



Joseph Cacia

June 25, 1940 - November 9, 2021

Joseph Cacia passed away on November 9, 2021. He was the son of Nick and Rose Cacia and was born in Philadelphia on June 25, 1940. He grew up in Penns Grove and graduated from St. James High School in 1958. He graduated from West Chester University in 1962, and attained a Master's Degree in Guidance from The University of Villanova.

Joe married Marie Priest in 1963. He worked as a teacher, head football coach and Athletic Director at Saint James High School.

He moved to Hammonton in 1968 and became the head coach of Hammonton High School. He was also the Athletic Director and guidance counselor. While in Hammonton, Joe served several years as a town councilman.

Joe left the educational arena in 1975 to enter the business world, where he became the CEO and part owner of Pat and Gordon Bus company. He later moved on to become the acquisition manager of both Ryder and First Student bus companies.

As a result of his extraordinary success as a coach, Joe was inducted into the Hammonton High School Hall of fame, the Salem County Athletic Hall of fame, and The South Jersey Coaches Hall of Fame.

Joe is survived by his wife of 58 years, Marie Priest Cacia, his son Joseph Cacia and his wife Malea Cacia, his daughter Beth Marie Cacia Eldridge and her husband Jason Eldridge, his grandchildren Max Eldridge, Keira Eldridge, and Luca Cacia, his brother Frank Cacia and wife Dottie Cacia, his in-laws Helen Priest Gioia, Lou and Beverly Priest, Al and Diane Priest, Jim and Catherine Priest, and his many nieces and nephews.

The family would like to extend a sincere thank you to Joe's long-term care provider, Cindy, as well as Lori, Melinda, Robin and Shirley.

A visitation will be held at Ashcraft Funeral Home in Pennsville, NJ on Saturday November 13 from 9:00 am to 10:30 am, followed by 11:00 am Mass at St. Gabriel The Archangel in Carneys Point, NJ.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to The Alzheimer's Association or St. Jude's Children's Hospital.

www.ashcraftfuneralhomes.com

Cemetery Details

New St. Joseph's RC Cemetery

300 Paulsboro Rd.
Swedesboro, NJ

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 13. 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM (ET)

Ashcraft Funeral Home (PV)
740 S. Broadway
Pennsville, NJ 08070
(856) 299-3366
ashcraftfuneralhomes@gmail.com

Mass of Christian Burial

NOV 13. 11:00 AM (ET)

Ashcraft Funeral Home (PV)
740 S. Broadway
Pennsville, NJ 08070
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Tribute Wall



“ *Ashcraft Funeral Homes created a Tribute Video in memory of Joseph Cacia*



Ashcraft Funeral Homes - November 12, 2021 at 12:56 PM

JF

My deepest sympathy to the Cacia family. Coach will be truly missed by me and anyone who had the honor of playing for him. He was a great man.may he rest in peace.

John Farren - November 13, 2021 at 03:23 AM

“ If my 72 year book was at my fingertips I would post the picture of several of us lifting Coach on our shoulders with his hand held high pointing four fingers to the sky, the one in the video and at the viewing, because we had just won his and our fourth consecutive championship. I was fortunate to be on each of those teams. As a freshman and sophomore I watched coach interact with upper classmates during the course of a game. I saw his passion for success but I also saw his empathy for his players. Yes he was hard nosed at times because he needed to be. We need more people like that. He was emotional and inspirational thus 4 championships in a row. We need more people like that. He had many good characteristics, disciplined, dedicated, hard working and many more that all should emulate, including making fun for others around him to enjoy.

There are many great memories but at the moment though I remember how he respected and encouraged others. When I came to practice my senior year after the summer of which I made a decision to make Christ my Lord and Savior he encouraged me from day one and he carried that throughout the entire season, win or lose, but what really touched my heart is at the annual football banquet right as it was starting he came up to me and asked me if I would say a prayer and blessing over the meal. Even though a priest was sitting at the head table, he made a final gesture to end the year and showed love and respect to me for my confession of faith by asking that of me. I will not forget! Thank you coach! Thank you for the successful years in football! Thank you for promoting successful lives!

We are losing many good people around us and now we lost another one in Joe Cacia.

Many lives will never be the same but our hope remains the same in Christ and the work he accomplished for us on the cross and resurrection, we believers will all be together again one day.

There is a growing number of people I am hoping and believing to see. You are one of them coach!

Love and prayers to you Marie and your beautiful family!

Frank Chappine - November 16, 2021 at 08:34 PM

JF

“ *Jack Farren lit a candle in memory of Joseph Cacia*



Jack Farren - November 13, 2021 at 03:20 AM

JF

My condolences to the Cacia family. Coach will be truly missed by me and anyone who played for him. He was a great coach and man. Rest in peace coach.

John Farren - November 13, 2021 at 03:28 AM



“ *Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of Joseph Cacia.*



November 12, 2021 at 08:43 PM

CI

“ *Heart felt condolences to the Cacia Family. Mr. Cacia was influential in my early athletic career at St. James High School. He holds a highly respected place in my heart and I truly respected him as a mentor and leader. In Gods grace, rest in peace.*

Carlo A. DiTeodoro III

Carlo A. DiTeodoro III - November 12, 2021 at 06:21 PM

GH

“ My deepest sympathies to Marie and family. Joe and I shared many a good time running school bus businesses for Ryder, First Student and ourselves. We helped each other along the way, and became trusted friends. In the later years, we traveled the country with our wives, representing the National School Bus Drivers/Owners. I am blessed to have been able to call Joe Cacia my friend.
George H. Hoenes Jr.

George Hoenes - November 12, 2021 at 12:43 PM

PJ

“ Pete, JoAnn, Kristine, Peter, and JoAnn purchased the Care and Compassion Spray for the family of Joseph Cacia.



Pete, JoAnn, Kristine, Peter, and JoAnn - November 12, 2021 at 11:22 AM

CS

“ My condolences to Marie and her family, my thoughts are with you!!!
"Rest in peace Joe"

Carmela LaRosa Schreiner - November 11, 2021 at 05:07 PM

JO

RIP Joe. Much love and sympathy to Marie and her children Joesph and Beth Marie. So sorry for your loss. Cousin Joann

Joann - November 11, 2021 at 06:15 PM

FJ

To the Cacia Family: Please accept my condolences and prayers at this very difficult time. May he rest in peace.
SJHS class of '64 Sincerely, Florence Gagliardi Jaros

Florence Gagliardi Jaros - November 12, 2021 at 08:03 PM

DM

Many memories of Joe as a young teacher and coach. Blessings upon Joe's family as he entered Glory..
Don McNulty (SJHS '64)

Don McNulty - November 13, 2021 at 11:23 AM