



Joseph Peter Naras

February 16, 1955 - June 12, 2019

Joseph P. Naras was born in Chicago, IL, on Feb. 16, 1955, to Ray and Rosemary Naras. Growing up in Chicago, Joe enjoyed all that the Windy City had to offer. He loved the lakeshore, the architecture, and the history of the city, and he especially enjoyed the city's many nature preserves. This kindled his deep love of nature which, in turn, led him to the University of Idaho, where he graduated with a degree in Forestry. The other great love of Joe's life was his family. Joe met his wife, Cindy Johnson, in 1989, and they were married on August 3rd, 1991. He always loved spending time with Cindy, and their two children, Joseph and Elizabeth, and was inordinately proud of all of them. Joe's love for the outdoors was a lifelong passion that he shared with his family. He enjoyed hiking, camping, & cross country skiing. He was also a dedicated Boy Scout Leader, and spent 15 years mentoring youth. One of Joe's favorite places to be was "Pappa's Cabin", the family's cabin in the Sierra's. Many hours were spent experiencing all that the area had to offer, with Joe sharing his knowledge and love of the natural world with his children as they grew. Summers would usually find the Naras family at Big Trees State Park, hiking, picnicking, and attending ranger programs on nature conservation, and wilderness survival. Time was also spent at the "Rec Center", relaxing and enjoying the warm weather, with swimming, outdoor movies and bingo nights. Weather never deterred Joe from spending time in nature and the outdoors. The Fall would usually herald long road trips to see the Aspens turn, and Winters would be spent cross country skiing, sledding and snow shoeing. Joe also loved to cook, and he enjoyed barbecuing on his many grills. He had a grill for every technique, and delighted in using them to make great food for family and friends. He also enjoyed orchestrating "pizza nights". These began with just the right homemade dough, secret sauce and an infinite number of toppings. He was a home brewer, and spent many months each year, brewing various beers to be showcased at an annual Oktoberfest gathering for family and friends. He also enjoyed wine tasting with Millbrae "Peeps" – a special group of friends who also enjoy gourmet foods and wine experiences. Joe was a long time employee of the City and County of San Francisco. He spent 30 plus years dedicated to the preservation and protection of the San Francisco Watershed. Joe was preceded in death by his mother and father, and his brother, William Naras. He is survived by his wife Cindy Naras, son Joseph Naras, and daughter Elizabeth

Naras; his sisters, Mary Ann Oberschmied (Joerg Oberschmied) and Christine Naras; nieces, Nicole Oberschmied (Kinjal Patel), Simone Oberschmied and Samantha Naras; his nephews, Mark Oberschmied and Michael Naras; and cousins, Theresa Zuziack and Mary (late Joseph) Bender. Joe Naras was a man of wide interests and a strong and abiding love of family and friends. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him. In lieu of flowers, please make donations to: The Multiple Myeloma Foundation.

Comments



“ Googling a number of high school friends, I happened upon this obituary for Joe, and I'm--so sorry. We went "steady" (or whatever it was called then) during our junior year. He was an amazing person, and I've remembered him fondly all these years. My deepest condolences to all his family and friends.

Patricia - September 08, 2020 at 10:54 PM



“ OMG...I was roommates with Joe at The University of Idaho. He was one of the best guys. My sincere condolences.



Doug Wilson - July 29, 2020 at 03:53 PM



“ Deepest sympathy for the Cindy and the family. I've known Joe since his first day at SFPUC. Always a nice guy and friend to the end.

Cynthia Grady - June 21, 2019 at 12:35 PM



“ Enjoyed & learned so much from the stories/history of the Watershed you told at our meetings. Much respect & admiration. RIP Joe.

Ty Kang - June 20, 2019 at 10:32 AM



“ I’m so sad to hear of Joe’s passing. I worked with Joe early on in my career at SFPUC and then later when I was at PG&E. He was one of the best people I’ve encountered, and I always loved hearing his stories. He was a true mentor and I miss working with him and certainly cherish the opportunities I had to learn from him. All the best to his family – he was a wonderful person and I’m glad I got to know him.

Kristina Zaccardelli Caliando - June 19, 2019 at 02:04 PM



“ When I began at the PUC in 2009, I started in the Burlingame offices by Joe. I often stopped by to ask questions about the watershed and mapping efforts. He always took the time with an ear to lend and lots of advice and wisdom to impart. He is truly missed. His spirit and tenacity live on in our watershed, Godspeed.

Krysten Laine - June 19, 2019 at 11:16 AM



“ My deepest condolences to Cindy, Joseph, and Elizabeth. Whenever I needed to call Joe for a work-related issue, I looked forward to catching up with him about whatever was on his mind that day. Usually 30 minutes would pass by before I would reluctantly swivel back to the task at hand. He was extremely generous with his time and extensive knowledge. It was an honor to have worked with him. He will be sorely missed.

Betsy Rhodes - June 19, 2019 at 10:27 AM



“ Our heartfelt condolences to Cindy, Joseph, and Elizabeth. We will always remember the great times here in California and Chicago. Joe will be missed. All our love.

Rick and Brenda Naras - June 19, 2019 at 08:12 AM



“ Dearest Cindy, Joseph and Elisabeth, We send our condolences and prayers at this very difficult time . Our thoughts are with you. We remember many happy times gathering at your home and how welcome we all felt. Always look forward to The Harvestfest and trying all of Joe’s latest creations. From the home brew, to root beer to beef jerky. He was a wonderful man. So kind and giving. Accomplished so many wonderful things. May he be at peace. Much love, The KennedyFamily Mike, Cyrell, Alex and Andrew.

