



Dr. Joe F. Emons

September 14, 1926 - April 27, 2011

Dr. Joe F. Emons died peacefully on April 27th 2011 at his home in Godfrey surrounded by his family. Born September 14, 1926 in Alton, he was the son of Dr. Walter W. and Helen (Finger) Emons. Dr. Emons moved to Godfrey at age 9 and lived there the rest of his life. His father was a dentist and the profession seemed interesting so after serving in the Army Air Corps he decided to follow in his footsteps. He attended Shurtleff College, University of Illinois in Galesburg, and St. Louis University Dental School, graduating in 1952. Dr. Emons practiced dentistry in Alton for 50 years, always finding his work to be exciting, challenging, and gratifying. In 1950 he married the former Shirley Zito who survives. Their children are Paula Emons-Fuessle and her husband, Robert, of Washington, IL, Gayle Joehl and her husband, Steve, of Chesterfield, MO, and Dr. Matt Emons of West Hollywood, CA. Also surviving are five grandsons, Torben Fuessle and wife Stacy of Midlothian, VA, Nils Fuessle and his fiancée Emily Bond of Kansas City, MO, Peter Fuessle of Los Alamos, NM, Andy Joehl and his fiancée Susan Larson of St. Louis Park, MN, and Eric Joehl of Evanston, IL. He was preceded in death by his sister, E. Joan Martin.

Dr. Emons' primary hobby was racing sailplanes. He was always grateful that it was a seasonal sport so that he could pursue his other hobbies which included watercolor painting, machine shop work, woodworking, and woodturning. In February 2010 his art and life were featured in an exhibit in

the Trimpe Building at Lewis & Clark Community College. One of his most satisfying accomplishments was that he built the home he and his wife shared for 42 years. It took four years of perseverance since he did all the work himself including carpenter work, plumbing, heating and electrical. Dr. Emons was a member of the International Wood Collectors Society. He was an active member of the Woodturners of St. Louis and was recently awarded their first commendation as a lifetime member. He was a member of St. Louis Soaring Club, Silver Creek Soaring Club, and the Soaring Society of America. He won the 15 Meter National Championship in Bryan, OH in 1976 as well as many other soaring competitions. Memorials may be made to the Alton Catholic Children's Home, 1400 State St., Alton IL 62002 or to a charity of choice. Gent Funeral Home in Alton is in charge of arrangements. Online guestbook and information may be found at www.gentfuneralhome.com

In 1991 Joe wrote: "When my time comes, please don't have a funeral for me... I know the family will want to get together and console one another but try not to feel badly about my death; it is inevitable for all of us. Not many people can say they enjoyed life more than I. How fortunate I was to marry Shirley and to bring three beautiful children into this world. How many can say they flew with the birds, traveled extensively, built their own home, enjoyed many hobbies and earned a respectable living helping other people save their teeth. So no coffin, no grave, no services, just fond memories."

PDF Printable Version

Tribute Wall



“ *Dr. Joe F. Emons*

January 28, 2023 at 10:19 AM



“ *Dr. Joe F. Emons*

January 28, 2023 at 08:19 AM



“ *I wish I would have known sooner. I will always cherish the time he spent building my wonderful dollhouse.*

Megan - June 13, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ *Shirley*

I am sorry to learn about Joe and offer you my sympathy. The years are rolling by and all my old time friends are leaving me. God Bless You.

Virgil F Kannall, Scotts Valley California

Virgil F Kannall - September 15, 2011 at 12:00 AM

CA

“ I was an employee of Dr. Emons for 7 years in the 70's. I am a testament to his skills as a dentist as I am still chewing on the bridges he built for me then. I always thought he was the most talented, generous, conscientious, intelligent man I had ever met. He was the one that was so kind to my first grandson, Patrick that Pat would say he loved to go to the dentist! I am sure his family will miss him greatly but we all know he is still "flying high".

Cherie Ahlquist - May 16, 2011 at 12:00 AM

AD

“ Shirley, I am so happy to have had the chance to get to know your lovely family better over the past year and to have become re-acquainted with Dr. Joe. As our family dentist he was always so kind and generous to us and so obviously cared about the well-being of all his patients. I remember him frequently distracting me from my 'dental nerves' with wild stories about flying. It always worked! It was also so nice to get to know him through his beautiful exhibit at Lewis and Clark and to feel a bond with him through his appreciation for modern design and innate curiosity and desire to create. My heartfelt condolences for your family's loss.

Andrew Dobson - May 09, 2011 at 12:00 AM

AN

“ You will be missed Papa Joe. You definitely lived life to the fullest and I have no doubt that you've deeply inspired many people. They will carry on your memory for lifetimes to come.

Anne - May 05, 2011 at 12:00 AM

DW

“ *It's difficult to say goodbye after only one life*

The rain will fall down replenishing all of our broken dreams

And this burning tree that's withering will bloom again

Would you believe?

Goodbye, goodbye

Walk away it's time to say goodbye

Goodbye, goodbye

Walk away it's hard to say goodbye

Now all that's left

Pictures on the walls

Memories and stories that are told

The more often told the bigger they get

Create a legacy lest we forget

Goodbye, goodbye

Walk away it's time to say goodbye

No longer can I hold onto this defeated change in heart

I swear

It's time to sing "fare thee well" to life as we know it

My voice it will be,

You know I will be,

Yes it will be still

We will miss you Joe

A soul so young and a heart so great.

