



Joseph Pilla,

July 10, 1946 - November 3, 2012

Joseph Anthony Pilla Jr., the "Mayor of Catharpin," died on Nov 3rd after fighting a series of health challenges. He was 66.

Joe was born on July 10th, 1946, in Connellsville PA to his parents Joseph Anthony Sr and Mary Louise Hay Pilla. While he was an only child, Joe was never more than a block away from an extended family full of colorful characters that prepared Joe for a lifetime of pranks and punch lines.

Joe graduated from Connellsville High School in 1964 and Geneva College in 1968 where he studied Economics and played football.

After college, Joe began his teaching career at Fauquier High School where he met the love of his life, Malinda Neal whom he married in 1970. In 1974, Joe moved to Stonewall Jackson High School where he taught until his retirement in 2005. Along the way, Joe became an institution, known for being an equal opportunity prankster who taught students the business of friendship, loyalty and acceptance.

Joe gave freely, providing his students with lunch money, life lessons, and bad nicknames that were secretly a badge of honor. He taught them how to have an opinion by providing his own pearls such as; good football players only come from Western PA, nothing runs like a John Deer, nobody plays like Riggo and the Hogs or sounds as good as the Beach Boys, and the only food to eat is Italian and gum to chew is Teaberry.

Joe was survived by his wife of 42 years, his daughters Molly Pilla Hayes of Gainesville and Megan Pilla Clarke of Leesburg, and his grandchildren

Maggie and Samuel Hayes, and Joshua, Isaac, and Jonah Clarke.

The service will be from 3-5 on Saturday November 10th at the Pierce Funeral Home, 9609 Center St., Manassas, VA 20110

In Lieu of flowers, please send donations to Good Shepherds Fold Orphanage (Care of Claudia Arango) the first home of two of his grandsons.

<http://globaloutreach.org/missionaries.html#Africa>

Tribute Wall

LC

“ I graduated from Stonewall in 2004. Although I never had Mr. Pilla as a teacher, my father, Carl Carter, had him when he was attending Stonewall in the late 70s. By far, Mr. Pilla was his favorite teacher throughout high school. My dad even said he arranged his schedule just to be in Mr. Pilla's classes. My father passed suddenly a few years back, but had he still been here, I know he would have wanted to reach out to the friends and family of Mr. Pilla. I wish you my deepest condolences. I understand that Mr. Pilla was a funny, caring, and intelligent man who formed lasting bonds with his students. I am very sorry for your loss and Mr. Pilla's family will be in my thoughts and prayers.

Lauren Carter - September 03, 2013 at 11:50 AM

KP

“ Mrs. Pilla, my sincere sympathy to you and your family. We have crossed paths a couple of times in the last year, I guess this is why. I will pray for your family. Karen Albright Presgraves

Karen Albright Presgraves - August 30, 2013 at 01:47 PM

JC

“ My prayers are with the entire Pilla family. Our lives are all better for having known him and this world was a better place having him in it. The world needs more Mr. Pillas.

Jackie Jetten Combs - March 29, 2013 at 01:58 PM

NA

“ Joe was always kind to me, his sister-in-law. Always inviting me to come up and visit any time. And I could not leave for the trip home without food for lunch and maybe even some real Italian sausage. And did he ever love football. He would scare me sometimes when he would yell at the TV either about a touchdown or a stupid play. As so many have said before, he was a generous person. And when he gave a gift it had to be the best, no cheap stuff. Just knowing Joe, I know it would have been great to be a student in his class. I know he was respected by his students and taught them practical lessons about things that really matter. Joe will be missed.

Nancy - March 29, 2013 at 01:58 PM

JM

“ Please accept our sincere condolences from the entire Morrill family. We remember our time on Banbury Drive very well and can still hear Joe shouting "touchdown Morrill" and beeping the horn from his truck as he drove by. I am confident that he and Gayden will be watching the game this weekend. Our thoughts are with you during this tough time and we know how you feel. Warmly, Nancy, Robert and Jim

Jim Morrill - March 29, 2013 at 01:58 PM

TD

“ Mr. Pilla was one of my favorite teachers. There was never a dull moment in his class. I remember seeing him standing outside of his classroom yelling out things like "did you get dressed in the dark this morning?" He was so much fun! He will be greatly missed.

Condolences to the Pilla family.

Tryann (Southerland) Delaney - March 29, 2013 at 01:58 PM

AM

“ *My Children Marie, James & Juanita Rhodes all attendant Stonewall High .WE wanted to send our condolences to the family. The family will be in my prayers.*

Annie Massey - March 29, 2013 at 01:58 PM

EL

“ *Malinda, Molly, Meagan, and Grandkids,*

We are so very sorry to hear of Joe 's passing. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all. We are sorry as well that we did not make it to the viewing but would have loved to be there to share some memories of Joe. We mention him often and relate to others some of his "antics" while at FHS. He will never be forgotten.

Ed & Dell Lloyd - March 29, 2013 at 01:58 PM

WK

“ *We are so sorry for your loss. Mr. Pilla meant so much to Wes. I had the pleasure of meeting him a few times and he was a lovely man. He will be dearly missed.*

Wes and Lori Knight - March 29, 2013 at 01:58 PM

DT

“ Our condolences to the family. My wife and I went to school with Peppe.(the nick-name we had for Joe)I've known him since we were 4 yrs. old. Parents were friends(railroaders) Joe never called me Dick, It was always "Bird".Played football together at Connellsville highschool. I remember our senior year at football camp, Joe and another player were quitting and left in the morning to walk home. {An hour by car} Our head coach left camp and went after them. Was the easiest practice we ever had with the coach gone.I don't know how far they got but in an hour ,here comes the coach with them in the back seat and the coach's mouth chewing at them. Joe didn't Quit and we were happy he didn't.When we were in his company,he always had us laughing and in a good mood. He was a pleasure to know and to have as a friend, and he will be missed by his friends in connellsville.We mourn with your loss and pray that God will ease your pain and comfort you.
Joe's lifelong friend,
Richard(Bird)Tikey & wife Carol

Dick Tikey - March 29, 2013 at 01:58 PM

MA

“ I am so sorry to hear of Joe's passing. I wish I had known earlier so that I may have attended his funeral. I met Joe my first year in the county when I worked at Stonewall Jackson H.S.. I will always remember Joe as a jovial and happy man that only had one complaint in life...when one snowflake fell, his wife, a teacher in Fauquier, would not have to go to school but he always had to! His students loved him and I believe it was because of his sincerity and the way he cared for people. Even though I did not keep in touch like I would have wanted, I will always remember Joe. I want to leave you with an ad lib song lyric that I hold dearly. Joe, "I am not crying for you my friend, but crying for me". I can only hope to be half the educator you were...

Michael Adkins - March 29, 2013 at 01:58 PM

PC

“ I graduated in 1983. I had Joe my senior year in my first computer class. That parlayed into a career in Information Technology. We often butted heads and I felt I had to defend some of the recipients of his jokes, however, I realize now, that he was only trying to make us better. He is one of the teachers, over the years that I would see around town. He always remembered me and would greet me warmly with a how ya doing? I would see him in the 80's with his daughters dressed in Redskins gear. I remember our school bonfires and football games and him and his family. He definitely made an impression in my life and I am sorry to hear he passed so young and still working in a job he loved.

Pamela Pennington Cardwell - March 29, 2013 at 01:58 PM