



## Joseph P. Gaetano

August 15, 1935 - July 25, 2019

Joseph Pasquale Gaetano, 83, of Eatontown, passed quietly at home surrounded by his loving family. Joe was born in Spilinga, Italy in 1935, coming to America as an infant. Arriving in Newark, his family later settled in Long Branch, where Joe graduated from LBHS in 1954. He would eventually move with his family to Eatontown, where he was a life-long resident.

Joe worked early on in life with the Monmouth County Sewage Authority, then he became a Realtor with Jamie Pavlis Real Estate in Eatontown. He also ran the infamous Double I Construction, with his partner, Pete McAuliffe, for many years.

His love for his community and the people around him was more than evident by vast variety of organizations and volunteering he did. He served in the NJ Army National Guard, being Honorably Discharged in 1961. Joe was a Life Member of the Eatontown Engine, Truck, & Hose Co. #1, serving as Chief in 1977, Eatontown First Aid Squad, Life Member, Captain 1971 and President, Eatontown Senior Housing Board of Directors, Eatontown Elks #2402- Charter Member, Eatontown Kiwanis Club-Past President, Fireman's Sunday Softball League- President/ Hall of Fame member, Navesink Masonic Lodge #9, Eatontown Traffic Safety Advisory Board, International Association of Old Bastard.

One of Joe's passions was volunteering his time in the interest of the children and schools in town. He served almost 23years between both the Eatontown Board of Education and the Monmouth Regional Board of Education. At

MRHS, Joe served from 1995-2011, 2013-2018, where he served as Vice President from 2005-2011. He was also proud to have achieved the level of Certified Board Leader-2011 and Master Board Member while with Monmouth Regional.

In the course of all his endeavors, Joe or Chief, would always be up for a good time. If he wasn't leading the way for a fire department social event, he would be attending one for another department. He enjoyed playing golf, where if you needed, a cocktail could be found in his cart. Although he was a Philadelphia Eagles fan, his Giants family tolerated it for his sake. Poppy also loved to plant his gardens each summer, where he found numerous location to grow them.

Later in life, Poppy's love and passion became his grandkids and the many "adopted" kids who came into his life. He leaves behind a vast group of his "kids" that will forever be touched by his being in their lives.

Joe was predeceased by his parents, Antonio and Margaret Gaetano, his wife Angela, and sister Julia. Surviving are his loving companion, Patricia Binkowski, his sister, Rosalie Sneath, daughters Dina Sabin and her husband Saul, Eatontown, Lisa Gaetano, North Carolina, Joseph A Gaetano, Tinton Falls, Anthony "Bubba" Gaetano and his wife Shannon, Eatontown. His 13 grandchildren, Laura, Jennifer, Brandy, Sierra, Gabriella, Gianna, Maria, Erika, Mason, Presley, Danielle, Isabella, and Angelina. He had 4 Great-Grandchildren, Giovanna, Areiya, Luciana, and Natalia. Uncle Joe also leaves behind many, many loving nieces and nephews of the Sneath, Cannella, Yenesel, Campbell, Torreggiani, Gatti, and Cornman families.

Visitation will be held on Sunday July 28, 2019 from 3pm to 8pm at the Bongarzone Funeral Home, 2400 Shafto Road, Tinton Falls. A funeral mass will be offered 10am on Monday July 29, 2019 at St. Dorothea's Roman Catholic Church, 240 Broad Street, Eatontown, NJ. Interment to follow at Shoreland Memorial Gardens Cemetery, Hazlet, NJ. The family has requested for everyone to go directly to church on Monday. In lieu of flowers donations in his memory may be made to: National Multiple Sclerosis Society, Aspen

Corporate Park 1, 1480 US Highway 9 North, Suite 301, Woodbridge, NJ  
07095 ([nationalmssociety.org](http://nationalmssociety.org)) would be appreciated. For online condolences,  
directions and to view full obituary please visit his memorial website at [www.bongarzonefuneralhome.com](http://www.bongarzonefuneralhome.com).

