



Joseph R. D'Annunzio

October 4, 1951 - September 24, 2025

Joseph R. D'Annunzio, of Harrisburg and formerly of Conshohocken, passed away on Wednesday, September 24, 2025, at the age of 73. Born on October 4, 1951, to the late Thomas D'Annunzio Jr. and Dorothy (Surace). Joe married his late wife Kathy (Nowicki) in 1981, and they were married for 32 years. Joe was able to find happiness again later in life as he was married to Evelyn (Sponsler) for seven years.

Joe is survived by his daughter, Christina, and his three sons, Paul Jr. (Tracy), Michael, and Eric Sponsler, his four brothers, Thomas III, Ronald (Carol), James (Lisa), and Daniel. Joe is also survived by his four grandchildren, Jason, Benjamin (Rebekah), Mya, and Dylan, his great-granddaughter Scarlett, his nine nieces and nephews Dana (Tom), Tara, George (Harmony), Gina (Michael), Andrew, Madison, Olivia, Greyson, Georgie, and his many cousins and dear friends.

After graduating magna cum laude from St. Louis University, Joe served as a lawyer for forty-nine years, ensuring that anyone who needed help was cared for. Joe found value in being a kind ear and voice of guidance not only for his family, but also for his friends and members of his community. One of the highlights of his life was being sworn into the Supreme Court in front of his mother. Joe began his career in the Public Defender's Office, where he worked to achieve his dream of opening his own private practice. In 1978, he

achieved this goal. Upon closing his practice after eighteen years, Joe was recruited to work for St. Paul Fire and Marine Insurance Company in 1996, where he was appointed as a Hearing Member for the St. Paul Disciplinary Board. After six years and two terms, Joe became a managing attorney for Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company. His drive to succeed allowed him to represent the office in regional and executive meetings, representing the most prestigious Staff Counsel Office in Pennsylvania. In 2009, Joe and his family moved from Plymouth Meeting to Harrisburg, establishing a Staff Counsel Office for GEICO. During his time with GEICO, he constantly achieved awards for the most cases tried among national offices, demonstrating his strong-willed character, which allowed him to represent the company in all administrative hearings before the Pennsylvania Insurance Department. In 2018, Joe returned to private law, assisting several practices in the Harrisburg area.

Joe served as a member of the Republican Committee by acting as the Judge of Elections and served as a Solicitor to the Civil Service Commission and the Zoning Hearing Board for Plymouth Township in Montgomery County, where he became the Chairman of the Zoning Hearing Board. He also served as a Solicitor for the Montgomery County Funeral Directors Association. The Norristown Times-Herald highly praised Joe's hard work and compassion for others, naming him "One of Montgomery County's" community leaders. Joe also served as a Solicitor for the Montgomery County Office, where his role was representing the Petitioner in Mental Health commitment hearings.

Joe was able to combine his love of law and faith by devoting his time as the Board Secretary to the Saint Thomas Moore Society, a not-for-profit organization for Catholic Lawyers dedicated to promoting the study of principles of the Catholic Church, relating to the moral and legal problems encountered in the practice of law. Joe was also able to show his strong commitment to his faith by being appointed as an Assessor for the Tribunal of

the Diocese of Harrisburg.

Throughout his life, Joe's faith was evident by being active in the church. He volunteered his time annually to the Saints Cosmas and Damian feast by both running the feast with his late wife, Kathy, and leading the parish procession and saying the rosary. Joe served as an Eucharistic Minister and could also be found calling bingo numbers during church games and being the MC for the Night at the Races event held in the church hall. Upon moving to Harrisburg, Joe remained active in the church at St. Catharine Laboure parish in Harrisburg by participating in the church's annual Oktoberfest celebration.

During his free time, Joe could be found reading the newspaper, traveling to Florida with his family for their annual Disney World trips, and cheering on his Philadelphia Phillies and Eagles.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his name may be made to The American Kidney Fund at www.kidneyfund.org.

Relatives and friends may pay respects on Friday morning, October 3rd from 10-11:45AM in Holy Name of Jesus Roman Catholic Church, 6150 Allentown Boulevard, Harrisburg, PA 17112. Mass will immediately follow at 12 noon.

Relatives and friends may also pay respects on Saturday morning, October 4th from 10-11:45AM at the William A. Moore Funeral Home, 708 Fayette St., Conshohocken, PA 19428. Internment will immediately follow in St. Matthew Cemetery (Conshohocken).

In lieu of flowers, donations in his name may be made to The American Kidney Fund at www.kidneyfund.org.

