



Mr. Joe Sam La Rue

December 18, 1953 - January 14, 2016

Joe Sam La Rue. December 18th 1953 – January 14th, 2016. 62 years old.
Port Huron, MI.

Joe was born in San Diego, CA to Doris Jane Killough and Joe La Rue, growing up in both San Diego, CA and Las Vegas, NV. He joined the Marines in 1971 serving in Iceland saving people, homes and businesses from local volcanic eruptions and also served in Washington, DC where he is now forever showcased in two memorial paintings, one being the Vietnam War Memorial. In 1977 he married Margaret Allen in San Diego, CA and became a father to her son, Chad Jeremy Shettleroe. After getting married, Joe went on to serve in the reserves starting in Las Vegas, NV and then worked as a sheriff's deputy in Summit County, CO before heading to Oregon as he started his career in the Coast Guard. In 1980 in Tillamook, OR he and Margaret had a son, Marc Joseph La Rue. The family then moved to Frankfort, MI to serve as the last light-keeper of Point Betsie lighthouse. After the lighthouse went automatic, they moved to Lakewood, CA until 1988 when they moved to Plymouth, MI where they had a daughter, Sara Janelle La Rue. Later they moved to Port Huron, MI where Joe eventually retired from the Coast Guard as a Chief Boatswain's Mate of the USS Bramble in 1996. After retirement, Joe joined the Immigration and Naturalization Service on the United States/Canadian Border in Port Huron for a few years before then working for ATF at Selfridge Air National Guard Base in Harrison Twp., MI. He maintained his employment there until recently. Throughout his years working for military

and government based agencies, he received many awards including the highest peacetime coast guard medal for saving multiple lives in Tillamook Bay, OR.

Joe was always friendly, outgoing and talkative. He was the type of person you could meet and immediately walk away feeling like you'd been friends forever; for this reason, he was incredibly popular and loved by all who knew him. For many years he spent his free time doing Living History Events with his closest friends. More recently, he enjoyed his time spent with local Marines that meet in Port Huron on Thursdays and spent his most recent years with the Michigan Volunteer Defense Group who met in Grayling, MI. We want to give special recognition to his friends working at Selfridge ANG who selflessly gave up their paid vacation time to him when he was no longer able to work, thus extending his income until the medical disability came in.

He is survived by his wife, Margaret; son and daughter-in-law, Chad (Jessica), son and daughter-in-law, Marc (Peggy) and his daughter, Sara and his ten grandchildren: Xavier, Vincent, Chandler, Katana, Jade, Viviann, Gavin, Fayth, Aragon, and Echo.

A Memorial Gathering will be held Sunday at the VFW Post 796, 1711 Pine Grove Ave., Port Huron from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Cremation arrangements by Jowett Funeral Home, 1634 Lapeer Ave. at 17th Street, Port Huron.

Previous Events

Memorial Gathering

JAN 17. 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

VFW Post #796

1711 Pine Grove Ave.

Port Huron, MI 48060

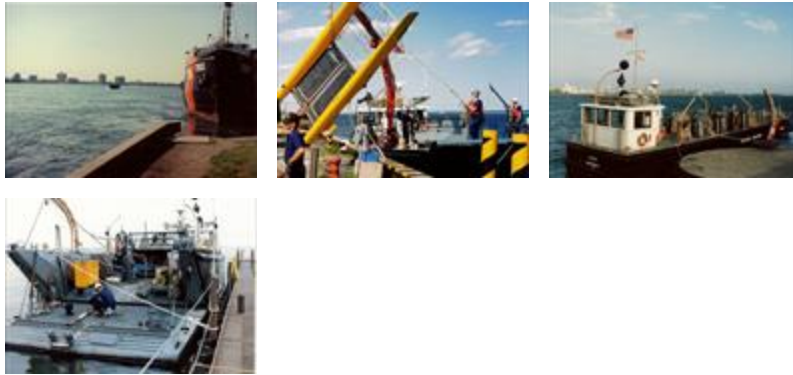
Tribute Wall

JB

“ Joe, peace be with you and your family, my friend. For there to be only a few of us chosen to have the honor as OIC's and pilot the Black Sheep of the Great Lakes...USCG Cableboat LC-72015. Fair winds and following Sea's, Chief.

