He simply didn’t care – he knew he was right and that was the end of it. That stubborn streak was, on reflection, justified, in that he usually proved right in the end.

For those of us who knew Joe or worked with him, imagine what life would have been like if Joe never existed. How many of us would be less successful, less well-off and, in the end, less stimulated. Simply stated, Joe’s impact on all of us was HUGE!

I had the privileged of knowing Joe’s family. He was fierce in his love and devotion for his family. He and Claire had an unbreakable bond. He loved and protected his kids and grandkids without question. He was always there for them.

Joe attained unimaginable success with ITC. Few people know that the initial investors in ITC followed him around on his speech circuit for five years before investing – targeting him as the visionary who would justify their initial investment. Joe was alone in his vision then but he was right.

In addition to his family, Joe loved his cars and his hunting place. He actually won race after race on the circuit explaining to me that he had the fastest naturally aspirated Camaro in the world (I have

no idea what that means!).

Joe and I grew apart the last couple of years as his golf life was impeded by wrist injuries and his desire to get to his hunting took over. That's too bad but like many of us, our lives would have been far less enriching without Joe to direct us, yell at us and, in the end, love us.

Thanks Joe. You were a special guy and I was lucky to have you as part of it.

Al Ernst

Al Ernst - July 01, 2025 at 01:57 PM

SC

“ *Summit Contracting purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Joseph Welch.*



Summit Contracting - July 01, 2025 at 12:48 PM

NK

“ *Dear Claire – in the few short years and small interactions with Joe, I feel we really connected. He was a big personality and a great person. I feel blessed to have counted him as a friend. I regret not accepting his invite to come up for hunting at your farm. He left this world a better place for others.*

Edie & I send our prayers to you and your family in this time of sorry, reflection and remembrance.

-Nick and Edie Kavouklis

Nick Kavouklis - July 01, 2025 at 11:35 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Joseph Welch.



July 01, 2025 at 10:17 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Joseph Welch.

July 01, 2025 at 10:17 AM



“ I worked with and for Joe for many years at DTE. I even found a couple cars for him to buy. His love of cars and a competitive spirit was always evident. He was a good guy and will be missed. Sympathies and prayers to his family and loved ones..

Don Keller - July 01, 2025 at 08:50 AM



“ Demida Scott lit a candle in memory of Joseph Welch



Demida Scott - July 01, 2025 at 08:28 AM

DZ

“ People try to emulate those we deeply admire. Joe was that person. A boss, mentor and friend for 40 years. I admired him. He looked out for all of us and especially those of us fortunate to be part of the ITC team. A strong leader and yet at the same time humble and caring. I will never forget you Joe. Clare and family remember all the good times and hold those close to your heart. May Joe rest in God's loving arms. Sending love to Clare and family.

Donna Zalewski - June 30, 2025 at 04:27 PM

JJ

“ Dear family of Joe Welch, with sincere condolences and sympathy for Joe's untimely passing, I am praying for you and Joe in this difficult time. I pray happy memories of Joe help ease the pain of losing such a wonderful man, husband, father, and visionary leader. I consider myself fortunate and lucky to have enjoyed a small handful of personal interactions with Joe, who was always approachable and friendly and interested in what you had to say or contribute - Joe made me and countless others feel valued and important. I consider Joe and the nations 1st transmission-only utility he formed - as incredibly important and foundational in my own life and 19 years at ITC. I was not surprised by all of his support to family and charities, and accomplishments outside of his professional career. He made numerous impacts in many walks of life. And while I am sad for his passing, it is reassuring to know because of his faith, that he is with the Lord now. Sincerely, Joe Jasinski - ITC engineering.



Joe Jasinski - June 30, 2025 at 03:40 PM

LL

Our thoughts and prayers go to all of the family members of Joe. The character of a person is measured by the charities they support and what they give back. Joe will be remembered for all his heartfelt contributions to others. He will be missed.

With deep sympathy from his retired friends at DTE, Len and Barb Laskowski

Len Laskowski - June 30, 2025 at 04:24 PM

LM

Our thoughts and prayers are with the family's of Joe at this point . He was a very special person to a lot of people around him, I was lucky enough to have worked on his racing programs and I will never forget he said to me if we work this deal out all I ask is you do everything the way I want it and I said not a problem your the boss , I admired him for that and we got along well . He never had a cross word with us and I was glad to do the work for him he was a very smart guy enjoyed his style , later in our deal he wanted me to go fishing in south Florida and I said I don't fish lol so he sent a photo of the rear of his boat that said MY WAY I Said that's you 100%. RIP my friend till we meet again

Larry Morgan - June 30, 2025 at 11:12 PM

DU

Im David Utermoehlen an old ARMA Kansas Bulldogs Highschool classmate classmate of Joe. We were exchanging emails Just up to a couple of weeks ago! I moved to Las Vegas. But i didn't get to see Joe car drag race at the Vegas Speedway & strip.

