

## JOSEPH A. McCarthy

Joseph A. McCarthy, of Manlius, New York, passed away peacefully at home on January 6th, 2025- The Feast of the Epiphany. Joe was born in the Flatbush area of Brooklyn, NY, to Robert & Agnes McCarthy on September 1, 1928, Joe was the 4th of 5 children and spent summers on Long Beach, Long Island. He attributed his love of music and Head Tenor in the Midwood HS Choir as early training for his future in business management. After graduation he landed a Management Trainee job at JC Penney in Gardner, Massachusetts following in his older brother's footsteps. Joe married his Irish sweetheart, Elizabeth Ann (Betty) Delaney, on Valentine's Day 1953. This was the beginning of a 70+ year love affair, and they loved to celebrate their marriage by being blessed by the bishop at the annual World Marriage Day Mass at the Syracuse Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.

Joe progressed through the JC Penney Company and by Christmas in Pittsburgh 1963, Betty had their children record "Hope you get a store in '64", thus moving the family back to Long Island. After a short time as Store Manager in Babylon, Joe was called to the corporate office in New York City. There, he was a Buyer and Creative Marketing Manager working under Mr. James Cash Penney.

In 1967, the family was transferred to Syracuse, NY and Joe managed the Dewitt J C Penney store in ShoppingTown center. In 1970 Joe started volunteering through Rotary Club and began his 50+ year membership. Joe was a fixture flipping pancakes at the annual Dewitt Rotary Club Pancake Day fundraiser. As a District Governor, Joe made it his mission to open many new Rotary chapters. Rotary International eventually took Betty and Joe as District Governor, to Europe, Canada, all over the US and to Taiwan and Alaska.

Joe retired after 44 years at JCPenney by overseeing the construction and opening of the Carousel Center-Destiny Mall JCPenney store. The store employed 350 associates, and Joe knew every one of them. Joe also represented JCPenney as a Lobbyist in Washington, DC for the state of New York.

Joe had a strong Catholic faith and was a Eucharistic Minister, Lector, CCD teacher and ran the Bishops Appeal for St. Ann's RC Church in Manlius. Betty & Joe were very involved at St Ann's Manlius and St Lucy's RC Church in Syracuse. Joe volunteered for the Salvation Army over 40 years, Habitat for Humanity, and sat on many committees and boards in the Syracuse area.

Joe loved antique cars and would make an annual trip to Hershey PA to attend the national car show. Joe was often seen driving with Betty in his 1957 Continental Mark II, or his 2003 T-Bird in various Manlius parades and town celebrations. He was an avid boater, water skier, and enjoyed many years at Skaneateles Lake with family & friends.

Joe is survived by his loving wife Betty, daughter; Patricia M Rafalski (Kevin), son; Robert M McCarthy (Jacqueline) and was pre-deceased by his eldest son James J McCarthy. Pop- Pop dearly loved his 6 grandchildren Matthew Rafalski (Lindsay), Brendan Rafalski (Holly), Kyle Rafalski (Natalie), Madlin McCarthy, Chloe and Thomas McCarthy. Great Pop-Pop adored his 6 great grandchildren Paige & Chloe, Lowell & Reid, and Max & Margaux in Australia. Uncle Joe loved his over 16 nieces and nephews. Joe also leaves behind his younger sister, Agnes McCarthy of NJ.

A celebration of Joe's life and a Funeral Mass will be celebrated at St Ann's RC Church in Manlius, NY on May 17th, 2025. Calling hour will be 10am in the church and the Funeral Mass at 11:00 am. The McCarthy family also wishes to thank the wonderful RCL staff, nurses and caregivers at The Towne Center in Fayetteville for their kindness to Joe. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to [stjude.org](http://stjude.org) or [my.rotary.org](http://my.rotary.org).