Dr & Mrs Andrew Woulfe - May 02, 2011 at 12:00 AM

BM

“ *Hi Shirley & Family,*

I think of you from time to time. I am sorry to here about Joe. I am sorry for the loneliness that will follow. Love You Lots your friend Barb

Barbara McDonald - May 01, 2011 at 12:00 AM

FH

“ Dear Shirley and Family,

We feel as though we know you and your family through our son, Mike and his wife, Lisa. What wonderful memories they have from being close to you and enjoying your kindness and company over the years. We know this will be a terrible void for all those who knew Dr. Emons. He has touched so many lives because of his gentleness and thoughtfulness. Our prayers and thoughts are with you and your family at this difficult time. May God Bless you and keep you strong.

Fred & Mary Ann Hentrich - May 01, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JW

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you at this time.

Jim and Becky (Carson) Whiteside

Jim andn Becky (Carson) Whiteside - April 30, 2011 at 12:00 AM

TO

“ *I have many enjoyable memories of Joe and the activities he introduced me to, like competition model aircraft, and airplane design. He came by Carlyle last to show us his Libelle sailplane, and told us of his first Libelle, which was at the bottom of the Atlantic, in a crate in a sunk cargo ship. We enjoyed flying stories. A person I was proud to call my friend. Our sympathy to his beloved Shirley.*

Terrence O'Neill - April 30, 2011 at 12:00 AM

 SC

“ *Dr. Joe F. Emons*

Sarah Cohen - April 30, 2011 at 12:00 AM

 JJ

“ *Thanks Joe for letting me be your friend and share your accomplishments in life. I will always think of you as a good friend.*

Jerry Bandy Jr. - April 29, 2011 at 12:00 AM

 JF

“ *I was the curator for Joe's exhibition at LCCC. We will always remember Joe and Shirley coming every day to see the progress of their show. Joe always had something wry and wonderful to say. The whole team of workers loved to see them both. My son Coleman was enchanted by them both. We will do as Joe suggested and remember him fondly...we love him...he was the most incredible of human beings.*

jim price and family - April 29, 2011 at 12:00 AM

 KM

“ *Hi Shirley- So sorry tohear about Joe. What wonderful memories I have of all those years spent at the airstrip . YOu and Joe are part of a time in my life filled with good friends and lots of good times.*
Kitty Maring

Kitty Orbin Maring - April 29, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *A sympathy card has been sent to a friend or relative of Dr. Joe F. Emons.*

April 29, 2011 at 12:00 AM

MS

“ Paula,

I extend my deepest sympathy to you and your family.

You are in my thoughts and prayers,

Marilyn Gissler Stewart

Marilyn Gissler Stewart - April 29, 2011 at 12:00 AM

SJ

“ *I was fortunate to meet & marry Joe's daughter, Gayle, who exudes and lives under the same principles taught by him. I have not met a more humble and talented man. What a role model for his family and for all who knew him. I will miss him, but we will preserve his influence with our actions within our family. My heart goes out to you, Shirl.*

Steve Joehl - April 29, 2011 at 12:00 AM

EJ

“ *Papa Joe has been a role model to me for the past 29 years. He taught me how to woodwork, to tie a tie, and to use dry wit to get a laugh. I feel fortunate for the times I was able to share with him and those memories will never be forgotten. I will miss him.*

Eric Joehl - April 29, 2011 at 12:00 AM

WH

“ Shirley,

My thoughts & prayers are with you and your family. What a great life you two had together. Will call you soon.....

Wanda Hantla - April 29, 2011 at 12:00 AM

TF

“ We could not have asked for a better neighbor than Dr. Emons. Our family's sympathy to Mrs. Emons and the children.

The Acker Family - April 29, 2011 at 12:00 AM

FC

“ Our family story is so intertwined with that of the Emons that I wouldn't know where to begin recounting the many, happy memories: Piper Cubs, Austin Healys, church picnics, our Dads Deacon-ing, the amazing house. What fun we've had!! And what a comfort Joe was to Dad in his final years, and inspiration to Sarah and Will. We will remember Joe fondly, forever! Much love from the Hammet-Cohens!

Florence Hammet Cohen - April 29, 2011 at 12:00 AM

WC

“ I will always remember the time when Dr. Emons took me to his woodworking shop and taught me how to make spinning tops. I didn't succeed on my first try but he was understanding at let me try again. That time I succeeded and to this day I still have it.

William Cohen - April 29, 2011 at 12:00 AM

RM

“ Dear Shirley, Paula, Gayle, Matt and Families,

Please accept our deepest sympathy and heartfelt thoughts.

What a wonderful person Dr. Emons was! His talents and adventurous spirit are to be admired, and how proud you must be! May the love of your families and friends bring all of you peace and comfort. Dr. Emons has passed on, but his memory lives on in our hearts. God bless all of you.

Rita and John Markgraf - April 28, 2011 at 12:00 AM