Cemetery Details

Saint Matthew Cemetery

North Lane & Butler Pike
Conshohocken, PA 19428

Previous Events

Morning Visitation

OCT 3. 10:00 AM - 11:45 AM (ET)

Holy Name of Jesus Church
6150 Allentown Blvd.
Harrisburg, PA 17112

Mass

OCT 3. 12:00 PM (ET)

Holy Name of Jesus Church
6150 Allentown Blvd.
Harrisburg, PA 17112

Morning Visitation

OCT 4. 10:00 AM - 11:45 AM (ET)

William A. Moore Funeral Home
708 Fayette Street
Conshohocken, PA 19428
(610) 828-4006
<https://www.williamamoore.com/>

Tribute Wall



“ Dear Christina,

I just learned of your dad's passing. I kind of lost touch with both of you when your dad moved out of town. I have fond memories of you, your dad and your mom. We shared many happy times together. You are still one of my favorite students. I remember you as being bright and friendly. I still smile when I think of you and your dad going to wrestling matches. Will you ever forget the time the limo got stuck in mud on the way to the concert!!!

Christina, I will never forget the many kindnesses of your father when George died. He was truly a good friend. Maybe he and George can get together and have a real good time.

Again, my sincerest condolences. I hope you are well. I know how close you were to him and hopefully one day we can all be together to have a good laugh.

God bless you.

Mrs. K

Mrs. Geraldine Kachejian - November 22, 2025 at 08:06 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Joseph R. D'Annunzio.

October 02, 2025 at 05:02 PM



“ *Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of Joseph R. D'Annunzio.*



October 02, 2025 at 05:02 PM



“ *Evelyn & family: My heartfelt condolences to you in your loss of Joe. Since Joe left Conshohocken and moved to Harrisburg, I had lost touch with him. I heard of the loss of his first wife, Kathy, and was shocked when that happened. I was a member of SS Cosmas & Damian parish for forty years until its closing. That is where I met Joe and Kathy. I knew them a long time and I always admired their dedication and work with the parish. My daughter, Christi, was friends with Christina for a short time, and I think they may still be in contact with each other. Joe was a special man, and a good, conscientious lawyer. He prepared our wills many years ago. I remember him being a cantor at mass when we first joined SS Cosmas and Damian in 1970. He was such a hard worker with managing the parish's annual feast, and I remember him riding in the procession of the Saints on Sunday and reciting prayers over the speakers provided. I was walking behind him processing and pulling one of the carriages of either St Cosmas or St Damian with all of the pilgrims and Hatians walking along with us. I will always have very good memories of Joe. He will never be forgotten. He was a good man of God. My best to you, Christina, and the family in these days of both his mourning and the celebration of his righteous soul.*

A fellow parishioner and former friend, George Harrison

George Harrison - October 02, 2025 at 02:09 PM

J(

“ Dear Evelyn and Family... Our sincerest sympathy to all. Thoughts and prayers for you during this difficult time. Justine & Gino M

J&G Monahan (Shenandoah) - September 30, 2025 at 08:55 PM

JM

“ Joe and I were friends in high school where I first met him. We were active together in orchestra and on the stage. And we shared academic experiences but in the years prior to the Internet, we both went our separate ways. Then one day he is in Harrisburg and contacted me. It was so great to connect again. Joe was a gentleman in every sense of the word. He was kind and thoughtful. I also got to know his first wife a bit before she had an unfortunate event. It was very sad. But he hung in there. I always knew him to be determined and hard-working and goal oriented, but always had the time to have a kind word or discussion with anyone even if they weren't a friend. My condolences to the family. My condolence to his brothers whom I also knew pretty well in Conshohocken. I'm sorry that I won't be able to attend the funeral or the viewings due to work, but I pray for comfort for the family.

John Messmer - September 30, 2025 at 08:41 PM

JP

“ Joe and I went through school together from kindergarten to high school, he was a true gentleman and accomplished colleague. I have many fond memories. May the happy memories with his family and friends be of comfort to his family. RIP dear Joe.

John Di Pietro - September 30, 2025 at 03:24 PM

SM

“ Dear Joe, You will always be in my mind. You gave me my first legal secretary job and I loved working for you. I learned so much from you that has made me a better legal secretary for the last 41 years. You will be missed by your daughter Christina in so many ways as well as your wife Evelyn. I was so happy for you when I heard you remarried. Keep smiling my friend.

Susan Mano - September 30, 2025 at 02:16 PM

SM

“ Susan Mano lit a candle in memory of Joseph R. D'Annunzio



Susan Mano - September 30, 2025 at 02:13 PM

VV

“ Dear Christina, Evelyn and family: I knew Joe for many years as an Attorney here in Montgomery County. I was always impressed by his knowledge of the law- so much that I recommended he join the Nationwide Firm. More than his legal acumen was his friendly, gentle and caring way. Joe was the nicest person by far. I will miss you brother. You led a great life. Sincerely, Victor M Verbeke Esq

Victor Verbeke - September 30, 2025 at 01:09 PM