



Joseph A. Miodonka

August 14, 1931 - October 27, 2021

Joseph Andrew Miodonka, 90, passed away peacefully at home on Wednesday, October 27, 2021, with loving family by his side. Born in Chicopee in 1931, the son of the late Andrej and Mary (Grochmal) Miodonka, he resided in Chicopee before relocating to Feeding Hills, where he and his wife built their family home. Joseph graduated with high honors from Chicopee High School, Class of 1948, where he also participated on the baseball team. In 1951, Joseph joined and served in the US Army Air Force during the Korean Conflict. Following his Honorable Discharge from the service, he furthered his education at Holyoke Community College, earning an Associates Degree in Science, majoring in Business Administration. An active Student Council member for two years, Joe was also chairman of the Brightside Christmas Party, and member of the yearbook staff. He served as student representative at the 3rd annual New England Regional Conference on Foreign Affairs at Harvard University. Joseph began his career in the food industry with Stop & Shop, and worked his way up to Journeyman Meat Cutter. He retained a higher status as Head Meat Manager, who was responsible for training numerous apprentices. Joe was later hired by H. L. Handy, a subsidiary of Swift & Co. in the Standard and Quality Control Dept. Advancing and transferring to the Sales Department, he received the Master Salesman Award for Swift and Co in 1958. Waldbaum's Food Mart hired him in 1959 where he became instrumental with his fellow workers in organizing Food Mart, Carando Foods, and several New England affiliated stores under

the banner of The Amalgamated Meat Cutters Union. In May of 1969, Joseph was appointed and elected to the office of 1st Vice-President-Union Representative. Joseph served in various capacities in several organizations, including the Pioneer Valley Labor Council, V.P. of the MA State, AFL-CIO, V.P. of the MA Union Label, and Sergeant of Arms of the U.F.C.W. Joseph also served as a guest lecturer at Labor Seminars at UMass -Amherst and Springfield College. His strength was to promote jobs and health care benefits, remaining unbiased to all, by supporting local businesses and American farmers. Joseph was a devoted parishioner of the Basilica of Stanislaus, Bishop & Martyr, where he offered his time and effort serving in a diverse array of charities, including the Nocturnal Adoration Society. A true family man, Joseph was a devout Catholic believing in the power of prayer through the intercession of Blessed Mother, his namesake St. Joseph and Jesus. He actively engaged to disseminate the true meaning of Christ's teachings expressing acts of kindness and charities to those in need. Naturally humble and sacrificing for others, Joseph continually portrayed acts of unconditional love. Embracing Polish traditions, Joseph instilled this culture to his daughters and grandchildren. Joe enjoyed nature and the great outdoors and also had a keen sense of humor and wit. He enjoyed reading, gardening, golfing, grocery shopping, and was a huge fan of the Red Sox and Patriots. For eight years the couple volunteered as Foster parents to support and train guide dogs for those who are blind for the Fidelco Guide Dog Foundation. He enjoyed travels with his family to Lake Champlain, Mt. Washington, Canada, Poland, and the Holy Land. Faithful Husband, beloved Father, #1 Dad, loving Dziadziu, Uncle and friend, our family extends our deepest gratitude to the Franciscans for their prayers, the Ministry of Care, professional caregivers, HVNA, and loving support from all family, friends, and neighbors. Joseph was predeceased in 2020 by his beloved wife of sixty-five years, Edna (Kowal) Miodonka, and also in 2020 by his first-born daughter, Andrea Miodonka. He was also predeceased by his son-in-law, Carl Labounty, and his three brothers and four sisters. Joseph is survived by his four loving

daughters, Marcia Leclerc and husband Michael, Regina Labounty, Francine Kumiega and husband James of Chicopee, and Kristen Debian and husband Dr. Badri of West Springfield; four cherished grandchildren, Mason, Sarah, Hannah and Laylah; caring sister, Teresa Pranaitis, and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. Funeral services for Joseph will be held Tuesday from Kozikowski Funeral Home, 565 Front St., Chicopee, followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at 10AM in St. Stanislaus Basilica. Committal services and burial with Military Honors will follow in St. Stanislaus Cemetery. Calling hours are Tuesday from 8-9:45AM. Memorial contributions may be made to the Ministry of Care of St. Stanislaus Basilica, 566 Front St., Chicopee, MA 01013.

Cemetery Details

St. Stanislaus Cemetery

800 Montgomery St.
Chicopee, MA

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 2. 8:00 AM - 9:45 AM (ET)

Kozikowski Funeral Home
565 Front Street
Chicopee, MA 01013
(413) 592-9256
kozikowskifh@gmail.com

Mass

NOV 2. 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Stanislaus Basilica_
566 Front St.
Chicopee, MA

Tribute Wall

AL

“ *Anna & Ted Lekarczyk lit a candle in memory of Joseph A. Miodonka*



anna & Ted lekarczyk - November 02, 2021 at 06:46 AM

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“ *I remember Joe coming to our home with the first dog on the foster program. You could see how much he lived this beautiful dog. Yes Joe was very special, kind and loving everybody's friend. I feel God has a special place for him in heaven. Mt deepest sympathy to the family*
Eleanor Stepanik

Eleanor Stepanik - November 01, 2021 at 05:31 PM