



Joe Mele

April 6, 1920 - February 28, 2015

Joseph "Joe" Mele

Joe, age 94, passed away on Saturday, February 28, 2015 at North Oaks Medical Center. He was married to the love of his life, Margaret for 67 years. Joe served in the United States Army during WWII. He went to Mass daily and enjoyed gatherings with his family. Joe also enjoyed fishing and working in his yard, but most of all he enjoyed caring for his family. He lived a good, humble life and raised a beautiful and loving family.

Joe is survived by his wife, Margaret Johnson Mele; daughters, JoAnn Cali and husband Dominick and Susan Tiley and husband George; and son, Vito Mele and wife Olivia. He is also survived by his grandchildren, Joe Pete Mele and companion Kelly, Angela Locicero and husband John, Pamela Bankston and husband Christopher, Cynthia Lavergne and husband Travis, John E. Tiley, and George P. Tiley and wife Alyssa; and great-grandchildren, Lana and Luke Locicero, Brennan Bankston, and Lainey Lavergne.

He is preceded in death by parents, Vito and Margherita Mele; sisters, Francis, Cecelia, and Dorothy; brothers, Anthony, Vincent, and Peter; and grandparents, Antonio and Vincenzina Mele and Vincenzo and Cira Deliberto.

Relatives and friends are invited to attend the visitation from the chapel of Brandon G. Thompson Funeral Home on Tuesday from 6:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. Visitation will resume on Wednesday at Holy Ghost Catholic Church in Hammond from 10:00 a.m. until the Mass of Christian burial at 12:00 noon officiated by Father Cayet Mangiaracina. Interment will follow in Rose

Memorial Park Cemetery.

Condolences and other information are available online at www.thompsoncares.com.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Brandon G. Thompson Funeral Home.

Cemetery Details

Rose Memorial Park Cemetery

908 Western Avenue
Hammond, LA

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 3. 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM (CT)

Brandon G. Thompson Funeral Home - Hammond, LA
12012 Highway 190 W
Hammond, LA 70401
(225) 567-1884

Rosary

MAR 3. 7:00 PM (CT)

Brandon G. Thompson Funeral Home - Hammond, LA
12012 Highway 190 W
Hammond, LA 70401
(225) 567-1884

Visitation

MAR 4. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Holy Ghost Catholic Church
600 Oak St.
Hammond, La

Mass of Christian Burial

MAR 4. 12:00 PM (CT)

Holy Ghost Catholic Church
600 Oak St.
Hammond, La

Tribute Wall

“ Thank you to everyone for all your support and prayers as we said goodbye to my Papa Joe. He had a beautiful funeral mass today at Holy Ghost. I wanted to share my Eulogy that God gave me the strength to read today:

Papa Joe's Eulogy by his Granddaughter Pam

We have been blessed to have been given my grandfather, Joe Mele, and all that he has taught us for the past ninety-four years.

Born on April 6th, 1920 to Sicilian Immigrants, my great-grandparents, Vito and Margherita Mele, he was a brother to six siblings, my great uncles, Tony, Vince, and Pete and great aunts, Frances, Dot, and Celie.

He attended school right here at Holy Ghost where he obtained his childhood education and reinforcement of the Catholic faith taught to him by his parents.

At the young age of sixteen he stepped in to help fill the role of provider when his own father passed away.

He served our country for three and a half years in World War II. As a diesel mechanic in the army, he was part of the second wave on the beach in Normandy. But, God saved him to meet the love of his life----my Momo Margaret.

On December 7th, 1947, ironically the anniversary of the bombing of Pearl Harbor, he became her beloved husband.

His path crossed hers when he found himself sitting at her table during one of his lunch breaks from work. After many shared meals, he asked her to join him for a movie at the Columbia Theater. In his care and concern for her, he walked her home and has been attentively at her side for the past sixty-seven years.

With chilly hands from his job as a meat cutter, and a warm sweet heart, he helped raise three children, Uncle Vito, my mom, JoAnn, and Aunt Sue. Making their childhood fun, he took them trick-or-treating, brought them to watch fireworks on the 4th of July, and hung their Christmas decorations.

He and my grandmother spent their working years side-by-side in the grocery business, only stopping to catch that fish on Tuesday mornings.

He enjoyed his retirement years loving and doting on all of us, his wife, three children, six grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

He taught us all to laugh, joke, drive, fish, and always to be careful. Constantly concerned for our safety, he sat in carpool lines an hour early, made mailboxes swivel away from busy streets, and chased grandchildren with buckets of water to put out their fireworks.

Most of what he taught us was not with his words, but with his actions. He made the sign of the cross when he passed a church and turned off the radio during funeral processions. Not one time did he ever utter a foul word about anyone or speak a foul word at all, for that matter. He drove himself daily to church until he was physically unable about eight weeks ago. Then, he began watching mass on T.V. ---sometimes twice a day. He said his rosary and prayers all though out the day.

Not wanting us to fret, he never complained or asked for a thing for himself. He chose not to share a single burden with us. Many times over the years we asked him to tell us more about his wartime, but he always found a way to keep it to himself. What he endured we never knew.

Even with his last words and actions, he was still teaching us. When everyone began worrying over him, he shook his head, and told us, "I said my prayers." He taught us many things, but most of all love. Love for God and love for family. So, when we question what to do

in life, Papa Joe, all we have to do is take what you taught us, follow your lead, and we are sure to see you again!

Pam Bankston - March 04, 2015 at 09:21 PM

SJ

“ *Sorry for your loss!*

stacey james - March 03, 2015 at 04:49 PM

VT

“ *I worked with Mr. Joe many years ago at A&P. He was a very hard worker but was always ready to take time and listen if you had a problem or needed some guidance. I know his family will miss him very much.*

Vince Tallo

Vince Tallo - March 03, 2015 at 04:05 PM

TF

“ *The Allulli Family purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Joe Mele.*



The Allulli Family - March 03, 2015 at 06:33 AM

VM

“ *Vic Mele (Kicky) and Lucille Mele purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Joe Mele.*



Vic Mele (Kicky) and Lucille Mele - March 02, 2015 at 07:09 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Joe Mele.*



March 02, 2015 at 05:03 PM

RF

“ *Russell, Carla, and Family. purchased the Garden of Serenity Bouquet for the family of Joe Mele.*



Russell, Carla, and Family. - March 02, 2015 at 02:00 PM