



Joe Alan Ylitalo

SEP 5, 1946 - NOV 19, 2016



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FUNERAL HOMES
OF LONGVIEW AND HENDERSON

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Joe Alan Ylitalo

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Joe Alan Ylitalo, 70, left this earth to be with his Beloved Lord and Savior on Saturday November 19, 2016, after a valiant 10-year fight with cancer and related heart problems. He was blessed with a peaceful passing at home, surrounded by his loved ones. His sense of humor was evident up until the very end, as he told more than one visitor. "I sure regret telling everyone I'll be around until the Cubs win the World Series."

Joe was born in Staples, MN, on September 5, 1946. After a military brat childhood, Joe graduated from Mac Arthur H.S. in San Antonio, TX, in 1964, and was commissioned into the U.S. Navy following his 1968 graduation from the United States Naval Academy with a B.S. in Engineering. Joe then attended flight school in Pensacola, FL, and jet training in Kingsville, TX, before switching the focus of his naval career to Surface Warfare. Upon separation from the Navy in 1978, Joe earned his J.D. from the University of Houston Law School. Sworn in to the State Bar of Texas, he joined the legal team at Texaco, Inc. until he met his bride, Martha, and moved to her hometown of Longview, TX, where he continued his law practice with Kenley, Boyland & Coghlan. In 1986, Joe joined his mentor as a partner in their law firm Coghlan, Crowson, Robertson & Ylitalo.

With five active children, Joe saw the advantages to moving in-house. In 1990, Joe excitedly accepted the role as the first General Counsel of Vertex Communications in Kilgore, TX. The mix of operations and law was a great fit for the Naval Officer and Attorney in Joe. In 2002, Pilgrims Pride, Inc. in Pittsburg, TX, asked Joe to establish their legal department as their first in-house General Counsel. He took pleasure in his remaining working years doing what he enjoyed so much. Even though Joe retired in 2011 from the full-time practice of law, he remained a valued counselor to so many within his family and his community.

Joe had many loves...God, family, community, politics, and sports. His strong belief



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in Jesus Christ was the backbone of his life. He faithfully attended Bible Study Fellowship for 23 years, including the week before he passed. Joe's family life was a daily adventure, with Martha as his compass. A devoted husband and father, you couldn't miss the pride in his voice when he spoke about his best friend and wife, Martha, whom he relied upon unceasingly, and their children, by whom he felt blessed beyond expectation.

Joe's sense of family was not limited by biology; he was a coach, mentor, or second father to the hordes his five children brought home. It was a rare game where Joe's booming voice couldn't be heard "cheering" from the sidelines. Joe could be found volunteering at Church, speaking to the School Board, helping out his neighbors by writing letters, anonymously buying groceries for strangers, or silently carrying out good deeds that he never expected or wanted recognition for.

Joe was preceded in death by his parents, E.W. "Joe" and Faye Stish Ylitalo, and his in-laws Judge Henry and Grace McKinney. He is survived by his wife, Martha McKinney Ylitalo, five children, Amanda Ylitalo, Chris Ylitalo and wife Charisse, Emily Gaston and husband Grant, Elizabeth Eckert and husband Steve, Meredith Rodriguez and husband Derek, grandchildren Wesley Rose Ylitalo; Carver, Cason, and Caplar Ylitalo; Zakkary, Daniel, Bridget, and Joshua Gaston; Ethan Eckert and Phoenix Eckert Moore; and Lance, Catherine, Tatum, and June Rodriguez, four brothers, Jon, David, Troy, Dean, and one sister, Sharr, and countless nieces and nephews who brought him much joy.

Honorary Pallbearers will be Jack Jenkins, Thomas McKinney, Doug McKinney, Merland Stebbins, John Fisher, Jr., Michael Wilgen, Jay Bissell, Jack Sammon, Jim Marshall, Marty Conner, Barron Neal, Fred Slayback, and Douglas Reagan.

Memorials may be made to Greggton United Methodist Church, Bible Study Fellowship International, Heart's Way Hospice, or the charity of your heart.

Visitation will be at Greggton United Methodist Church at 11 a.m. on Saturday, November 26, 2016, with a Service Celebrating the Life of Joe Ylitalo to follow at noon. Joe requested his ashes be scattered over the Pacific Ocean by the Keawala'i Congregational Church in Makena, Maui, Hawai'i, a favorite place of worship for Joe and Martha.






