



## Joseph Ricciardi, Jr.

January 18, 1932 - June 22, 2019

On June 22, 2019, Joseph Ricciardi, Jr. soared through the earthly plane with the ferocity and passion that fueled his entire life. Born on January 18, 1932 in Newark, New Jersey, Joe (a.k.a. Junior, Toopee, Joe Joe, Glass-son, Yazel, President, Dad, and Pop), was the firstborn son of Julia and Joseph Ricciardi, Sr. Growing up in Bloomfield, New Jersey, young Joe Joe played stick ball between the houses with his younger brother, Frank, and cousin, Duckie. A loyal New York Yankee fan until the end, Joe kept team stats which proved to be an early indication of his brilliant statistical mind. Joe's father had unfailing faith in his son, and predicted that young Joe would be president of his own company one day. Joe's father set the bar high, and Joe accepted the challenge. Joe learned to play the trumpet while in grade school. Emulating his hero, Harry James, Joe started his own swing band while in high school. His sets included all of the big band hits with, "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" as his signature song. In 1950, Joe enlisted in the United States Air Force during the Korean War. He was an Intelligence Specialist stationed in Japan and Tripoli. During his 4 years in the service, he took every opportunity to explore Europe, and this truly deepened his love of travel. The GI Bill afforded him the ability to attend college, a first for the Ricciardi family. Joe graduated with a degree in Business from Rutgers University in 1959. From his humble beginnings as a door-to-door salesman in Bloomfield, NJ, to becoming President and CEO of Media Recovery, Inc. in Dallas, TX, Joe gave new meaning to the phrase, "go-getter!" Joe had a critical hand in the creation of the first shock detector on the market, Shockwatch. His incredible entrepreneurial spirit combined with his goal-setting mindset laid the foundation for international success for the business. With his very own Rat Pack: Dick Polanski, Gene Reynolds, Doug MacElroy, Les Lorenzo, and Pete Zach, Joe took his company to phenomenal heights. "The secret to sales is product knowledge on fire!" Joe always said. None of Joe's professional success would have been possible without the firm foundation he established with his incredible wife of 60+ years, Theresa MacMullen Ricciardi. Together, they raised 4 children: Dina, Ron, Maureen, and Dani. Life grew even richer with their 3 grandchildren: Tori, Tony, and Julie plus honorary grandson, Chase Bailey. Joe was over the moon at the thought of his first great grandson, Luca Joseph Janky, due to arrive in mid-December 2019. Joe's family was his crowning achievement, his first priority, and his legacy. Joe was a lifelong sports

enthusiast. The NY Yankees were nearest and dearest to his heart, yet he made room for the Plano Wildcat High School football team as a season ticket holder for 42 years. Joe was an incredible bowler, and maintained his championship league status for decades. As an avid golfer, Joe played courses all over the world. One of his proudest moments was a hole-in-one on the 7th hole of Plantation Golf Resort in Frisco, Texas. Just three weeks ago, Joe was out on the course with his daughter sharing secrets of his short game. The Ricciardi's can cook, and Joe was no exception! After retirement, Joe's love of cooking really took shape. He spent many an hour watching the Food Network and then trying to convince Terry he knew what he was doing in the kitchen! He honed his skills over the years, and every other Sunday he owned the kitchen. For an east coast Italian guy, Joe made a killer spice rub for ribs, famous barbeque sauce, his Mom's struffoli, pickled zucchini, lentil and lima bean soups. Joe would say that his greatest joy was having everyone in the kitchen helping to make homemade pizza! These meals and his efforts were legendary. Joe had an amazing and unbreakable spirit. He was fearless, determined, strong-willed, quietly generous, spiritual, complex, and loyal. He greeted the world with a winning smile and unbelievable charm. Joe's outlook on life was always positive. "We all have choices to make, so make them positive choices," he would advise. There is simply not enough room for all of the words of wisdom Joe provided to his family, friends, and colleagues throughout the years. To say he will be missed is the understatement of the universe. Joe is preceded in death by his parents, Julie Ferraiolo Ricciardi and Joseph Ricciardi, Sr. of Toms River, NJ; and younger brother, Ronald W. Ricciardi of Lake Worth, FL. He is survived by his brother, Dr. Frank Ricciardi of Morristown, NJ; sister, Arlene Verne of Acton, CA; wife, Theresa, and children: Dina Ricciardi of Plano, TX; Ronald Ricciardi and wife, Jeri of Kansas City, MO; Maureen Brown of Dallas, TX; and Danielle Ricciardi of Plano, TX. Grandchildren: Victoria and husband, Zach Janky of Kansas City, MO; Anthony Ricciardi of Portland, OR; Julie Brown of McKinney, TX; and Chase Bailey of Frisco, TX. Funeral service will be on Saturday, July 6, 2019 at 3:00 PM in the Wildwood Chapel at Restland Funeral Home.

