



Joel Douglas Frybarger

December 26, 1958 - December 22, 2016

Joel Douglas Frybarger was born in Coatesville, PA, on December 26, 1958. Within ten months of his birth, he was adopted by James Alfred and Janet Osborne Frybarger and his adopted sister, Joanne Frybarger.

He attended high school in Downingtown, graduated in 1976, and went to work at the Newman Paper Mill after graduation, for approximately 10 years. He then went to work at the LNP Plastics factory in Downingtown, PA, for over 11 years.

He loved raising and training champion beagles with his father, hunting, fishing and camping, frequently on the DelMarVa peninsula, particularly in Rock Hall, MD. In 1996, he bought a Golden Retriever pup from a local farmer in Pennsylvania and his life consequently took a radical change of course. While selling the pups, he brought some of them down to Rock Hall and sold one to Marge Tawoda. She would soon bring that dog, Sam, back to him in less than two years when they married in July 1998. Joel became a stepfather to Bob Tawoda and joined into a whole family of Shoremen, where he fit in just like he had lived on the shore his whole life.

Joel had moved to Rock Hall, MD, permanently, and after 2+ years of commuting 5 days a week to LNP in Downingtown, finally admitting he was getting tired of the drive and allowed himself to re-enter the world of cooking

that he had loved since being a teenager. He worked part-time for George and Patty Hopkins as a hunting guide and attended Chesapeake College for certification in cooking in about a year's time. Upon certification, he went to work for Nevitt Ford at the newly built Ford's Seafood in Rock Hall and happily cooked there until 2005.

Joel had also dreamed of having a home in the mountains, so he and Marge found a home in Somerset, PA, in the Laurel Highland Mountains. He then was employed by Jimmy and Lori dePhillips at the Oakhurst Tea Room in Somerset, PA, for over five years, While cooking at Oakhurst, Joel was first diagnosed with Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia and began treatment.

Also during this time there were two vital new influences in his life: two grandchildren who he just wanted to see more than once or twice a year, and he became a devoted fan of the Pittsburgh Steelers. So once again, he and his wife moved to Portage, MI, where Joel became a Grampa for his grandson, Cooper, and granddaughter, Isabelle.

Joel was instrumental in the care and recovery of Cooper after each of his three open-heart surgeries performed at the University of Michigan. Joel's sense of love and devotion for the two children was a driving force during his remissions and exacerbations with Leukemia over the next 4+ years, and a great sense of his joy.

When his type of leukemia was discerned at the Western Michigan Cancer Center, he was referred to the Detroit Medical Center, Karmanos Cancer Institute for a drug study program for a newly developed chemotherapy, and participated in the study for the last three years. Thru the exceptional care at Karmanos and Joel's physical stamina and courage, he was able to surpass his initial life expectancy of 64 months by two and a 1/2 years with an overall

good quality of life.

When he suffered an initial cardiac arrest November 23, LIFE Ambulance in Kalamazoo, MI, enabled him to revive and he received exceptional care for 28 more days of life at Bronson Methodist Hospital when he returned home with the Hospice of Southwest Michigan and he passed on December 22, 2016, four days shy of his 58th birthday.

He was a member of St. Barnabas Episcopal Church in Portage, MI, a genuine man who would go out of his way to help a stranger, and devoted man to his family. Through his treatment, one of his favorite things was exploring Michigan, the lighthouses, the wildlife and becoming a rock hound. His ability to find elk up north and on the Upper Peninsula brought him great joy.

Joel was preceded in death by his parents. Survivors are his sister, Joanne Frybarger; wife, Margery Frybarger; stepson, Robert Tawoda; and grandchildren, Isabelle Leigh and Cooper Owen Tawoda; many friends; and two devoted golden retrievers.

A celebration of Joel's life will be celebrated in the spring, Saturday, April 22, 2017, in Chestertown, MD, at the Fellows, Helfenbein and Newnam Funeral home at 1 p.m. A reception for fellowship will be held afterwards.

In lieu of flowers, please send a memorial contribution to either the Karmanos Cancer Institute, 4100 John R Street, Detroit, MI, 48021 or the American Heart Association, National Center, 7272 Greenville Avenue, Dallas, TX, 75231.

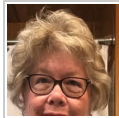
Tribute Wall



“ *Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Joel Douglas Frybarger*



Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home - April 18, 2017 at 10:06 AM



Jason, Lauren, this was a lovely video, thank you again.

Marge Frybarger - June 11, 2017 at 09:01 PM



“ *Joel Douglas Frybarger*

October 26, 2023 at 06:42 PM



“ *Joel Douglas Frybarger*

January 28, 2023 at 12:44 PM



“ *Joel Douglas Frybarger*

January 28, 2023 at 08:03 AM

JF

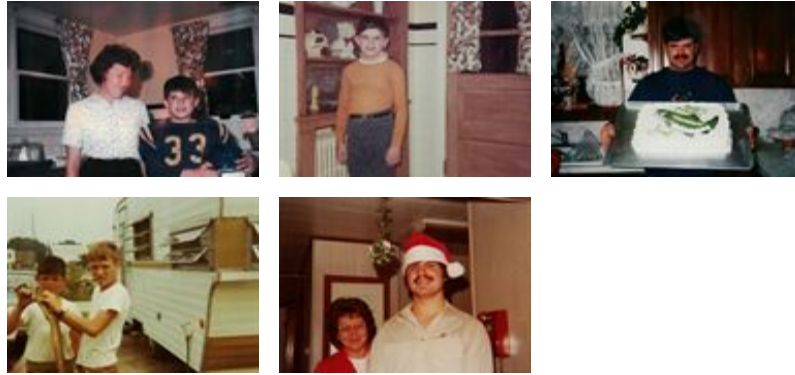
“ *Joanne Frybarger lit a candle in memory of Joel Douglas Frybarger*



Joanne Frybarger - April 23, 2017 at 07:36 PM



“ *125 files added to the album LifeTributes*



Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home - April 18, 2017 at 09:38 AM

PE

“ *Peggy States Edwards lit a candle in memory of Joel Douglas Frybarger*



Peggy States Edwards - January 07, 2017 at 05:24 AM

PE

Marge I am so sorry to read of Joel's passing on Dec. 26. I am thinking of you and your family in prayer. God Bless.

Peggy States Edwards - January 07, 2017 at 05:25 AM



Thank you so much Peggy.

Marge Frybarger - January 12, 2017 at 06:32 PM

SW

“ *Sharon Wert lit a candle in memory of Joel Douglas Frybarger*

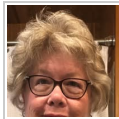


Sharon Wert - January 06, 2017 at 05:22 PM

SW

Marge, so sorry for your loss. What a valiant fight. You are in my prayers.

Sharon Wert - January 06, 2017 at 05:24 PM



Yes, Sharon, he did put up a might fight, thank you for your prayers,

Marge Frybarger - January 12, 2017 at 06:33 PM