



# Joe Pasterik

April 12, 1946 - March 3, 2012  
 Paw Paw, MI

## LIFE STORY / OBITUARY



### VISITATION

Wednesday, March 7, 2012  
 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM EST  
 Betzler Life Story Funeral Homes  
 Paw Paw Location  
 60900 Michigan 40  
 Paw Paw, MI 49079  
[\(269\) 657-3870](tel:26916573870)

where a rosary will be recited at 7:00PM.  
 Refreshments will be served.

### Driving Directions

### SERVICE

Thursday, March 8, 2012  
 11:00 AM EST  
 St. Mary Catholic Church  
 209 S. Brown Street  
 Paw Paw, MI 49079

### CONTRIBUTIONS

At the family's request memorial contributions are to be made to those listed below. Please forward payment directly to the memorial of your choice.

American Heart Association / American Stroke Association Memorial or Tribute Donation

3816 Paysphere Circle  
 Chicago, IL 60674

[\(800\) 242-4721](tel:8002424721)  
[Web Site](#)

More than anything, Joe Pasterik had a great love for family. He was a family man through and through, and considered them his greatest achievement. One to never sit still, Joe was always on the go doing the things he loved. With faith as his guide, he kept his role as patriarch close to his heart, and his love for country as a proud Veteran shone bright through his unending patriotism. Gone but never to be forgotten, Joe's memory will remain in the hearts of those who knew and loved him.

A time of celebration, the end of World War II found Americans ready to move forward and begin the 1946 New Year with promise. The baby boom increased the need for housing and consumer goods, and new advances in science and technology increased industry and manufacturing. For Joseph Pasterik, Sr. and his wife, Anna (Mikulis), of Chicago, Illinois, nothing could compare to the joy experienced when they welcomed the birth of their son, Joseph, Jr. into their hearts on April 12, 1946.

Young Joe was also welcomed by his big sister, Marianne. With much to look forward to, the Pasterik family was four years old, lost their father to double pneumonia. Their mother eventually remarried Henry Bovdik who took Joe and his sister on as his own, and they were soon blessed with their little sister, Rose.

In 1951, Joe's family moved to the community of Paw Paw, Michigan where they began a life of farming. They mainly grew asparagus and grapes, and everyone pitched in to do their part. Joe was a true farm boy and loved working on the tractor. He attended St. Mary's Catholic School through the eighth grade, and in 1963, his stepfather sadly died. It was then when Joe took over the family farm all while attending to his studies. He went on to graduate in 1964 from Paw Paw High School.

After his studies, like many young guys his age, he was into fast cars, but especially loved fast Chevys. Most weekends he could be found at Martin Speedway drag racing his prize car, a red 1956 Bel-Air assembled himself from the ground up. With the Vietnam War underway, Joe took the step of enlisting into the Navy. Following two tours of duty aboard the U.S.S. Meeke County in Vietnam, he was honorably discharged on November 14, 1971 at the age of 25. He returned home to Paw Paw and worked the farm for a time.

Joe's life turned a new chapter in 1972 when he went on a blind date with a young woman from Mattawan. He met Paulette Butler at Sunset Lanes, a local bowling alley and the two really hit it off. They began dating and soon found themselves deeply in love. On June 17, 1972, they shared vows of marriage at St. Mary's Church in Paw Paw. After spending a memorable honeymoon in the Upper Peninsula, they set up house on the farm. Always handy and resourceful, he in time built their beloved family home. He also began working in the automotive industry, and continued to do so for over 40 years. Joe could always be found working in the parts department of the local Chevy store in Paw Paw and most recently as the Assistant Parts Manager. Joe was looking forward to retiring on his 66th birthday this coming April.

In 1973, Joe and Paulette were overjoyed when their daughter, Susan came along, followed by their son, Joseph III in 1977. Paulette remained at home with the kids while Joe worked hard to provide a good life for the family he treasured. He did, however, find the time to make wonderful memories with those he loved. He always dressed up as the Easter bunny to the delight of the kids, and coached little league for a number of years. As a family they enjoyed camping in their pop-up top van to the Wisconsin Dells, several Tiger's games and other destinations.

