



Joseph Charles Wheeler

September 5, 1990 - December 12, 2022

Joey passed away Sunday, December 11, 2022, at 3:14pm, surrounded by family. He received tremendous care, support, and respect at Roanoke Memorial Hospital. Through organ donation, he is giving life to 3 families. In addition, he is providing the ability to advance research for Moyamoya patients with the donation of his brain to Boston Children's Hospital. In life Joey was a giver and he continues to give.

When he wasn't walking everywhere near his home, he was serving elderly residents as a part of dining services in nursing homes. He was also extremely involved in Special Olympics Virginia as a part of the bocce program and as a Global Messenger. He loved bringing joy and a smile to everyone he met.

He is preceded in death by his grandfather, Richard Wheeler; step-grandfather, Dave Enos; Nana and PopPop, Maureen and Henry Cummings; uncle, Father Frank Lynch; uncle (and godfather), Mark Cummings; his other godfather, Fr. Patrick Garcia (godpoppy Pat); and cousin, Chiara Del Piccolo.

He is survived by his mother and father, Jill and Matt Wheeler; sister and brother-in-law, Kaitlyn and Tommy Coleman; niece, Halle; grandmother, Mary Ann Enos; step-grandmother, Gladi Berheim; godmother, Carol Calandra; as well as many loving aunts, uncles, and cousins. He has many friends,

coworkers, walking buddies and Special Olympic athletes and unified partners.

A funeral Mass will be offered for Joey on Saturday, December 17, 2022, at St. Mary's Catholic Church, 1205 Old Mill Rd, Blacksburg, VA 24060, at 12:15. A Rosary will be said before Mass at 12:00 and a reception will follow Mass in the church hall. The Mass will be live-streamed on the church's Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/stmarysblacksburg>). A graveside service for family will be held at Memorial Gardens of the New River Valley on Tuesday, December 20, 2022 at 10am.

Please keep Joey, his family, and the recipient families in your prayers, and hug your loved ones close. As a part of his daily routine, Joey would walk to Sheetz and get a Coke, so please have a Coke in Joey's memory, especially if it's from Sheetz. He also enjoyed his Jersey Mike's subs along the way.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation in Joey's honor. He was part of many groups and organizations with all of us. We have set up a donation page for Special Olympic Area 9 in memory of Joey. <https://impact.specialolympicsva.org/joeywheeler>

Let us always meet each other with a smile, for the smile is the beginning of love. Saint Teresa of Calcutta

Previous Events

Rosary

DEC 17. 12:00 PM - 12:15 PM (ET)

St. Mary's Catholic Church
1205 Old Mill Rd
Blacksburg, VA

Funeral Mass

DEC 17. 12:15 PM (ET)

St. Mary's Catholic Church
1205 Old Mill Rd
#3705
Blacksburg, VA 24060

Graveside Service

DEC 20. 10:00 AM (ET)

Memorial Gardens of the New River Valley
2551 N. MAIN ST.
BLACKSBURG, VA 24060

Tribute Wall

CA

“ *Susan and I have just learned of Joey's passing. He was a ray of sunshine and an inspiration to everyone. We will always have great memories of him and those "pioneer" days at St. Raymonds. Jill and Matt, you were wonderful parents to him. We pray you find comfort and consolation in the Lord.*

Cabell and Susan Angle

Cabell and Susan Angle - January 09, 2023 at 11:00 AM

 JoAnn
Gray

“ *JoAnn Gray lit a candle in memory of Joseph Charles Wheeler*



JoAnn Gray - December 17, 2022 at 08:42 AM



“ I'm so glad that I got to know Joey during Unified Zoom for Special Olympics. I got to be paired with him to be buddies and we face-timed each week for a check in during the time of COVID isolation. Getting to talk with Joey (usually he would be walking to Sheetz for his soda) was always one of the highlights of my week; he never failed to smile and always immediately asked me how I was doing. I got to participate in bocce, basketball, and volleyball on Joey's team, and he was a great teammate- always so encouraging. It was so evident how much Joey loved his family and cared for everyone he knew. He walked more steps than anyone I knew, and would always crush me in FitBit step competitions. I am so grateful to have known Joey and will never forget his positivity, enthusiasm, and kindness.

