



## Samuel Joseph

March 28, 1921 - June 14, 2023

Samuel Joseph, 102, of North Hutingdon, the patriarch of the Joseph family and a member of America's greatest generation, passed into eternal life on Wednesday, June 14, 2023 following a brief illness. He was born on March 28, 1921 in Jeannette, Pennsylvania, the second of eight children of the late George and Margaret Ann (Peters) Joseph. Sam was a 1938 graduate of Jeannette High School, where he was a member of the Boys' Athletic Club, excelling in track at the 440. While in high school, he began working at McKee Glass Company. He later worked for Getto Distributing. On June 28, 1941, he married the love of his life, Ruth Marie Spore, and they were together for more than 66 years before her death on February 25, 2008. Together they raised and enjoyed a large and loving family, including six children – Barbara (Kenneth) Davis of Irwin; Samuel (Linda) Joseph, Jr. of Homosassa, Florida; Linda (Richard) McConnell of Irwin; Marcy Zezzo of Irwin; George (Tina) Joseph of Erie; and Geoffrey (Margie) Joseph of Greensburg. In addition, Sam loved his 13 grandchildren – Ken Davis, Jr.; Ron Davis; Marcy Lynn (Jim) Powers; Tom (Melanie) Joseph; Carrie (Julian) Muniz; Rich (Kelly) McConnell; Jr.; Michael (Stephanie) Zezzo; Darla Haller; Dan (Abigail Johnson) Joseph; Emily (Renzo Heredia) Joseph; Erin (Jon) Hartland; Bryan (Erin) Joseph; and Courtney Joseph – and 22 great-grandchildren, including: Shauna (Bradley) Doshen, Paul Davis, Wyatt Powers, Grayson Joseph, Adalynn Joseph, Samuel Melegari, Lindy Melegari, Liam Melegari, Harrison Melegari, Andres Muniz, Maddox McConnell, Cullen McConnell, Ella McConnell, Cole Zezzo,

Sophie Zezzo, Carson Haller, Lillian Hartland, Luke Hartland, Elia Joseph, Sophia Joseph, Ezra Joseph, and Summer Joseph. Known affectionately by everyone simply as “Pap,” he was proud to have an extended family of nieces and nephews and their families as well. Sam was a veteran of World War II, having served his country as a member of the 17th Army Airborne Division, known by the motto “Thunder from Heaven.” He participated in the Battle of the Bulge as well as Operation Varsity and was a recipient of a Purple Heart. Helping Ruth to raise a growing family, Sam worked during the day and went to school in the evenings to learn a trade. Acquiring his skills as a pattern maker, Sam was hired and worked for the Fisher Body Division of General Motors in Dravosburg until his retirement. Thereafter, he was hired by Fisher Body as a consultant to literally write the manual on how to perform his job. Sam was not the retiring type. He never let the grass grow under his feet. Sam enjoyed many hobbies over the years, including photography, tropical fish, beekeeping, fishing, amateur radio (N3AQZ), oil painting, and woodworking. A skilled craftsman, he hand-made grandfather clocks for each of his children. In his 70s, he even attended classes at Westmoreland County Community College to learn about computers. A deeply religious man, Sam was an active member for many years at the Irwin Presbyterian Church and later at the West Hempfield Presbyterian Church, the latter at which he served as a member of the choir and as an Adult Sunday School instructor. A man of many and varied talents, Sam was always willing to help others, but he remained exceedingly humble regarding his own contributions to any task. His joy came from celebrating the accomplishments of others. He reveled in hearing the exploits of his family members. He was a serious man, but one with a keen sense of humor and storytelling abilities. More than anything, he enjoyed anything that involved being with his family, who were very important to him, and he always looked forward to family visits. In addition to his parents and his wife, Ruth, Sam was preceded in death by his brothers and sisters – Marian (Lou Menanno), Margaret (Jim Throm), John (Charlotte Ressler), Rosemary (Ted Gerhart), and Dave (Linda Patterson), as well as Catherine

and George, Jr. who died in infancy. All of his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren survive. The family is grateful to the care provided to Sam by the employees of Weatherwood Manor and more recently the employees of Mountain View Memory Care. In lieu of flowers those wishing can contribute to Redstone at Home, 6 Garden Center Drive, Greensburg, PA 15601. Friends will be received from 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 p.m. Sunday, at the WILLIAM SNYDER FUNERAL HOME, INC., 521 Main St., Irwin, 724-863-1200. A funeral service will be held at 11 a.m. Monday in the funeral home, with the Rev. Andrew Wirt officiating, accompanied by Sam's dear friend, Rev. Dr. John B. Simpson. Interment will follow in Twin Valley Memorial Park.

# Cemetery Details

## Twin Valley Memorial Park

483 Athena Drive  
Delmont, PA 15626

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUN 18. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

William Snyder Funeral Home, Inc.  
521 Main Street  
Irwin, PA 15642  
(724) 863-1200  
<https://williamsnyderfuneralhome.com/>

## Visitation

JUN 18. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

William Snyder Funeral Home, Inc.  
521 Main Street  
Irwin, PA 15642  
(724) 863-1200  
<https://williamsnyderfuneralhome.com/>

## Funeral Service

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JUN 19. 11:00 AM - 11:30 AM (ET)

William Snyder Funeral Home, Inc.  
521 Main Street  
Irwin, PA 15642  
(724) 863-1200  
<https://williamsnyderfuneralhome.com/>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Samuel Joseph*

October 07, 2023 at 10:37 AM



“ *Sending my prayers of sympathy and of thanks for a life well-lived. My late Dad, Ed FitzGerald, was 1st Lt. in the 193A GIR, and served with Sam. May Sam's memory be a blessing. Fitz*

Tom FitzGerald - July 03, 2023 at 10:37 AM



“ *My acquaintance with Sam was brief - four years as the interim pastor at his church. But the acquaintance was a wonderful gift. Sam was an amazing gentleman in many ways. Although he enjoyed a long life, the world is still poorer for his passing. May you find peace and comfort in the God that loved Sam.*

Peggy Shannon - June 16, 2023 at 10:26 PM



“ *Sarah May lit a candle in memory of Samuel Joseph*



Sarah May - June 16, 2023 at 10:31 AM



“ *What a remarkable man with such a contribution to our country. Sorry for your loss. There's not many men like him left in our world.*

Lisa Kovalcin - June 16, 2023 at 10:17 AM



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



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June 16, 2023 at 09:52 AM



“ George

*Please accept my condolences on the loss of your father.*

*Amy McCaslin*

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**Amy McCaslin** - June 16, 2023 at 08:54 AM



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

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June 16, 2023 at 08:53 AM



“ Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of Samuel Joseph.



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June 16, 2023 at 08:53 AM