Whether spending his free time taking in his love for fishing, bowling in his earlier years, woodworking, or working on cars, Joe loved being outside. Of all of his hobbies, fishing was his favorite escape. Whenever he hooked into a big one, you could see him instantly transformed back into a ten year old boy. Always active, he enjoyed NASCAR, and liked listening to Tigers baseball on the patio while doing yard work and putting in the garden.

With the phrase, "there's nothing on TV," Joe found new ways to keep himself active. Going to the extreme of purchasing a Case bulldozer that he nicknamed Casey, Joe would spend hours back by the pond taking down trees for firewood. The family however believes this was more for entertainment than out of necessity.

When the kids were little, he loved playing outside with them in the leaves, taking them for tractor rides, making snow forts in the winter, and working in the garden together. He also taught his children a strong work ethic. They worked alongside him picking pumpkins and asparagus, and pulled weeds just to mention a few of their responsibilities.

Although Joe was either working or on the move in some way, he never minded sitting through a few games of poker now and then, especially while enjoying a few cold P.B.s. Family get-togethers were always fun playing penny pusher, often until the wee hours where everyone shared great times. He continued his love for Chevy's, and liked the sounds of country music and the oldies. He especially loved functions where he could kick up his heels with a good polka dance. A true grill master, there was nothing better to Joe than grilling some steaks outside with a P.B.R. in hand along with some great potatoes. He loved fish fry's and usually did his fishing at Maple and Ackley lakes. One could never leave Joe's garage without hearing the coined phrase, "got time for one?" He made sure that anyone who came over was welcome to a cold beverage out of his fridge.

Throughout the years Joe also had some great dogs in his life, but his two favorite dogs were Jet and Midnight. Joe enjoyed feeding the birds and as a talented woodworker, made some great bird and squirrel feeders. He loved kids, and when grandchildren came along, he spoiled them to no end. Just as he had done when his own children were young, he loved giving the grandkids rides on the tractor. He put his woodworking skills to good use, making perfect renditions of doll beds, ice cream stands, and doll swings. With only a picture in hand, Joe was able to make any request from his grandchildren come to life. He was very proud of his family and could usually be found with a camera in hand taking pictures of the kids and family at gatherings. With the passion of a professional photographer, Joe would artfully setup each shot to capture the mood and theme of the event.

Joe had a strong sense of family, and that included the bond established during his military days. Very patriotic, he had a love for country and was a proud Veteran. Devout in his Catholic faith, Joe loved the church for which he was so committed. He felt strongly about the things he believed in, and when he did, he gave it his all.

Eight years ago, Joe suffered a heart attack. Always active and on the go, he seemed to be in good health. Sadly, he suffered a massive heart attack at home on Saturday, March 3, 2012, and died unexpectedly at the age of 65. Forever remembered, he will be deeply missed.

Joe is survived by his wife of 40 years, Paulette; children: Sue (Jason) Howk and Joe (Heather) Pasterik; two grandchildren: Abby and Grace (and anticipating Hailee's birth in July); sisters: Marianne (Charles) Gonser and Rose (Bob) Bolinger; nephews: Jason Bolinger and Michael Gonser; niece: Lisa Gonser. Learn more about Joe; view his Life Story film, and share refreshments with his family and friends on Wednesday from 4-8 PM at the Life Story Funeral Home, Betzler & Thompson; 60900 M-40, Paw Paw 657-3870 where the Rosary will be recited at 7:00 PM. The Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated Thursday, March 8, 2012, 11:00 AM at St. Mary's Catholic Church. Burial at St. Mary's Cemetery followed by a luncheon at the family home. Please visit Joe's personal web page at [www.lifestorynet.com](http://www.lifestorynet.com) where you can share a favorite memory, photo, and sign his online memory book before coming to the funeral home. Memorial donations may be directed to the American Heart Association.

