



## Joseph R. Przybycki

August 2, 1946 - November 17, 2020

Joseph R. Przybycki, age 74, passed away after a several-year battle with degenerative brain disease paired with Covid-19 on November 17, 2020. Joe was born in the outskirts of Detroit in Harper Woods, Michigan, where he developed an early love and investment into sports of all kinds; especially football, baseball, and basketball. He attended Saint Thomas Catholic School and Notre Dame High School where he excelled in athletics, eventually earning a scholarship to Michigan State University where he played as a Tackle from 1964-67. He played in two National Championship victories, including the 1966 "Game of the Century" versus Notre Dame where he earned second-team honors and hall of fame recognition. He was drafted to play for the Philadelphia Eagles in 1968, though his career was cut short by a series of concussions which made it no longer safe for him to continue.

Joe married Victoria on January 5, 1979, and built a life in Warren, Michigan. Though he never had children of his own, he deeply loved Victoria's kids/grandkids with all he could. He spent the remainder of his life diving into books, research, and music. He was a neighborhood friendly face who highly valued interaction with others and making new friends. He loved to dance, to sing, to enjoy Vicky's incredible homemade meals at the dinner table, and have meaningful and passionate conversations with those he loved. He built others up, and always looked for the best in people.

Joe's health significantly declined over the last decade cognitively and physically. Mental illness can often hide the most beautiful parts of the people we remember, though Joe's soft heart and caring soul still shined through in many moments where he made those around him feel loved and capable of anything they wanted out of this life.

Joe's brain and spinal cord tissue have been donated to the CTE center at Boston University to further advance research for this disease and we are hopeful that this contribution helps to provide relief and support through funding and procedures to assist others in the future.

He was the son of late Joseph Jerome and Pauline Pearl, brother to the late Gloria Jean, husband to Victoria Przybycki, step father to Jacqueline Elery, Stephen and Scott Schigur, and Grandpa/Papa to Rachel Elery, Brandon Trevor and Lauren Schigur. His remains will be cremated and preserved in remembrance.

Arrangements in care of Jowett Funeral Home - 57737 Gratiot, New Haven.

# Comments

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“ Saw Joe's death notice in the Notre Dame H.S. alumni news. Sadden me as I was the non-athletic / nerd H.S. kid and Joe was one of Michigan's great football players, Parade All American and he was simply a good human being , nice to everyone. As to football memories, Notre Dame played Denby in the city championship the night John Kennedy was killed. A dreary rainy night. Joe's last game before going on to MSU. He provided a lot of memories.  
Mike Dettmer, Traverse City

**Michael Dettmer** - February 04 at 04:57 PM

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“ Joe was my best buddy. I miss his comfort, his laughter and his kindness ... He will always be in my heart. 42 years of marriage...

**Victoria Przybycki** - January 12 at 11:17 AM

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“ Joe was my buddy "Down the Street". I always looked forward to seeing Joe , and talking sports. He was a wonderful human being, and I will miss him.  
Frank Moravcik

**Frank Moravcik** - December 13, 2020 at 06:12 PM

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“ Joe was a senior at MSU when I was a freshman. He was easily the most impressive physical player we had. I remember that he had time to help me in the weight room, simply because he was a good person. Thank you and Rest In Peace.

**Tom Barnum** - December 04, 2020 at 08:41 AM

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“ Hello. Joe was a good friend growing up on Baldwin St. near Harper and VanDyke on Detroit's East Side. We both attended St.Thomas School. Joe was quite a physical specimen..big, coordinated, fast and strong.We both played on St.Thomas's grade school football team. Joe was one year older than me. So, when Joe was in the 8th grade he was the most dominant player on our team and also in the entire league. He just played at a much higher level. Other teams we played often tried to get Joe disqualified from playing because of his size but really because he could totally dominate the game. He was that good. Of course he went on in his football career and excelled at all levels, high school, college and of course, professional. I just remember him as a good friend. Jim Koczara

**Jim Koczara** - November 23, 2020 at 11:12 AM