Jon Brown

Anvil Loc, MI



JB - June 01, 2016 at 03:09 PM



“ Him saying his new grandson had more hair than him.

Peggy-Marc LaRue - January 17, 2016 at 08:43 PM



“ Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Mr. Joe Sam La Rue.



January 16, 2016 at 11:41 PM



“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Kevin Jones - January 16, 2016 at 08:27 PM



“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Kevin Jones - January 16, 2016 at 08:27 PM



“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Kevin Jones - January 16, 2016 at 08:26 PM



“ *In lieu of flowers and per Joe's request Donations may be made to Marines Helping Marines in Joe's name at MCL Detachment 146 1711 Pine Grove Ave., Port Huron, MI 48060*

Kevin Jones - January 16, 2016 at 08:21 PM

JS

Semper Fi.

*Jonathan Scott
Former USN Hospital Corpsman.*

Jonathan Scott - February 27, 2016 at 03:24 PM



“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Kevin Jones - January 16, 2016 at 08:18 PM

 Kurt
Loewe

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Kurt Loewe - January 16, 2016 at 06:21 PM

KA

“ *Kerry Allman purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Mr. Joe Sam La Rue.*



Kerry Allman - January 16, 2016 at 04:43 PM

DC

“ *Rest In Peace Marine.*

Daniel Crocker - January 16, 2016 at 03:26 PM

KJ

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Kevin Jones - January 16, 2016 at 11:35 AM

KJ

“ *1 file added to the album New Album Name*



Kevin Jones - January 16, 2016 at 11:31 AM

KJ

“ Joe was my friend and my brother he will surely be missed. I remember one night several years ago when I was out of town on business and the power went out. My wife could not get the generator working and the sump pump was out. Joe went out in freezing rain at 11 PM and when he couldn't get my generator working, went home got his and hooked it up. a TRUE friend! I will fondly recall the memories of him and I spending time at the marina and our trip under the Bluewater Bridge in my 10ft dinghy. To paraphrase one of Joe's heroes Gen George S. Patton... " We should not mourn Joe's passing, but rather we should thank God that Joe lived! " Semper Fi My Brother!!

Kevin Jones - January 16, 2016 at 11:26 AM

KJ

“ Joe asked that in lieu of flowers donations be made to Marines Helping Marines in his name. The address is MCL Det 146 1711 Pine Grove Ave., Port Huron. 48060.
Or you can contact Kevin Jones at 586-719-0576

Kevin Jones - January 16, 2016 at 11:21 AM



“ Be My Love Bouquet with Red Roses was purchased for the family of Mr. Joe Sam La Rue.



January 15, 2016 at 09:37 PM



“ *The family would like you to know. If you are looking to show your respects in a form of a gift please consider donating to the Marines helping Marines. This organization helped Joe and Margaret through the year with a financial gift. It would be amazing if through these dark days we can send some light to other Marines in Joe's honor. Please visit <http://www.marineshelpingmarines.org/donations.asp>*

Jessica Burley Shettleroe - January 15, 2016 at 05:07 PM

TD

“ *You have my deepest, heartfelt sympathies. Joe was a wonderful guy, and I was always quite fond of him. He was always very kind to me, and I appreciated that.*

Ted Dumbrigue - January 15, 2016 at 04:37 PM

CH

“ *Joe will always be remembered with a smile! One of my memories means so very much to me. He was so giving in so many ways. In 1988, the day his daughter was born, he took the time to attend my son's funeral! So unexpected, but that was Joe. When I saw him walk in -in full military dress-my heart burst. He was there, said he couldn't miss this for us. Putting our pain in front of his joy! Thank you Joe, we are so thankful to have had the pleasure of you in our lives!*

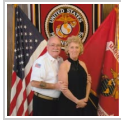


Connie Hall - January 15, 2016 at 03:02 PM



Joe was one of the re-enactors in my PBS film, seven years ago today. He was such a wonderful addition to this cast, such a pro. I was thrilled to have him participate in that meaningful project. I am so very saddened by his passing. Much love to you, Joe and I am wishing peace for all your family and friends. - Pamela Peak, Producer/Director

Pamela peak - January 16, 2016 at 03:45 PM



Semper Fi Marine

Donald Dashner - January 16, 2016 at 05:26 PM