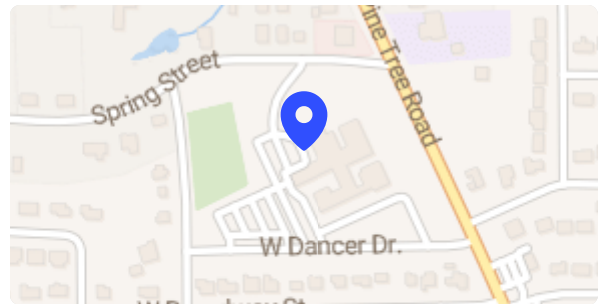
Events

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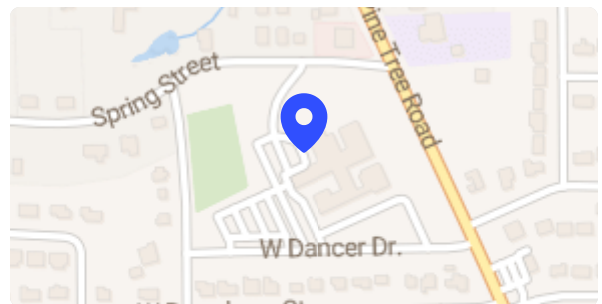
Visitation

-  **Saturday**, November 26, 2016
-  11:00 AM - 12:00 PM CT
-  **Greggton United Methodist**
1101 Pine Tree Rd, Longview TX 75604-3152



Memorial Service

-  **Saturday**, November 26, 2016
-  12:00 PM CT
-  **Greggton United Methodist**
1101 Pine Tree Rd, Longview TX 75604-3152





Tribute Wall

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LW

Linda Weinberg posted:

Joe was kind and strong. He drove to Dallas this spring to help people that needed guidance. He spent hours on the phone counseling them too. I am so thankful he shared his knowledge with all of us. His strength will always be remembered. It is truly a gift he shared with us and is evident in his wonderful family. He is in heaven with our Lord and peacefully watching his legacy. My prayers are with his friends and family today and always.

November 26 at 1:55 AM

SR

Sara T. Ramos posted:

May God's grace provide comfort to his family during this sad time. Manuel & Sara Ramos & Family Seguin, Texas

November 25 at 3:01 PM



Anonymous sent a Peaceful White Lilies Basket to the Ylitalo family.



November 25 at 9:48 AM



Anonymous sent a Sentimental Dreams to the Ylitalo family.



November 24 at 2:36 PM

RL

Rodney Lawson posted:

Martha, children, and extended family---I was truly blessed to have had the good fortune to get to work with and get to know Joe when we were both "baby lawyers" under the tutelage of Howard Coghlan.....and of course Sharon Beall:) Joe often reminded me of my father--always smiling, laughing, and sharing a kind word. Long after we ceased working together we remained good friends. Over the last couple of years, I had the opportunity to once again see Joe on a more regular basis. Of course, he had not changed--the same optimistic Joe. He loved his family, his country, and his friends. I hope that all of you will draw some comfort from your wonderful memories of Joe and in the knowledge of his lasting legacy---a good name. Rodney Lawson

November 24 at 10:01 AM



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Randy Wright lit a candle in honor of Joe.

Dear Martha and children, We are so sorry to hear about the loss of Joe. He was such a kind and caring man. We have so many nice memories of the kids at Pine Tree. May the Lord wrap his arms around you all and bring you peace and comfort at this time. With love Fred Linda and Randy



November 23 at 12:01 PM



Anonymous sent a Basket of Memories to the Ylitalo family.



November 23 at 8:07 AM



Jimmy Smith posted:

Joe was a member of our BSF Group who will be greatly missed. I first met Joe about seven years ago. I was impressed with his ability and patience and to help us new comers understand the scriptures and how to apply it to our lives. I am honored to have been able to have called him my friend and look forward to seeing him again in heaven. I pray God will grant his perfect peace to his wife and family this day and in the days to come. Yours in Christ, Jimmy Smith

November 23 at 5:28 AM



Sharon F Beall, Pls posted:

When Joe worked with us - I called him, Rodney and Dave "Three Guys Who are Lawyers." Twas true. They were all great guys to work with and for. Even though it was a real hardship on old me to drive to Pittsburg three times a week to work for their legal counsel - Joe Ylitalo - it was great fun and a real memory for me. Joe was a really smart attorney - he helped me pass my professional legal secretary examination by popping by my office and yelling out a word I was to define for him - for the most part, I could, but when he yellow out "Ypsilanti": - he got me. Ypsilanti was the city in Michigan, not a legal word. He was full of cheer and mischief. Miss you big guy. Sharon Beall.

November 22 at 11:47 AM



Sharon F Beall, Pls November 22 at 11:50 AM

Yellow out is supposed to be yelled out spell check gone awry.



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Joe by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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