



Robert Joseph "Joe" Ducey

March 9, 1932 - May 21, 2025

Robert Joseph "Joe" Ducey, 93

Retired Educator and Dedicated Family Man

We are saddened to announce the passing of Robert Joseph "Joe" Ducey, a beloved father, grandfather and family man who passed peacefully on May 21, 2025 at the age of 93. He married Patty Moran Ducey (passed in 1982) and together they had 5 children and built a beautiful family raised in the Catholic faith. In 1985, Joe married Mary Jo Hembrow Hahn (passed in 2022) and they spent their retirement years together traveling, golfing and visiting their families.

Born and raised in Hardin, IL, Joe attended St. Norberts Grade School and Calhoun High School with the graduating class of 1950. He attended Quincy College and finished his education at SIU- Carbondale with a Masters in Education and Administration.

After a short stint in the military, Joe dedicated much of his life to shaping young minds as a highly respected and much adored elementary school principal. His distinguished career of 30 years in the Alton School District touched and shaped many lives of both children and colleagues. Joe was known for his hands-on, interpersonal approach. He was an insightful, fair leader who advocated for all. Joe made sure everyone in his school community knew they were valued and seen. He inspired everyone to live up to their potential both in the classroom and life.

Joe was a natural athlete with a passion for sports. He was a standout double-

sport athlete in college, known to many in his day as “Jumping Joe Ducey” after bringing the jump shot to the Quincy hardwood. His affinity for sports was woven throughout his life as he coached youth rec teams while remaining active in bowling, softball and golf. In retirement, Joe worked at Rolling Hills golf course instructing the junior golf program and tutored young students learning English as a second language through Lewis and Clark Community College. He was also a proud member of the Alton Knights of Columbus. Joe is survived by his five children: Joe and Kathy Ducey of Scottsdale, AZ; Meg and Pat Miller of Alton; Timm and Jean Ducey of Kirkwood, MO; Ellen and Peter Tassinari of Alton; John and Tracy Ducey of Godfrey. And three stepchildren: Sandy and Rick Saunders of Norfolk, VA; Cindy and David Moore of Alton; and Traci Hahn and Suzan Pickels of Houston, TX.; 19 grandchildren, 8 great grandchildren and 3 great-great grandchildren and a sister, Mary Ellen Wurm (Charles)of Maryland Heights, MO.

.A Mass will be celebrated at St. Mary’s Catholic Church in Alton on Saturday June 14, 2025, at 10:00am. Internment will be at St. Patrick’s Cemetery in Godfrey. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to St. Mary’s Church and Marquette Catholic High School in Alton. Gent Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Additional information and online guestbook may be found at www.gentfuneralhome.com

The family would like to express their gratitude to Asbury Village in Godfrey, BJC Hospice, Private Home Care, and Liberty Village- Jerseyville for the support and care they gave Joe over the past few years.

As a jolly Irishman, Joe will be remembered for his “never met a stranger” personality, the twinkle in his eye when he greeted you, and his ever-present humor. Joe’s family, friends, and former students will miss him dearly.

"May the road rise to meet you,
May the wind be always at your back,
May the sun shine warm upon your face,
The rains fall soft upon your fields,
And until we meet again,

May you rest in the palm of God's hand."

Cemetery Details

St. Patrick's Cemetery

Godfrey, IL 62035

Previous Events

Mass

JUN 14. 10:00 AM (CT)

St. Mary's Catholic Church
4th and Henry Street
Alton, IL 62002

Tribute Wall

JL

“ I grew up at Godfrey Grade School with Joe Ducey as principal and friend. He opened our eyes to the huge world around us, while making us feel so safe and secure. Im so glad he was in all of our lives. With deepest sympathy for a true gentleman and leader. Jill Massey- Luft

Jill Luft - June 17, 2025 at 05:01 PM

LB

“ I am so very sorry for the loss of your dad. He was such a wonderful man, principal and father to all of you. His smile and laugh are as much a part of me as my own father's. May you all find comfort in your wonderful memories of him.

Lexa L Browning-Needham - June 10, 2025 at 09:03 PM

MP

“ Your dad was a beautiful soul who left behind a legacy of compassion and love. Sounds like he was a favorite teacher to so many. I remember him most in the kitchen of your childhood home. His smile lit up the room. I am so sorry for your loss. Mary Papa

Mary Papa - June 09, 2025 at 04:40 PM

LV

“ Love you all, Jenny & Greg VanWyk purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Robert Joseph "Joe" Ducey.



Love you all, Jenny & Greg VanWyk - June 07, 2025 at 12:19 PM

LV

“ Love you all, Jenny & Greg VanWyk planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Robert Joseph "Joe" Ducey.

Love you all, Jenny & Greg VanWyk - June 07, 2025 at 12:19 PM

TE

“ So very sorry for the loss of your father Joe. He was a great guy who always had a kind word or a smile. He will be missed.

The Elsons - June 05, 2025 at 11:14 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Robert Joseph "Joe" Ducey.



June 05, 2025 at 03:53 PM

JS

“ Joe, Meg, Timm, Ellen and John,

We are so very sorry to hear of the recent passing of your amazing dad, Joe. What a wonderful life he led and the legacy that he left for his children, grandchildren, great grandchildren and now great-great grandchildren is truly incredible. He blessed the Alton community all these years and the lives of so many people. Please know that you are all in our thoughts and prayers as you navigate a world without him in it.

Much love,

*Jennie & Scott Stemm
Scottsdale, AZ*

Jennie Stemm - June 05, 2025 at 01:29 PM

AE

“ I met Mr. Ducey in grade school as a new student Godfrey area. He was kind, generous and truly cared! As I went through the Alton School District and when I was lucky enough to see Mr. Ducey, he always remembered my name and asked about my family. I will keep him and his family in my thoughts and prayers 🙏

Amy (Pluhar) Eernisse - June 05, 2025 at 11:18 AM

EH

“ Erica Holliday lit a candle in memory of Robert Joseph "Joe" Ducey



erica holliday - June 04, 2025 at 03:26 PM

SP

“ *My sincere sympathy to you all. Although, I didn't know Joe well, he certainly always seems to just "pour out" his love for life, family and people!*

*Sincerely,
Susie Pruetzel*

Susie Pruetzel - June 04, 2025 at 12:03 PM

GL

“ *John and Tracy, so sorry to hear this news. Your dad was so respected and loved. John, you are carrying on his legacy as a devoted educator.*

Glenda Link - June 04, 2025 at 09:48 AM

SM

“ *Mr Ducey was always my favorite principal. Always in the halls with a big smile and talking to students. Such a great man. Much love and prayers for his family.*

Sandie (McCoy) McCarty - June 04, 2025 at 09:38 AM

TB

“ *Joe and family, I was sorry to hear of the death of your dad. All of the memories I have are of him with a big smile on his face. May your memories bring you comfort as you grieve his loss.*

Terri (Treichel) Brooks, MHS '79

Terri Brooks - June 04, 2025 at 08:41 AM

NM

“ *He was loved by all who knew him. He always had a big smile when he saw you. Thoughts Prayers Hugs and Love to all of you. Nancy Marlow*

Nancy Marlow - June 04, 2025 at 12:10 AM