-Katie Fleming (VT alumni)

Katie Fleming - December 17, 2022 at 12:22 AM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Joseph Charles Wheeler.



December 16, 2022 at 07:44 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Joseph Charles Wheeler.



December 16, 2022 at 03:22 PM

JC

“ Jimmy & Annette Coleman purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Joseph Charles Wheeler.



Jimmy & Annette Coleman - December 16, 2022 at 12:06 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Joseph Charles Wheeler.



December 15, 2022 at 08:12 PM

AM

“ I was lucky enough to be Joey's fifth grade teacher. He was often the one teaching us--kindness to all, perseverance and commitment (Learning the entire Casey at the Bat poem when only a stanza was required.), enthusiasm (Let's talk about fire engines and EMTs.) and the joy of being part of a group. Knowing that Joey continues to have a positive impact on the lives of others is just so Joey. It also speaks volumes of the entire Wheeler family who championed his growth at every step. We will all miss his big smile and big heart. Annette McKeag

Annette McKeag - December 15, 2022 at 01:12 PM

RP

“ *Richelle Price sent a virtual gift in memory of Joseph Charles Wheeler*



Richelle Price - December 15, 2022 at 06:50 AM

LU

“ *Lulu lit a candle in memory of Joseph Charles Wheeler*



lulu - December 14, 2022 at 10:38 PM

TR

“ *Joey was a member of my WorkCamp crew several years ago. He was an amazing dynamo and his kindness and enthusiasm made a great crew even better and our experience of serving even more joyful and memorable. He brought out the best in each of us!*

therese ryan - December 14, 2022 at 09:56 PM



“ *Fairest of All was purchased for the family of Joseph Charles Wheeler.*



December 14, 2022 at 02:31 PM

AI

“ If it's true, as the movie title says, that "All Dogs Go to Heaven", then I'm sure Joey is up there taking care of them. Peace to us all in a sadder world without Joey in it.

Aiken - December 14, 2022 at 02:19 PM

NT

“ Nicole Taksar lit a candle in memory of Joseph Charles Wheeler



Nicole Taksar - December 14, 2022 at 02:18 PM

JE

Joey was a true Angel he brought joy to everyone he touched. May God bring comfort to all of you knowing your son was a blessing to so many people on this earth and now he now, living in his own joy of eternal life with The Lord! Sending hugs and prayers to all of you! 🤗🙏❤️

Judy Edwards - December 14, 2022 at 05:33 PM

KL

“ Joey R.I.P. my friend I miss you alot.

Kevin Leddy - December 14, 2022 at 01:46 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Joseph Charles Wheeler.



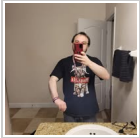
December 14, 2022 at 12:35 PM

RP

“ Joey got me to jump into a frozen ocean for an Antarctic Plunge. I'll never forget your enthusiasm with the Knights and church. A good man gone to Heaven.



Robert Petitti - December 14, 2022 at 12:04 PM



“ Hi this is Michael zermeno I was a good friend of Joey so sorry for your loss



Mike Zermeno - December 14, 2022 at 11:52 AM

RP

Good friend for my son
Ricky Portillo there are
Sorry for your loss
God's blessings 🍷🍷 play golf

Ricky Portillo - December 14, 2022 at 01:26 PM

KT

Joey, Jill, Matt and Kaitlyn were our wonderful neighbors for many years, and Joey and I shared a special relationship full of laughter and joy. No matter how my day was going, just seeing Joey and hearing him call my name to say hello was enough to cheer me up. He was the most generous, upbeat, tireless, inquisitive young man I have ever known. And fun too. Our entire family is so deeply saddened. Matt, Jill, and Kaitlyn we are praying for you.

Karen S Tate - December 16, 2022 at 11:05 PM