



## Joseph "Joe" Bussman Jr.

March 2, 1943 - March 14, 2019

Joseph "Joe" Frederick Bussman Jr., 76, of Topeka, Illinois passed away at 7:30 a.m. on March 14, 2019 at his home. He was born on March 2, 1943 to Pauline Carollo Bussman and Joseph F. Bussman Sr. Joe also has a younger brother Paul Bussman. They all preceded him in death.

Joe is survived by the love of his life, wife Lelia "Margo" Bussman whom he was married to for 47 years. They were married on October 2, 1971 in Peoria, Illinois.

Also surviving are his daughters Kimberly Jo (Jason) Riddle of Brookfield, Missouri and Melissa Rademacker of Green Valley, Illinois. He also has two grandchildren, his pride and joys, Gavin Riddle and Ava Rademacker. Also surviving is Rick Rademacker of Green Valley, Illinois.

Joe worked for many telephone companies as a lineman, Centel, Sprint, and lastly Gallatin River Communications, retiring in 2006. He also had his own tree service for many years as well. Joe is also an Army veteran, serving in Germany for four years after high school. Joe graduated from Richwoods High School in 1961, where he was a star football player, a superb athlete all around, and also on the swim and dive team.

Joe was a true River Rat, his passion and love for the outdoors earned him his name as he fished and duck hunted all his life, growing up on the river. A true hero he was, as in November 1978, he rescued several distressed duck hunters on the river, which earned him a Humanitarian award presented by Centel Telephone Company. His passion and respect for the outdoors was

infectious along with his personality. He never met a stranger. He loved working in his yard with his wife, teaching his daughters and grandchildren to fish, hunt, love, and most of all, live.

He also loved to go to his oldest daughter's farm in Jamesport, Missouri and fish, but most of all he loved his family. Joe was "one of a kind", humble and proud. The blessing of your life is your spirit that he had, and will be greatly missed.

His wishes were to be cremated, there will be no services at this time. Any memorial contributions can be made to Ducks Unlimited or any wetland preservation.

Hurley Funeral Home in Havana is assisting with arrangements.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Joseph "Joe" Bussman Jr.*

October 12, 2022 at 03:07 PM



“ *I grew up with Joe and Paul in our house he was a good friend of my cousins. Mom always said Joe could smell the cookies baking. Such a great person. He will be missed fly high*

**Sally Yates Linski** - April 04, 2019 at 10:25 PM



“ *Sorry for your lost he was a great man and will be missed by a lot of people*



**Colleen Sarnes** - April 02, 2019 at 09:02 AM



“ *Sandra McGrew - Wommack lit a candle in memory of Joseph "Joe" Bussman Jr.*



**Sandra McGrew - Wommack** - April 02, 2019 at 08:35 AM

SW

“ I wil miss Joe he was a big part of my childhood as he worked with my father at Centel telephone company. He always had a big smile and called me kid.

Sandra McGrew - Wommack - April 02, 2019 at 08:34 AM

Sheila Griffin

“ Sheila Griffin lit a candle in memory of Joseph "Joe" Bussman Jr.



Sheila Griffin - April 02, 2019 at 07:05 AM

LK

“ So sorry to hear of Joe's passing. He was a Dear friend to us and All around "Good Guy". He always had a story to tell and was always willing to help Larry & I out. I don't think anyone was a Stranger to Joe for long. I know Larry really missed their talks after we closed the Bar. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all. He will be truly missed by many. Rest in peace Joe.



Larry & Dee Karnes - March 17, 2019 at 07:38 PM

MR

Thank You for your kind words. You know as well as I , your place was the last stop before coming home from work. He loved talking and telling stories and he knew he could talk to you about anything. Thank you for your great friendship with Pops. Sure gonna be hard without him around. Love, Melissa and Family.

Melissa Rademacker - March 24, 2019 at 08:59 PM

JW

“ Joey was my oldest cousin. When he was born I stood on our great-grandmother, Melanie DeDobbeleer's patio, and someone (Aunt Pauline maybe) put him in my arms. It is a cute photograph that I treasure. I'll send as copy.

*I was so sorry to hear that he passed. Even though I hadn't heard from him in a long time I continued to send him cards and wished him well. Bless him. I remember happy days when we were children.*

---

**Jacqueline Werckle White** - March 17, 2019 at 07:31 PM

GB

“ My prayers to the family. I worked with Joe at Centel and had picket duty with him in Havana in 1975. He was always laughing and you knew when he was in the room. He will be missed.

---

**Georgia Brown** - March 17, 2019 at 02:25 PM

GB

“ Georgia Brown lit a candle in memory of Joseph "Joe" Bussman Jr.



