



Joseph R. Sullivan

May 20, 1947 - October 30, 2020

Joseph R. Sullivan, 73, of Townsend, died Friday morning, October 30, 2020, in his home surrounded by his loving family.

Joe was born in Boston, on May 20, 1947, a son of the late Dr. John F. and his wife Margaret (Carr) Sullivan.

At the age of 19, Joe started his military career in the United States Marine Corps, where he served two tours of duty in the Vietnam War. He then joined the Army Reserve Guard and served 26 years and retired as a Master Sargent. Following his retirement Joe worked for 15 years for the Department of Defense at range control in Devens.

He was a volunteer with the American Red Cross as a member of the disaster team, DAT. He also worked as a security guard during the holidays, protecting Santa Claus at the local mall.

Joe has resided in Townsend for the past 39 years. During that time he was active in town sports as a coach in the Pop Warner football program for 10 seasons. He then helped out with the football programs at both North Middlesex Regional and Nashoba Valley Regional High Schools.

He leaves his wife of 48 years, Pauline J. (Harkin) Sullivan of Townsend, two

sons, Jay C. Sullivan of Portsmouth, NH and Mark Sullivan of Millbury; a granddaughter, Kaycee Elizabeth Sullivan, nephews and nieces.

He is predeceased by a son, Douglas C. Sullivan who died in 2001 and a sister Kathleen M. Sullivan.

A funeral service will be held on Tuesday, November 3, 2020, at 11AM in the T.J. Anderson & Son Funeral Home, 250 Main St., Townsend. Burial with military honors will follow in the Hillside Cemetery. A visitation period will be held prior to the funeral on Tuesday morning from 10 to 11 AM.

Social distancing guidelines will be practiced and face coverings required for all services. For further information or to leave an online condolence please visit www.anderonfuneral.com.

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to Nashoba Nursing and Hospice, 3 Patterson Rd, Shirley, MA 01464

Cemetery Details

Hillside Cemetery

Highland Street
Townsend, MA

Previous Events

Calling Hours

NOV 3. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

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

Funeral Service

NOV 3. 11:00 AM (ET)

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

Tribute Wall

JC

“ I’m so sorry to hear of Joe’s passing. I hope you and the boys will find comfort in your memories of better times. RIP Joe. Love and prayers to you all.

Janet (O’Connor) Carvalho - November 03, 2020 at 08:14 AM

TS

“ My prayers and best wishes to Joe's family. I played ball with Joe at the Prep and a better friend or teammate couldn't be found. Check of a football player too. Rest easy Joe

Tom king. Sjp65' - November 03, 2020 at 05:12 AM


Edmund
Lizotte

“ I had the privilege of serving with MSG Sullivan (Joe) when I was assigned to the 3rd Brigade, 26th ID, and other assignments within the MAARNG. I met Joe during a range meeting at Camp Edwards as the brigade was preparing for annual training. Joe was the epitome of an NCO who cared about Soldiers and was a Soldier's Soldier. Until we meet again at Fiddler's Green. Mission Complete, rest easy.

Edmund Lizotte - November 02, 2020 at 10:26 PM

SZ

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Scott Zuffanti - November 02, 2020 at 12:45 PM

SZ

“ A brand new 2LT couldn't ask for a better Platoon Sergeant; or a new Battalion Training Officer for a better Operations NCO. Sully was the epitome of a Non-Commissioned Officer: tough, fair, hard-charging, mentor to all. He was one-of-a-kind. We are better for having known him, and lesser for his absence.

Scott Zuffanti - November 02, 2020 at 12:42 PM



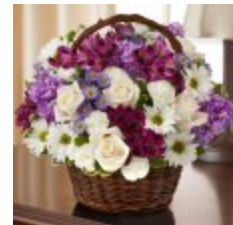
“ Floor Plant for Sympathy was purchased for the family of Joseph R. Sullivan.



November 02, 2020 at 10:30 AM



“ Peace, Prayers, & Blessings- Lavender and White was purchased for the family of Joseph R. Sullivan.



November 02, 2020 at 07:36 AM



“ Blue & White Sympathy Basket was purchased for the family of Joseph R. Sullivan.



November 02, 2020 at 07:25 AM

CF

“ Dear Pauline and boys, Jimmy and I felt so sad to hear of Joe’s passing, he was such a great guy, friend and such a wonderful mentor for our boys, he made an incredible influence on their lives. He will forever be remembered and in our hearts, God Bless. Love,
The Capsalis Family

Capsalis Family - November 01, 2020 at 06:30 PM

LM

“ I had the honor of working with Joe for four years at range control. He was a man of honor and a gentleman. Rest in Peace my friend. Until Valhalla!

Larry Murphy - November 01, 2020 at 02:30 PM



“ Multicolor Bright Sympathy Floor Basket was purchased for the family of Joseph R. Sullivan.



November 01, 2020 at 12:13 PM

JS

“ I served with MSG Sullivan in the 1-181 Inf - Sully was a sweetheart of a man and a great soldier, mentor and friend. The world has lost a wonderful person. My thoughts and love to him wife and family.