David Utermoehlen - July 01, 2025 at 06:25 AM



Sadly, i express my condolences to Joe Welch's family and friends! Joe never mentioned anything about his Health condition? Im shocked! I have not seen or talked to Joe since 1965 . After my 1965 Arma Kansas highschool graduation. Any other class members from his Arma highschool members? Peace 🌟🙏

David Utermoehlen - July 01, 2025 at 06:32 AM

MJ

To the Welch family, With sympathy for your loss. With caring thoughts and prayers. May you find strength in your faith, and peace knowing so many of us are praying for you now. Prayers never stops. God Blessing.

Mae O'Quin-Jefferson

Mae Jefferson - July 08, 2025 at 02:48 PM

MM

“ Remembering Joe Welch

It's not easy to find the words to describe a man like Joe Welch. Joe was a powerhouse — a bold, commanding presence with a mind built for leadership. As a titan in the business world, his achievements speak for themselves. But beyond the boardrooms and broadcast interviews, Joe was something rarer: generous, passionate, and fiercely loyal to those he respected.

We were fortunate to work with Joe through his racing endeavors, where his same intensity and drive carried over into engines and performance. He expected excellence, and he inspired it. Our relationship began with clear boundaries — two professionals, each experts in our own fields — and from that, a strong mutual respect grew.

Joe had a deep love for his dogs, who flew with him on his jet as true companions. He shared his stories freely, especially the ones that made you laugh or think — like when he helped fix the grid after a blackout in the northeast, or his radio interviews that gave a glimpse into the sharp, clever man behind the executive title.

We shared more than just engines. We shared stories, conversations, and moments — including time at his home in Florida, where the wine flowed and the talk ran deep. He was generous with us in ways we'll never forget, and we are humbled to have been part of his world.

Joe was a complex man. A powerful one. And a good one. He will be missed deeply. And we are forever grateful to have known him.

- Mike Moran

Mike Moran - June 30, 2025 at 02:16 PM



“ *Loving Lilies and Roses Bouquet was purchased for the family of Joseph Welch.*



June 30, 2025 at 11:00 AM



“ *condolences and comfort to the family of Joe Welch at this time end of the day to come.*

David Kuykendall - June 29, 2025 at 11:03 PM



“ *Ocean Breeze Spray was purchased for the family of Joseph Welch.*



June 29, 2025 at 09:28 PM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Joseph Welch.*

June 29, 2025 at 09:28 PM

GV

“ I first met Joe while guiding at the Krull Lodge. I enjoyed Joe and his friends. I quickly saw he was a good shot and was in the upper 10% of shooters. After I quit guiding I learned Joe had purchased the property. After duck hunting I drove into the lodge and reintroduced myself asking if he wanted any advise on how to best manage the land. I told him if he wanted to just shoot released pheasants he didn't need any of my help. But, if he wanted to maximize production of wild birds he need to make some major improvements to the land. His stated goal was to have the best pheasant habitat in SD! Our friendship began. I'm a retired wildlife biologist having served 26 years as SD's head biologist with the wildlife division. Joe and I spent countless hours looking over the land and made the necessary improvements. I enjoyed my work with Joe for free. At my advise and suggestion I designed 7 tree and shrub belts involving some 250,000 native trees and shrubs - a major project! He also at my suggestion removed any grazing or haying to let his nesting cover grass "rest" and mature into prime, undisturbed nesting cover. I told him he could hunt the trees and find birds in 5 years and that it would take 3 years for the grass to be prime nesting cover. I worked with and helped Joe up until he recently and tragically passed. I like Joe and am sure he liked me - we got along great. In my professional opinion Joe achieved his goal Griffon Point is the best pheasant land in SD! I enjoyed the time we spent together and valued our friendship began - he will be missed.

My heartfelt sympathy to all of you.

*George Vandel
Pierre, SD*

george vandel - June 29, 2025 at 05:06 PM



David Utermoehlen. My condolences to both family and friends of Joseph Welch. Former class members ARMA Kansas highschool of Joseph Welch. 🙏Peace 🌟

David Utermoehlen - July 01, 2025 at 08:35 AM



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



June 29, 2025 at 04:28 PM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Joseph Welch.*

June 29, 2025 at 04:28 PM