



## Joseph J. Mazzola

November 3, 1942 - February 19, 2023

TOWNSEND; First Sergeant Joseph J. Mazzola (ret), 80, of Townsend passed away surrounded by his loving family on Sunday February 19, 2023, after battling health complications resulting from Agent Orange exposure in Vietnam.

Joe was first generation Italian-American, born in Worcester November 3, 1942 to the late Joseph and Josephine M. (Zollo) Mazzola and was a graduate of Commerce High School in Worcester.

He is survived by his wife of 45 years, Margaret (Peggy) Mazzola, his son Anthony and his wife Lisa Mazzola of Medway and their three sons, Ryan, Jason and Colin, his daughter Susan and her husband Richard Novia of Greenville, NH and many cousins, nephews and nieces.

He was the brother of the late Michael Mazzola of Worcester and Robert Mazzola Shrewsbury. .

He joined the United States Army in 1959 where he served 23 years, including two combat tours in Vietnam, three peace time tours in Europe and two in Korea. He retired as the First Sergeant of the Military Police at Fort Devens in 1982. He received many awards and citations including a Silver Star, two Bronze Stars, and was a Purple Heart recipient.

Joe and Peggy moved to Townsend in 1981 where they raised their family and enjoyed many years together. Joe was said to be a staple of the North Middlesex Regional School District, where he worked from 1989 until he retired in 2006 and was respected by many in the community. Soon thereafter he became the Veteran's Service Officer for the towns of Townsend, Ashby and Pepperell, where he was committed to helping those who served. He dedicated his life to service until he retired in October of 2022 to concentrate on his family and health.

Joe was a devoted, loving husband, father and grandfather. He loved to travel, in 2000 Joe and Peggy discovered cruising and never looked back. They shared many trips to the Caribbean, through the Panama Canal, the Mediterranean, and Bermuda, where they renewed their wedding vows on their 25th anniversary. Joe had a passion for cooking, which he passed down generationally through sharing family recipes. A frequent request of his grandsons was making homemade pizza with "Papa Joe." He loved music, his favorite artists were Frank Sinatra, Tony Bennet and Andrea Bocelli. He enjoyed golf, watching westerns and war movies.

Aside from the military, his greatest accomplishment was his family, and Joe loved nothing more than spending time them. He had many friends that he considered family, including friends of his children, who he treated as his own and loved fiercely.

Joe will be remembered as a kind, hard-working, honorable and dedicated man of service, who loved his family, community, God and country.

Joe's Funeral Mass will be celebrated 11 AM Monday, February 27, 2023 at St. John's Church, 1 School Street, Townsend. Interment will be at Massachusetts Veterans Cemetery, 111 Glenallen Street, Winchendon.

Joe's family will receive relatives and friends at calling hours, Sunday, February 26th at the Anderson Funeral Home, 250 Main Street, (Rte 119) Townsend Center. For additional information or to leave an online condolence please visit their website at [www.andersonfuneral.com](http://www.andersonfuneral.com).

Memorial contributions may be made to DAV PO Box 403, Townsend, MA 01469

# Previous Events

## Calling Hours

FEB **26**. 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

Anderson Funeral Home - Townsend  
250 Main Street ~ Route 119  
Townsend, MA 01469  
(978) 597-2692

## Funeral Mass

FEB **27**. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church  
1 School Street  
Townsend, MA 01469

# Tribute Wall

AM

“ Adele Sands & John Martin purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Joseph J. Mazzola.



Adele Sands & John Martin - February 24, 2023 at 09:51 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Joseph J. Mazzola.



February 23, 2023 at 02:06 PM

DB

“ Tony we are sorry to hear of the passing of your Dad. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family 🙏💕

Donna & Terry Batista - February 22, 2023 at 02:17 PM

BZ

“ Our deepest condolences to the Mazzola I remember buddy when I was growing up when we go to visit, uncle Joe and auntie Pep who I loved very much . I am the youngest in the Zollo family and would see Mike each week at the barbershop. Buddy and his family are in our prayers and thoughts. . May he rest in peace.  
Sincerely, Cousin Bobby Zollo

Bobby Zollo - February 22, 2023 at 12:08 PM

PC

“ Summer of 1992 I had the privilege to work for Joe at the high school. He was a great guy and gave us so much freedom as long as we got the job done. I first worked for him for free as I was doing community service. But he liked me and hired me back for the summer. I also later joined the Army after high school I had no idea of his full military service. RIP TOP. Til Valhalla

Pat Casey - February 21, 2023 at 09:06 PM

NC

“ Our deepest condolences to the Mazzola Family. He was admired and respected. He will be missed as he was Townsends' Veteran Service Officer. May His Memory Be Eternal!!

Natalie and Duke Call - February 21, 2023 at 08:59 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Joseph J. Mazzola.



February 21, 2023 at 08:46 PM

MD

“ My condolences to the Mazzola family. Joe was my good friend and fellow veterans' officer that I will remember always. God rest my friend!

Mike Detillion - February 21, 2023 at 08:44 PM

EC

“ Peggy ,Sue and Tony, we are so sorry at the loss of your loving husband and father. I will never forget the young boy who would fly up the stairway to his parent's third floor apartment taking three steps at the time and bursting through the door after hearing his father whistle out the kitchen window signaling that he was wanted at home! Buddy and his family are in our prayers and thoughts.  
Cousins Betty and Tony

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**Elizabeth Chionchio** - February 21, 2023 at 08:31 PM

FC

“ To the Mazzola family,  
I haven't seen Joe who we called Buddy for years. Growing up in Worcester on Shrewsbury Street and playing at East Park was so special. My mother used to babysit Buddy after school while Auntie Pep and Uncle Joe worked. Buddy was like a big brother to me. As a kid Buddy was always chubby but when he went into the Army he lost all that weight. He was funny, kind, and protective of his little cousin. We connected one time when my son was playing sports at Shrewsbury High. I wish I stayed in contact with him. Please accept my sincere condolences. May he rest in peace.  
Sincerely,  
Cousin Frank Capurso

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**Frank Capurso** - February 21, 2023 at 07:39 PM

LF

“ Joe was the staple in our Pepperell community. He was the veteran's agent for many years and the chief cook at our Veterans breakfasts. He was always giving his time to our veterans. I will always remember his sense of humor. He was a driven man always ready to serve his community. He will be sorely missed. May you Rest In Peace Joe. Thank you for everything ❤️

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**lisa ferolito** - February 21, 2023 at 07:15 PM

TF

“ *The Birr Family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Joseph J. Mazzola.*



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**The Birr Family** - February 21, 2023 at 05:39 PM

SF

“ *Peggy, Tony, Sue and family,  
Joe was so proud of you. He certainly enjoyed time with you and would fill me in on all your latest achievements.  
He often came to Town Hall on days off to help or get information to help a veteran.  
Memorial Day was very special to him. He made sure flags were placed on veteran's graves.  
I'm grateful for the time I worked across the hall from Joe and got to know him.  
May God Bless you with many wonderful memories.*

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**Sue Funaiole** - February 21, 2023 at 05:36 PM