June Gates Norton, Retired SGT - November 01, 2020 at 11:57 AM



“ *Floor Plant for Sympathy was purchased for the family of Joseph R. Sullivan.*



November 01, 2020 at 11:55 AM



“ *SGM Sully, coach- mentor and more. You will always be missed but never forgotten!! I learned, you guided me so much in my career and life!!! You have left a legacy beyond just a great family!! God Bless!!*
Tom & Kim Nanof

Tom Nanof - November 01, 2020 at 11:46 AM



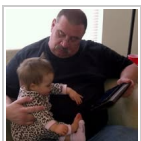
Always so proud to call Joe my cousin. Great memories of hanging out in our younger years. RIP Joe. My deepest sympathy to Pauline and family.

Margie Vaughn - November 02, 2020 at 04:21 PM



“ *John and I were very sorry to hear of Joe’s passing. Many good memories of Pop Warner football Sue Sullivan ,Mesa Az*

Susan Sullivan - October 31, 2020 at 04:07 PM



“ *MSG Sullivan He was a great man and a great teacher I will miss him SSG Gordon Reid HHC 1-181 INF*

Gordon Reid - October 31, 2020 at 03:41 PM



If you are on time your late KYPD

Gordon Reid - October 31, 2020 at 03:53 PM



Joe Sullivan was the text example of a hard core seasoned NCO. I personally benefitted from his sage and candid advise during my time at the 181 Infantry. He left a lasting impact on myself and so many officers and soldiers during his long tenure at the 181. KYPD Jeff Greb

Jeffrey Greb - November 01, 2020 at 02:00 PM



“ My sincere condolences to the Sullivan family. I worked with Sully for several years in the Guard. He was truly an exceptional NCO. Joe, May you have gotten to heaven a half hour before the devil knew you were dead and the Lord held you in the palms of His hands. May you Rest In Peace. 🙏 ”

John Mclean Ret SGM - October 31, 2020 at 02:40 PM



“ Charles Sonnier (I was his unit clerk) purchased the Thoughts & Prayers for the family of Joseph R. Sullivan. ”



Charles Sonnier (I was his unit clerk) - October 31, 2020 at 02:32 PM

CS

“ I worked full time with Joe at HQ, 1-181 Infantry in Worcester during the 1980s-1990s. It was a privilege to serve with such a dedicated, forthright, and decent soldier. Joe was awarded the Navy Commendation medal with "V" device for valor while serving as an enlisted Marine in Vietnam and was awarded the Legion of Merit before he retired.

He was a helluva soldier and a man. RIP Joe.

Charles Sonnier - October 31, 2020 at 02:21 PM

CG

“ *Keep Your Powder Dry!*

Christopher Gates - October 31, 2020 at 02:01 PM

RH

“ Joe,
It was a privilege to have known you these past 34 years. You were a great mentor for me during the 4 assignments where we served together during our careers. You helped me develop as an officer and as a person. You were the most outstanding Non-Commissioned Officer I ever served with.

I am also grateful for the time spent with you these past 6 weeks. You set a high bar for anyone who has to pass through the ordeals you did; fighting cancer for years and undergoing hospice with courage, dignity and a sense of humor. Even at the end you were a great role model.

You are loved by a wonderful family, a great many friends, and the uncountable number of fellow Soldiers and Marines you served with.

"Keep Your Powder Dry"
Rick
COL (Ret.) US Army

Rick Hens - October 31, 2020 at 02:00 PM

MD

“ *Rest in Eternal Peace Brother. Semper Fi... "Save me a Seat"*

Mark Devlin - October 31, 2020 at 11:15 AM



“ *Rest in Peace Joe. It was great to know you and work with you. I will treasure our talks and laughs outside of range control. God bless.*

Scott Lehto - October 31, 2020 at 10:01 AM

TG

“ *RIP Joe. Enjoyed working with you at Devens. We always had lots of laughs. Thoughts and prayers to your family.*

Toni Gregoire - October 31, 2020 at 07:44 AM

SA

“ *RIP Joe. You be miss.*



Scott J Adams - October 30, 2020 at 07:54 PM

SP

“ *RIP Joe - Always looked up to you and your quiet control commanded our attention. Will miss your smirk when we did something stupid and you caught us but gave us a break. God Bless Sir and God Speed SEMPER FI Spence our till Valhalla*

spence - October 30, 2020 at 07:27 PM



“ *Red, White & Blue Sympathy Floor Basket was purchased for the family of Joseph R. Sullivan.*



October 30, 2020 at 07:24 PM

MQ

“ I will always remember Joe as soft spoken, kind hearted and so so handsome when we would visit mom and dad for spaghetti meals in the fall. May your hearts be warmed by knowing he’s loved endlessly.

Monique (Gionet) Quinn - October 30, 2020 at 05:12 PM


Amanda
Huntington

“ May your memories give you strength, and the love of those around you help you through the days ahead.
With deepest sympathy,
Amanda Huntington and family



Amanda Huntington - October 30, 2020 at 03:43 PM

JP

“ So many memories of Joe growing up and our family spending much time at his Mom & Dad's home, my Uncle John & Aunt Peggy. Rest in Peace, cuz. I know all your friends and family will miss you.

Joni Paddock - October 30, 2020 at 03:43 PM

MO

“ Pauline and boys. We were so saddened to hear about Joe. He will forever be one of the best coaches my kids have had. He was also a true American hero and such an amazing role model and mentor. When Dan was deployed he reached out several times to check on us and would make me laugh with military stories that I normally would not be privy to. He was a great comfort to us. He was beloved by many including our family. My thoughts and prayers are with you all. With much love and respect Maureen and Jack O’Gorman

Maureen O’Gorman - October 30, 2020 at 03:33 PM