



Joseph Orlando

July 25, 2025

On July 2025 Joseph Philip Anthony Orlando of Hackensack, NJ Passed away at the age of 81.

Mr. Orlando was born in Manhattan, NY to Dr. Philip A. Orlando and Matilda R. Orlando, a nurse. He was raised in the Bronx in a home his paternal grandfather from Sicily, Italy built. Joseph attended Immaculate Conception Elementary School and Mt. St. Michael's Academy in the Bronx. He received his undergraduate degree in history from the University of Tampa, Florida. He then went on to receive two master's degrees from Long Island University and St. John's.

Mr. Orlando touched so many lives in so many ways. He served as grammar school teacher for forty years within the NYC public school system where he gained the love and respect of his students.

Joseph was an avid Yankee fan attending home games since he was a child. He loved to travel during summer breaks to such places as Hawaii, Alaska, Europe, Canadian Rockies, The National Parks and of course Disney World in Orlando. He was an avid reader of many historical books and adventure novels. He was a passionate cat lover and donated to several animal charities. He shared a unique bond with his current beloved feline companions, Dominick and Coco. They were inseparable.

He was a parishioner of St. Joseph's Church in Oradell, NJ where he served as a Sunday presentation usher at the 7:30am Mass.

Mr. Orlando leaves behind his sister Joanne Orlando Wierzba of Ashburn, VA

(James); His Devoted friend Christine of Oradell, NJ; His beloved niece Anne Wierzba Leslie of Arlington, VA (Jonathan); Great nephews Noah and Joshua Leslie; His dear nephew Edward Orlando Wierzba of Ashburn, VA (Shri); great nephews James, Anthony, and Teddy Wierzba; His close friend Jose Rodriguez of Peekskill, NY; dear cousins Joseph and John Orlando of Rhode Island, Linda Para of Arizona, Robert and Gene Miller of Maryland, Aline Miller and Joan Vertigan of NY, and Pat Curtis of California.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church in Oradell, NJ Tuesday July 29th at 10:00am. Interment will be at Gate of Heaven Cemetery in Hawthorne, NY.

Cemetery Details

Gate of Heaven

10 W Stevens Ave
Hawthorne, NY 10532

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 27. 2:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Volk Leber Funeral Home
268 Kinderkamack Road
Oradell, NJ 07649
info@volkleber.com
<http://volkleberfuneralhome.com>

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<http://www.volkleber.com>

Funeral Mass

JUL **29**. 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Joseph's RCC
300 Elm Street
Oradell, NJ 07649

Tribute Wall

“ I will always honor and remember my Uncle Joe. He wasn't just an uncle. He was my godfather, and the godfather to all three of my sons. That alone tells you the kind of role he played in our family: steadfast, present, deeply loving, and trusted beyond measure. Uncle Joe was always a beacon of light. He was one of the kindest men I have ever known. His kindness didn't shout or demand attention—it was quiet, consistent, and unshakable. No matter how far my family and I moved around the world, Uncle Joe remained a steady presence in our lives. Distance nor the pandemic ever stopped him from showing up in the most thoughtful of ways. He always had time to talk with me, my wife, and my children. He would send cards and gifts, not just on birthdays, but on every holiday. He even made trips out to see us over the years when we would travel back in and out in VA. This was who Uncle Joe was – a man who celebrated the people in his life with his whole heart. He had a way of making everyone feel remembered. Whether you were a friend, a neighbor, or family, Joe made you feel celebrated. He believed in recognizing the people around him, not for anything grand, but simply because he cared. That is a rare and beautiful quality. And if you knew Joe, you knew about his passion for the Yankees. Or, his Yankees. When we talked he would go one for twenty minutes —without even stopping to breathe—telling me everything about the latest game, the trades, the stats, the history. I loved hearing him discuss it because it connected me to him and past generations of our family and friends – particularly his father who was also an avid Yankees fan. I have so many fond memories of visiting him, Aunt Christine, and their cats and Uncle Joe driving me up to see Nonna in the Bronx. Those drives weren't just trips—they were treasured moments, full of stories, warmth, and that easy kind of love you can only get from someone who's known you your whole life. Joe had a gift—a rare one. He touched every life he encountered. Whether through a simple act of kindness, a card in the mail, a generous gesture, or a warm smile, he left people feeling lighter, happier, and more seen. In a world that often feels rushed and impersonal, Joe made it personal. He made it human.

I will miss him deeply. We all will. But I also know his love lives on in every one of us—especially in my boys, who got to know him not just as an uncle, but as their godfather, their champion, their Yankees buddy, their friend.

