

Eulogy
Joseph James Polizzi, Jr.
September 11, 1948-august 26, 2002
Delivered at palm west funeral home,
Royal Palm Beach/Loxahatchee, Fl August 31, 2002

Thank you all for being here.

It's a great tribute to my brother to see so many family and friends at his memorial service.

For those of you who don't know me.
I'm Cindy, Joe's little sister.

He was five years older than me.

But being that, Joe or Joey as I called him, was able to teach me an independence that has allowed me to accomplish many of the things I have done in my life.

He was always patient and took the time to listen when I had questions about my job or life's issues. He always offered excellent solutions or options for me to apply especially in the work force.

His own desire for quality and excellence was exhibited in his drive as a hard worker and overcoming challenges.

In the past week, with the help of family members, we put together the two large picture collages of Joe that you saw in the other room.

If you didn't get a chance to look at them, please make sure you stop by and see them.

It is a life story of the memories he had from birth until his last days with us.

We we're able to reminisce the times spent with Joe and saw he did have a lot of fun

From his childhood when he was jumping in piles of autumn leaves, to his high school days in his candy apple red '57 chevy, to bass and fly fishing in his boat or on his swamp buggy at lake okeechobee, to the family gatherings..... He enjoyed life.

Joe did suffer with uncomfortable pain in his last months with us.

That's why we are happy to know that he is in a better place now

Through our faith we know that God has his loving arms wrapped around him and is teaching him the mysteries of life.

What he may not have understood here on earth, God is teaching him now.

Joe's life could sometimes cause some issues,
But we are here not to air our concerns,
But to mourn the loss of a loving husband, son, brother, uncle cousin, and friend.

We are here to celebrate the life he lived.

Joe, a man who showed compassion especially to his dear and loving wife, Lois. Who was by his side through and through, in sickness and in health and until the end.

Joe and Lois would have celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary this coming October 22nd. She told me she had asked Joe if he would like to renew their marriage vows and his response was, “our vows are not old so it is not necessary to renew them!”

His love burned brighter each year for her and especially when he was sick. Lois ...you were his best friend, lover and wife.

He was a romantic at heart..... a side many of us didn't see. But a side that my brother shared with Lois . Kept in their living room is this huge crystal cut diamond set on an engraved mirrored plate the inscription reads:
“Lois, you are my precious gem. I love you. Joe”

So underneath that sometimes bear like gruffness was a guy as gentle as a kitten. Soft, cuddly and loving with a heart of gold!

He was a man of compassion. The other day when we were gathered in the family room at the hospital another story was shared.

The incident took place a few fourth of Julys ago when our uncle Rob Byrum was also suffering from cancer. Because uncle Rob couldn't stand on his feet for long periods of time, he was unable to join the rest of the family to watch the fireworks outside. Joe felt really bad and chose to stay behind with uncle Rob and keep him company. They had a great time talking. It was only a few days later that Joe was then diagnosed with lymphoma cancer.

Now the pain is silenced and Joe is at peace.

We will all remember him – in pictures, memories and prayers

And as he joins our other loved ones, they can take care and comfort him, maybe even go fishing with him throughout eternity.

In the past few days i kept trying to figure out something that could be shared with others that would remind us a little bit of joe each day. I once had asked him what his favorite bird was but he replied he likes all birds. Then it came to me the last day he was with us. When the family was consoling one another with love and hugs

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What is it you ask.....it's called a “monkey hug”.

Joe was known for his outrageous jungles sounds. One of his best was a monkey that would go something like this...Ooo-ooo-oooooooo-oooooooo-o-oooooooo-o-oo—

So the next time you hug someone, just scratch your arms up and down the others persons back to make it a monkey hug. I'm sure Joe would appreciate the gesture and to know that you shared a little extra love!

At this time, I would like to invite all of you directly after the service to celebrate Joe's life at a luncheon being held at his favorite restaurant, The Olive Garden. Directions are next to the registry book.

Again from the family,
Thank you all for coming today.