



Joseph Ralph Attonito

February 28, 1923 - December 5, 2023

Joseph Ralph Attonito, 2/28/41-12/5/23, died peacefully in his Tequesta, FL, home at the age of 82, surrounded by family on the morning of December 5, 2023. Known for his love of family and friends and immense beneficence, Joe will be missed by many. Born in Rockville Centre, NY, to Ralph and Palma (Polly) Attonito, Joe is survived by his dear sister Mary Ann (Attonito) Butz.

Joe attended Brooklyn Preparatory School, Dartmouth College, and Columbia Law School. He lived most of his adult life in East Quogue, NY and built a private law practice in Smithtown, NY. In 1964, Joe first married Victoria Hammond, and in 1983 married his loving wife Kathleen/Kathy (nee Krajenke) Attonito, bringing together Joe's daughters Jennifer Attonito and Amy (Attonito) Simmons, and Kathy's son James (O'Boyle) Attonito whom Joe adopted; he is survived by all. Joe dearly loved his children's spouses, Kristin (Kiki) Attonito (1977-2023), Stephen Simmons, and Mekhala Attonito, and doted on his 4 grandchildren, Charlie & Grace Simmons, and Pavana & Kalel Attonito. He was also deeply connected with his sister's children, Rachel McAllister and Anna Greenwald, and their children, Hollie Reece Mcallister and Jonah Greenwald. Through his marriage to Kathy, he further added her six siblings and their families to his list of loved ones.

Joe will always be remembered for his flair for story-telling, sharp wit, sense of humor, and profound knowledge of many subjects. One of Joe's pet subject

areas was American history, evidenced by his long-time chairmanship of the board of trustees for the Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation where he was especially proud to grant numerous scholarships to history students in NY. Joe's lifelong passions also included books, movies and theater, as well as hunting and fishing. Joe's friendships sprung equally from lecture halls, boardrooms, duck blinds, docks, and gas stations. We will think of him eternally in the sunrise over Shinecock Bay where he, his late father, Ralph, and many others have found joy and inspiration.

A Celebration of Life will be scheduled after the new year. More information to follow.

Tribute Wall

DD

“ I’m so saddened to learn of Joe’s passing! I was an associate in his Smithtown, NY law practice - he was always fair, compassionate, scholarly - easily one of the brightest and best attorneys I knew and also a good friend. My thoughts and prayers to his family - I will always remember him with a smile and gratitude for his example, his kindness and support to me early in my career! We shared a passion for the outdoors although from different perspectives and Joe was always one who valued differences and cared more about integrity and honesty than whether you saw things just the way he did. Thank you Joe for being a great “boss”, teaching me to seek solutions rather than focus on problems, and for being an honorable man and a true friend.

Doug DeFeo - September 14, 2024 at 12:18 PM

BS

“ I’m so saddened by the news of Joe’s passing. We were friends from Dartmouth College and Columbia Law School and had mutual respect for each other’s attempts to help others. I am especially appreciative of his courage amidst adversity over the years. He demonstrated a commitment to help young people in his tireless efforts to establish scholarship opportunities wherever possible. His wonderful spirit will be sorely missed by many . Bill Subin

Bill Subin - March 02, 2024 at 01:55 PM

DF

“ *Aaah yes a Shinnecock sunrise freezing in a duck blind or canal side. Fortunately it was too early for the two smartest people I ever knew to be debating some over my head subject. Either that or talking s... In my basement over a fermenting barel of grapes. Yet, Joe created my very favorite memory fairly recently. I don't know how he knew or got a copy but I wrote my first book in 2018, and shortly thereafter received a voicemail from Joe telling me I did a great job.*

I spent a great deal of my childhood with Joe. As a man I loved and respected who possesed an immense intellect such a compliment delivered with what sounded like pride swelled my heart.

*Peace descends, release all care
infinite charms in the everlasting arms
In oneness I will see you there.
RIP*

Dave ferrari - December 20, 2023 at 03:27 PM