Cyrell Kennedy - June 18, 2019 at 09:57 PM



“ Prayers and condolences to Cindy, Joe, Elizabeth and the entire Naras family.

James, Liz, and Kylie Forsell - June 18, 2019 at 03:49 PM



“ I was so saddened to hear of Joe’s untimely passing and am praying for the whole family. Joe and I had many adventures together and shared a lot of unforgettable times working on the Watersheds. Words cannot express the true essence of Joe as he was a man of many season’s with a passion for them all. He would research to the nth degree the items which interested him and put his heart and soul into those subjects so he could make sure nothing was hidden from his inquiring mind. He was so proud of his family and the many adventures and activities they shared together. The one title that is so befitting of remembering Joe in my memories: Joe Naras, Phd. in Analogy as he could come up with one for every occasion! You were a legend and a great friend!

Mark Mueller - June 18, 2019 at 11:15 AM



“ Cindy, Joseph, and Elizabeth – We are very sorry to hear about the loss of cousin Joe. He was always an adventurer, and I remember the fun we shared when we visited Chicago.

Tom, Doreen, Nick, and Matt Naras - June 17, 2019 at 03:50 PM



“ My heartfelt condolences go out to entire Naras family , I will miss our bbqs' at work and sharing the hottest peppers and many other spicy items ... long conversations about food and fun. God Bless You All

Juan Harris - June 17, 2019 at 12:49 PM



“ Our thoughts are with Cindy, Joseph and Elizabeth. We will miss Joe's generous spirit, his sense of humor and long stories on many subjects, and his deep knowledge and love of the watershed and the SF Water Department. He was a true mentor to me, and I feel fortunate to have had him as a boss and colleague.

Jeremy Lukins - June 17, 2019 at 10:47 AM



“ My deepest sympathy to Cindy, Elizabeth and Joseph. May the good memories of joys and laughter bring you comfort during this difficult time. I remembered talking to Joe about training needs and I can tell he cared deeply about his staff and wanted the best for them. He will be missed.

Tina Tang - June 17, 2019 at 10:34 AM



“ I had the great honor of walking through the Watershed with the man that managed it for years. I will miss his witty knowledge and quick humor. My deepest sympathy to his lovely family. Sarah Lenz

Sarah Lenz - June 16, 2019 at 03:45 PM



“ How often do you meet someone with Joe's sincerity, and such an open, honest heart? His knowledge and love of the outdoors, and commitment to the environment impressed me deeply. Met Joe shortly before Cindy came into his life... never saw anyone so much in love. Hard to believe he has moved on.

Malcolm Hillan - June 15, 2019 at 11:20 PM



“ Written by: Scott, Diane, and Gregory Dear Cindy, Joseph, and Elizabeth, We are sorry for the loss of Joe. We have fond memories of Joe and always looked forward to Pizza Night. Scott, Diane, and Gregory.

Scott, Diane, and Gregory - June 15, 2019 at 01:40 PM



“ So, so sorry Cindy and the Naras family. Loving thoughts are coming your way

karyn hoffman - June 15, 2019 at 01:38 PM



“ My deepest condolences to Cindy, Joseph and Elizabeth. Joe is always the best, and he has a kind heart. He always a good boss to me. Joe, you will be missed.

Gloria Ng - June 14, 2019 at 03:40 PM



“ We had the pleasure of knowing Joe since he first joined the San Francisco Water Department many years ago. Our deepest condolences to your family.

Andrew & Carol DeGraca - June 14, 2019 at 01:50 PM



“ Cindy, Elizabeth and Joseph, Such a huge loss and sad time for you. Please remember all the good times, keep them close in your hearts. May you find strength and comfort from those memories. We are here for you. Big hugs to you all. Love you, Roy & Donnette

Donnette Taboada - June 14, 2019 at 01:29 PM



“ I remember meeting Joe 20 years ago when he was a Cub Scout Leader with Gary Poland. Two GREAT guys. Over the years, I have come to know Joe and is kind heart. You will be missed Joe. My condolences to my friend Cindy and her beautiful children Joseph (who was my son's classmate) and Elizabeth. My heart goes out to you all

Jane Adam - June 14, 2019 at 12:15 PM



“ Please accept my deepest condolences for your family. Lilia

Lilia Makiyevsky - June 14, 2019 at 08:30 AM



“ Our hearts go out to Cindy, Joseph and Elizabeth with deepest sympathy for their loss. Joe was always so kind and patient when our families hung out together when our kids were at Meadows School. A gentle spirit gone too soon. The Richardsons Lorianne, Gary, Chasen, Cade & Brooke

Lorianne Richardson - June 13, 2019 at 11:18 PM



“ My deepest condolences to Cindy, Elizabeth and Joseph. Joe was one of a kind, a renaissance man, and exceedingly kind to me as a mentor – especially during the early days of my career at SF Water. Joanne

Joanne Wilson - June 13, 2019 at 05:06 PM



“ Best always JPN.

John Fournet - June 13, 2019 at 05:01 PM



“ Our hearts go out to Cindy, Joseph and Elizabeth

Guido and Gayle Ciardi - June 13, 2019 at 04:30 PM