



## Joseph E. Francis Jr.

December 11, 1944 - April 26, 2019

Joseph E. Francis Jr., age 74, passed away on April 26, 2019, in the comfort of his home with his loving wife and family.

Born on December 11, 1944 to the late Joseph E. Francis Sr. and Margaret Francis (nee Stetter).

Joseph lived his whole life in the City of Utica. He took much pride in serving his community by dedicating over

37 years working for the Utica Department of Public Works, 19 of those years as a Superintendent.

He also served on the Utica Fire Department for 31 years. His greatest joy was to spend time Up North with his family.

Those left to cherish his memory is his loving wife of 49 years, Nancy Francis. He is the loving father to Suzanne (Dean) Herman,

and Michael (Katherine) Francis. Also proud grandfather to Brandon Herman, Darren Herman, Kaitlyn Herman, Ryan Francis, Marion Francis, and Samantha Gross.

Dearest brother of Pauline Francis and the late Kathryn Francis.

He will be forever remembered for his bravery, integrity, sense of humor, love of chocolate, playing the saxophone, hunting and the outdoors and as the most loving and dedicated husband, father, and grandfather.

Visitation at the Wm Sullivan and Son Funeral Home 8459 Hall Road (3 Blks E. of Van Dyke) Utica Tuesday, April 30 from 2-9pm.

Funeral Service will be held on Wednesday, May 1 at 10 am from the funeral home.

Interment Christian Memorial Cemetery Rochester Hills, Michigan

Please share a memory at [www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com](http://www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com)

# Cemetery

**Christian Memorial Cemetery**  
521 E. Hamlin Road  
Rochester Hills, MI, 48307

# Events

**APR 30 Visitation 02:00PM - 09:00PM**  
Wm. Sullivan and Son Funeral Directors-Utica  
8459 Hall Road, Utica, MI, US, 48317

**APR 30 Passs & Review Fire Department 06:30PM**  
Wm. Sullivan and Son Funeral Directors-Utica  
8459 Hall Road, Utica, MI, US, 48317

**MAY 1 Funeral Service 10:00AM**  
Wm. Sullivan and Son Funeral Directors-Utica  
8459 Hall Road, Utica, MI, US, 48317

# Comments

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“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Dean Herman - May 02 at 09:28 PM

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“ 1 file added to the album Joe's Funeral Procession



DeanHerman - May 02 at 09:20 PM

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“ 1 file added to the album Joe's Funeral Procession



Dean Herman - May 01 at 08:22 PM

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“ I don't know where to start but I remember the time I asked Joe if I could marry his little girl. We went out for coffee at the Big Boys. I asked if I could marry Suzanne and he said how are you going to take care of my daughter? I said if I have to get two jobs to take care of her then that is what I will do. He said that all I need to know so yes you can marry her. So over the year I got to spend a lot of time with my father in-law Joe. We have spent time hunting and hanging out up north together. He has been a great man to me and my kids. Going up north this summer will never be the same with out my good friend to sit and have coffee with. You will be missed more then words can say. Love Dean

Dean Herman - April 30 at 11:19 PM



“ I’ve had a lot of time the past few days to think and remember you. There is so much that you have done in your life that I look up to you for. For all the years you spent as a hardworking fire fighter, a DPW worker for the city of Utica, a member of your jazz band, and being a loving, caring grandfather, you have been an inspiration to me. I’ll always look up to you as a hero and hope to be half the man you were grandpa. I love you and miss you up north won’t be the same without you but I know your looking down on us now.

**Brandon Herman** - April 29 at 07:01 PM



“ I remember when Joe and my sister, Nancy, started dating and how happy she was when they married. He also was a great stand in for my father when he walked me down the isle on my wedding day.

**Shirley Molzon** - April 29 at 06:39 PM



“ THANK YOU FOR THE MEMORIES OF ALL THE SUMMER VISITS IN DOLLAR BAY MI  
DAVE, ROGER & THERESA BEAUMONT

**ROGER BEAUMONT** - April 29 at 04:51 PM



“ DAVE, ROGER & THERESA BEAUMONT purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Joseph E. Francis Jr..



**ROGER BEAUMONT** - April 29 at 04:43 PM



“ Joey was so musically talented and he and his band played at our wedding nearly 50 years ago - August 23, 1969! He was amazing. Due to the geographical distance between us, our visits were almost non-existent, which is regretful! This is Dot Shorkey (Houghteling) and my husband Ron Shorkey. Joey will not be forgotten. We wish all who knew him healing and comfort at this difficult time!



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Joseph E. Francis Jr..



April 29 at 09:32 AM

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“ When I first met Joe through my older brother - he kind of scared the crap out of me. But over time I got to know that he was a fun, caring, solid, good man. He'll be missed by all that knew him.

**Keith Sikora** - April 29 at 09:13 AM

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“ Benjamin Schiff purchased the With Distinction for the family of Joseph E. Francis Jr..



**Benjamin Schiff** - April 29 at 08:52 AM

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“ Pauline Francis purchased the Lily and Rose Tribute Spray for the family of Joseph E. Francis Jr..



**Pauline Francis** - April 29 at 08:52 AM

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“ Going up north with grandpa was one of my best memories out of many. I loved riding around in the tractor with him and listening to all of his stories

**Samantha Gross** - April 28 at 06:53 PM