Thank you, Uncle Joe, for the love, the laughter, and the legacy of kindness you gave us all. We'll carry it with us always.

Rest in peace.

Ed Wierzba - July 30, 2025 at 10:17 PM

“ I will always honor and remember my very dear Uncle Joe. He wasn't just an uncle. He was my godfather, and the godfather to all three of my sons. That alone tells you the kind of role he played in our family: steadfast, present, deeply loving, and trusted beyond measure.

Uncle Joe was always a beacon of light. He was one of the kindest men I have ever known. His kindness didn't shout or demand attention—it was quiet, consistent, and unshakable. No matter how far my family and I moved around the world, Uncle Joe remained a steady presence in our lives. Distance nor the pandemic ever stopped him from showing up in the most thoughtful of ways. Uncle Joe always had time to talk with me, my wife, and my children. He would call to check in and he would visit us several times over the years when we were able to make it back to Virginia. And he loved to spoil us. He sent cards and gifts, not just on birthdays but on every holiday.

This was who Uncle Joe was – a man who celebrated the people in his life with his whole heart. He had a way of making everyone feel remembered. Whether you were a friend, a neighbor, or family, Joe made you feel celebrated. He believed in recognizing the people around him, not for anything grand, but simply because he cared. That is a rare and beautiful quality.

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Rest in peace.

Ed Wierzb - July 30, 2025 at 07:25 PM



“*My cousin Joseph was a joyful being, always smiling, with an infectious laugh. During our childhood get togethers in the Bronx, I don't believe we ever argued or fought. He was a person of peace. I don't remember calling him Joe. He was always Joseph to me. Joseph was a groomsman at my wedding. He was also my daughter Mary's godfather. After I moved to Maryland, we lost touch except for infrequent family occasions and exchanging birthday and Christmas cards. Later we would email our sentiments. My heartfelt condolences to Joseph's sister, my dear cousin Joanne, and the entire extended Orlando family. My faith ensures me that Joseph is now at peace in the company of angels.*

Gene Miller

Gene Miller - July 28, 2025 at 09:03 PM

JS

Beautiful Gene. Thank you for kind words.

Joanne - Joseph Orlando's sister - August 02, 2025 at 07:20 PM

GM

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Gene Miller - July 28, 2025 at 05:54 PM

PF

“ *My Dear Joe, we had so much fun together! First we shared the same birthday February 18th, your Middle name was Phillip mine is Phyllis and we worked so beautifully together as Phys.Ed Teachers at P.S.173M
When I retired both you and Mr. Rodriguez took me out to lunch..
Finally, you never missed calling me for the holidays with beautiful cards for both birthdays and holidays. I will miss you, terribly..*

Phyllis Floyd - July 28, 2025 at 05:39 PM

JL

“ Joe was a fellow of '61 Mountie classmate with me back in the Bronx. I had hoped to visit & say farewell but was unable. My prayers are offered for Joe today & to his beloved family. Peace be with you all. Jerry Lynch, Ramsey

jerry Lynch - July 28, 2025 at 02:41 PM

AL

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Anne Leslie - July 27, 2025 at 03:29 PM

AL

“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



Anne Leslie - July 27, 2025 at 03:25 PM

AL

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Anne Leslie - July 27, 2025 at 08:56 AM

EW

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Ed Wierzba - July 26, 2025 at 09:34 AM

EW

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Ed Wierzba - July 26, 2025 at 09:24 AM

YM

“ Joe and I both celebrated our birthdays in February. He never failed to send me a card. He was a kind and thoughtful friend all throughout the 53 years I had the honor of knowing him . I will miss him dearly. May you rest in peace, dear Joe.
Yolanda Maya

Yolanda Maya - July 25, 2025 at 04:17 PM

SB

“ Joe was always a great neighbor. Always had a friendly smile and a cheery hello. When I wasn't feeling well, he would volunteer to get my mail or packages. He loved my cat "Lucy" and she loved him. Whenever she heard his voice, she would run out into the hall to greet him. She never did this for anyone else. He would always remember her birthday and would give her treats and toys on her June 1 birthday and also at Christmas. Joe always donated to the Chance at Life Cat Rescue I volunteer for, buying raffle tickets every time I sold them. He won the Holiday basket in 2021. He was so happy to have won it.

Joe will be greatly missed. My condolences to his extended family. I am very sorry for your loss.

Stephanie Barnard



Stephanie Barnard - July 25, 2025 at 03:31 PM

SB

“ 1 file added to the album Memories



Stephanie Barnard - July 25, 2025 at 03:21 PM