# Cemetery Details

## Shoreland Memorial Gardens

NJ-35 North  
Hazlet, NJ 07730

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUL 28. 3:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Bongarzone Funeral Home  
2400 Shafto Road  
Tinton Falls, NJ

## Funeral Mass

JUL 29. 10:00 AM (ET)

Saint Dorothea's Church  
240 Broad Street  
Eatontown, NJ

# Tribute Wall

BH

“ *Bongarzone Funeral Home lit a candle in memory of Joseph P. Gaetano*



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**bongarzone funeral home** - August 10, 2019 at 11:07 PM

VI

“ *You will be missed uncle Joey. You were the last one left of all my uncles and the last one left in my mother's family of that generation. I am so thankful we spent a few days together in April. It was bittersweet because I know you knew it would be the last time. Thank you for being my uncle. Love you.*

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**Vinnie** - July 29, 2019 at 02:33 PM

SJ

“ I met Joe “Fats” around 1952 when he lived with his family on Joline Ave. and I lived a block away on New Ocean Ave in Long Branch. I first met Joe when he worked briefly with me in my father’s gas station.

We got to be good friends in high school and beyond, which lasted till he passed.

We joined the New Jersey National Guard together with three of our close friends who are now deceased. I joined the US Army in 1955 and permanently moved to Maryland after marriage to my wife Betty in 1958. Betty soon became lasting friends with Joe and Angie on our many visits with my family in Long Branch.

I shared many memorable events with Joe, such as adjusting the brakes and head lamps on a very old 1930 Chevrolet and then having it sail through state inspection in Asbury Park.

Joe was an excellent dancer and we attended many local dances and parties with our buddies.

I was a member of the Youth Democrats, along with many of our buddies, where Joe held an elected office. Once at a meeting he made a proclamation opening with “Let’s look back into the future,” which broke up the meeting with much laughter.

Betty and I will miss Joe very much. Traveling back to Long Branch will not be the same without visiting Joe.

Betty and Sam Jones

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Sam Jones - July 28, 2019 at 09:10 PM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Joseph P. Gaetano.*



July 27, 2019 at 06:47 PM



“ *My deepest condolences to the family and friends. Our extended fire and first aid family. The firehouse and wildwood wont be the same. Hugs in heaven. We will miss and love you. Dan and Michelle lopez*



**Michelle Adams Lopez** - July 27, 2019 at 05:42 PM



“ *In loving memory of Joseph P. Gaetano, The last of my uncles, who always remembered my favorite things, like Oreo cookies! All my love and sympathy to the families of Dina, Lisa, Joseph and Anthony. A virtual hug to all of you from afar. Don't be sad! He would hate that! Live your lives to the fullest just like Uncle Joe. Gina & family*

**GINA MARIA TORREGGIANI** - July 27, 2019 at 08:30 AM

FC

“ I met Joe "Fats" in 1963 at Long Branch High School in our senior year.  
He wore his belt buckle on the side of his pants. He still does. We were all members of The Youth Democrats and one night at a meeting he said,  
"Let's look back to the future." Long before the movie was made. Joe was the best dancer and he always danced with Janet DeStefano (Caruso)  
Joe was my partner in the '60's when we had the wheels on the Long Branch Boardwalk.  
There never was and there will never be another Joe "Fats".  
A character who, if he did not exist, could not be imagined.  
God only made one Joe Gaetano, and now he is with God.  
Always loved you and always will.  
Fred Caruso

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fred caruso - July 26, 2019 at 08:51 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Joseph P. Gaetano.



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July 26, 2019 at 02:45 PM

JA

“ Whenever Mr. Gaetano came into Monmouth Regional High School he would stop into my office. He always put a smile on my face with his stories. He was a kind and generous man. I will truly miss him!  
Joyce Alimonti

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Joyce Alimonti - July 26, 2019 at 01:11 PM

CS

“ *What a sad day for Eatontown as we lost an amazing man. Me. G I will cherish every moment and memory from over a 30 year friendship. You always greeted me with a kiss, big smile and a hug. You will missed terribly missed old friend.*

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**Chris Sanders** - July 26, 2019 at 12:56 PM



“ *There are no words to express my sadness. This man was one of a kind. He always made me smile, he always made me laugh and he gave the best hugs. Heaven won a mighty Angel Joe, you will always be loved.*

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**Jean Catlow Arnold** - July 26, 2019 at 12:20 PM

CS

“ *Cassie And Bob Shearer lit a candle in memory of Joseph P. Gaetano*



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**Cassie and Bob Shearer** - July 26, 2019 at 12:18 PM