# Comments

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“ Dearest Maureen, I am deeply sorry for your loss. Your father was a special man who loved his family so very much. I will never forget how gracious and accepting he was of me so long ago. You and your beautiful family have always had a special place in my heart. May the care and love of those around you provide comfort and peace to get you through the days ahead. My most sincere condolences.

**Stephen Walker** - July 05, 2019 at 07:44 PM

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“ I had the pleasure of meeting and getting to know Mr. Ricciardi back in the early 80's. I played BB with Mo at Wilson Middle School, and I remember him and Mrs. Ricciardi being at every game cheering us on. Mo and I became best friends, during which time I spent quite a bit of time at their house. Mr. & Mrs. Ricciardi always made me welcome and at home. I know what a profound source of strength Joe was to his family and that he will be missed immensely. May God Bless him and keep him well and provide peace and comfort to your family until you all are together again. My sincerest condolences to Mo, Mrs. Ricciardi and the Ricciardi Family...You are all in my thoughts, my heart and my prayers during this most difficult time!

**Kristen Rommel-Boyd** - July 01, 2019 at 06:16 PM

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“ Sending prayers of comfort and sympathy to the family. ????

**Rhonda Walker** - June 30, 2019 at 12:24 PM

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“ My most heart felt condolences go out to the family. Joe was a good man to his family, friends and business associates. You will truly be missed. May your soul rest in peace.

**Jerry Brown** - June 30, 2019 at 10:48 AM

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“ When Joe and I first met, he was dating my sister, Theresa, now his wife. We were both attending Rutgers University in Newark. We had lunch together and he introduced me to a liverwurst sandwich with relish. I have been eating it ever since. He has always been there when help was needed. We have been both praying for each other in this late stage of life. Joe, I know you're up there with everyone who ever loved you. Pray for me as I will pray for you.

**Cathleen Ender** - June 28, 2019 at 07:03 PM

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“ You will be so missed by those who knew you personally and those who knew you through the stories of your family. No one loved you more than Maureen and Julie, and I loved getting to know you through them. Love you, Pop! We will all miss you!

**Alicia Aldridge** - June 27, 2019 at 09:11 PM

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“ Though I never met Mr. Ricciardi, Maureen is a loyal friend and speaks of him often. It is clear he is lined by everyone young and old. The words he spoke and advice he gave commanded attention by all who heard. He will be missed but never forgotten. Take comfort, be thankful and remember how rich you are for knowing this wonderful man.

**Craig Pruitt** - June 27, 2019 at 12:39 PM

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“ I am truly sorry for your loss, Dani. You and your family are in my thoughts and prayers. What a beautiful write up on his life and legacy. I wish you peace and comfort.

**Janie Sammis** - June 27, 2019 at 09:45 AM

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“ Dani, I am so sorry for your loss and my thoughts and prayers go out to you and your family.

**Ken Silva** - June 27, 2019 at 09:22 AM

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“ I never had the honor to meet Mr. Ricciardi in person but got to know a small part about him through the eyes and heart of his daughter, Maureen Brown. I don't know if a daughter ever existed that has adored and honored her father as she has. The stories of her dad that she'd bring to school with her on Mondays were the highlight of my week. Oh, how we'd laugh about his antics and the tears shed thinking about the day that would eventually come when the goodbye would be said. He raised an amazing daughter who has inspired so many as he inspired her. To your family, Maureen, I send my love and tears. I hope your dad and my son give heaven and the Angel's a run for their money!!!!

**Debra Wright** - June 26, 2019 at 08:59 PM

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“ Although I never met Mr. Ricciardi personally, I felt like I knew him on a personal level. I am a friend and a co-worker to Maureen who absolutely adored her father. She talked about him with such admiration and love. I loved hearing all of the stories that she would tell about life current and passed growing up as a Ricciardi. I know this will be a void that will never filled but everlasting memories of a loving husband, father, brother, etc. will last a lifetime. Sending my love to you all and prayers that the Lord comforts you at this time of grievance.

**Princess Booker** - June 26, 2019 at 12:26 PM

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“ Danielle, My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family at this time. I'm so very sorry for your loss.

**Stephanie Fernandez** - June 26, 2019 at 11:00 AM