---

**Georgia Brown** - March 17, 2019 at 02:22 PM

NW

“ Nancy Chaney Wilson lit a candle in memory of Joseph "Joe" Bussman Jr.



---

**Nancy Chaney Wilson** - March 17, 2019 at 12:17 AM

DB

*Joe was great friend we worked together at the phone company always a happy and full of bull? Hard worker great friend sorry for his loss God blessings to his family Rest In Peace brother*

**Don brush** - March 17, 2019 at 04:07 PM

NB

“ *So sorry to hear of Joe's passing. Gary has many memories of Joe during the 35 years they worked together at the phone company. Joe was always friendly & caring about us & our family even after he retired. He would always stop & talk with us whenever we saw him. He will be missed. Gary & Nancy Blakely*

**Nancy Blakely** - March 16, 2019 at 09:20 PM

RF

*Always a gentleman with many amusing stories. He never missed saying hi and thought very highly of his family.*

**Renate Frederking** - March 18, 2019 at 01:36 AM

BM

“ *I was a friend from the phone company. He was a good person and will missed. My prayers go out to his family*

**Bev Martin** - March 16, 2019 at 08:38 PM

BM

“ *Bev Martin lit a candle in memory of Joseph "Joe" Bussman Jr.*



**Bev Martin** - March 16, 2019 at 08:36 PM

DW

“ Joe was a great man Sorry for your loss Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family



Dan and Chris Wilson - March 16, 2019 at 03:23 PM

GG

“ Gary And Patricia Gilbreath lit a candle in memory of Joseph "Joe" Bussman Jr.



Gary and Patricia Gilbreath - March 16, 2019 at 09:02 AM

LH

“ Larry And Mary Hundt lit a candle in memory of Joseph "Joe" Bussman Jr.



Larry and Mary Hundt - March 16, 2019 at 08:29 AM

DM

“ My deepest sympathy to Joe's family.. I met him when he repaired my phone many years ago.. Indeed he was a truly a one of a kind gentleman and gentle man.. Always a smile and a hi,how you. Rest in peace,Joe..

Dorothy Millar - March 15, 2019 at 09:56 PM

PB

“ *Pauline Bailey lit a candle in memory of Joseph "Joe" Bussman Jr.*



Pauline Bailey - March 15, 2019 at 08:44 PM

SS

“ *Susan Showalter lit a candle in memory of Joseph "Joe" Bussman Jr.*



Susan Showalter - March 15, 2019 at 08:24 PM

SS

“ *So sorry for Joes family and their loss. Joe was a good hard working man. Margo and family you are in my prayers.*

Susan Showalter - March 15, 2019 at 08:24 PM

JB

“ *Jim & AJ Burgett lit a candle in memory of Joseph "Joe" Bussman Jr.*



Jim & AJ Burgett - March 15, 2019 at 08:22 PM

LE

“ Joe was a great man , always had a good heart and a story to tell . When my sister passed in a car accident many years ago I went to the location of that accident . Joe was there fixing the lines and handed me a picture he found there and said , I found this picture and knew I lost a good friend . That’s how I fill at this moment . I lost a good friend ! RIP JOE !

laura Ebert - March 15, 2019 at 05:28 PM

DW

“ Dan And Chris Wilson lit a candle in memory of Joseph "Joe" Bussman Jr.



Dan and Chris Wilson - March 15, 2019 at 03:52 PM

DW

“ Sorry for your loss Joe was a great man, Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family

Dan and Chris Wilson - March 15, 2019 at 03:52 PM

RS

“ Sending our love in your time of loss Aunt Margarite, Kim, Melissa, Ava and Gavin.  
Love Roger, Carla & Kyle Simpson



Roger Simpson - March 15, 2019 at 03:47 PM



“ *Lloyd Hamilton lit a candle in memory of Joseph "Joe" Bussman Jr.*



---

**Lloyd Hamilton** - March 15, 2019 at 03:38 PM



“ *Melody Lynn lit a candle in memory of Joseph "Joe" Bussman Jr.*



---

**Melody Lynn** - March 15, 2019 at 01:59 PM



“ *Luetta Snyder lit a candle in memory of Joseph "Joe" Bussman Jr.*



---

**Luetta Snyder** - March 15, 2019 at 01:58 PM



“ *Sorry for your family's loss!*



---

**Lisa Jill Ulrich Thompson** - March 15, 2019 at 01:11 PM

LW

“ *Lori And Dan Wright lit a candle in memory of Joseph "Joe" Bussman Jr.*



---

**Lori and Dan Wright** - March 15, 2019 at 01:08 PM