



## Joseph Warren Kempf

May 7, 1958 - July 22, 2022

It is with a heavy heart that we announce the passing of the man, the myth, and the legend, Joseph Warren Kempf. Born May 7, 1958, in Queens, New York, Joe was the oldest of Kathleen “Susie” Byrne and the late Warren O. Kempf. Joe made an early name for himself growing up in Greenville, New York, as the 4-H Milking Champion of Greene County, the captain of the baseball team, the sports writer for the Greenville High School Newspaper, seeing Monty Python and the Holy Grail “three hundred times” while working at the Greenville Drive-In, and by almost attending Woodstock (despite being eleven in 1969). Joe lived in Miami and San Francisco in his young adulthood, settling for many years in his adopted hometown of Glens Falls, where he raised his two daughters, Caitlin and Sarah. A friend to everyone, Joe spent many years moonlighting as a two-ingredient-per-drink-maximum bartender at the Hibernian Hall and at Sully’s East in Glens Falls. A Hawaiian shirt enthusiast, Joe was a lifelong Giants, Cuse, and Yankees fan, and could often be found cheering them on at his local watering hole. A wellknown Deadhead, Parrothead, and Stones listener, Joe saw live music as much as possible – though none could compare to seeing Mark Knopfler. After the loss of his beloved friend Dick Bilodeau, Joe organized a popular annual charity golf tournament in his honor. A creative speller, Joe was well-known for his many adages and one-liners, often telling his children that he couldn’t wait until tomorrow, because he got better looking every day.

The unofficial mayor of every place he called home, Joe most recently resided in Selkirk with his wife, Diane. A lover of giving speeches at any type of gathering, Joe would cook for a small army every holiday, bringing plates to people without family of their own, and only lighting the oven on fire once. During the course of his life, Joe celebrated countless accomplishments, including: walking both his daughters down the aisle; as an ice fishing consultant for an off-off-off Broadway play; as the philosopher of the Town of Bethlehem Highway Department; as the holder of the world’s best corned beef hash recipe; as the king of unsolicited advice; as a crew member for the Adirondack Balloon Festival; as a DEC handyman; as a roadie for his friend Diz; and more recently, as World’s Proudest Grandpa to Waylon Joseph Lawrence. If you hung with Joe, you went places.

Joe is survived by his beloved wife, Diane; his mother, Susie; his siblings Paul, Kathy (Kevin) Pacuk, and Warren (Pam) Kempf; his daughters and sons in law, Sarah Kempf-Brower & Ian Brower, and Caitlin Kempf-Lawrence and Chris Lawrence; his grandson, Waylon; his cousins, nieces, and nephews; and countless friends. Joe is predeceased by his father, Warren, and his brother, Timothy Kempf.

The family will receive relatives and friends on Tuesday, from 4:00 until 8:00 p.m. at Tebbutt Funeral Home, 633 Central Ave., Albany with the VFW Delmar Post 3185 conducting a service at 8:00 p.m. In lieu of flowers, the family is asking that donations be made to Warren-Hamilton Community Action, where Joe spent many years working and volunteering. <https://wahacaa.org/donate/> We imagine Joe would want everyone to know that the Bank of Dad is now closed; please have a big Bacardi & diet in his honor. Peace, love, and the Grateful Dead.

# Cemetery Details

## Greenville Rural Cemetery

11266 NY-32  
Greenville, NY 12083

# Previous Events

## Calling Hours

**JUL 26.** 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Tebbutt Funeral Home  
633 Central Avenue  
Albany, NY 12206  
[info@sbfuneralhome.com](mailto:info@sbfuneralhome.com)  
<https://sbfuneralhome.com>

## Prayer Service

**JUL 26.** 8:00 PM (ET)

Tebbutt Funeral Home  
633 Central Avenue  
Albany, NY 12206  
[info@sbfuneralhome.com](mailto:info@sbfuneralhome.com)  
<https://sbfuneralhome.com>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Joseph Warren Kempf.*



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July 26 at 12:55 PM

MA

“ *Diane and family,*

*Please accept my sincerest sympathy. My thoughts and prayers are with you.*

*Marilyn Smith*

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**Marilyn** - July 26 at 07:30 AM

KC

“ *Joe was a great man, wonderful father and the proudest grandfather ever! I will miss him. He made this planet better just by being himself.*

*Kathleen Callanan and family*

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**Kathleen Callanan** - July 25 at 05:56 PM



“ *Serenity Wreath was purchased for the family of Joseph Warren Kempf.*



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July 25 at 01:31 PM

ES

“ *So very saddened by this tremendous loss, One of the nicest guys I have ever had the pleasure of knowing and working with. My deepest condolences to you Diane , Sarah , and Caitlin !*

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**Emily Squadere-Bayle** - July 24 at 12:55 PM

SB

“ Joe was a good man, a great & fun co-worker. Condolences to Diane and their daughters.

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**s. Busted** - July 24 at 11:21 AM

MT

“ Diane and family so sorry for your loss. Joe was one of a kind. I always knew if I went into work at Verizon and Joe was there it was going to be a good night. He made me laugh like no one could. I will truly miss my friend.

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**Michele Therrien** - July 24 at 11:11 AM

JB

“ Diane - My deepest sympathy for the loss of Joe. He was such a happy and friendly person -someone fun to be around. I wish I was wise enough to know what to say - but know I (and many others) are thinking of you. I feel so sad for your loss - but glad for the time you had together and the life it gave you both. Know you are not alone. Joe Benoit

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**Joe Benoit** - July 24 at 10:29 AM