



Harold Joseph Rush

June 5, 1921 - September 4, 2005

Harold J. Joe Rush, born in Jersey City, NJ on June 5, 1921 to Loretta and Peter Rush. He went to be with the Lord Sunday, Sep. 4, 2005. He died peacefully in his home surrounded by his loving family for whom he was always a source of love and inspiration. He had a long and colorful life and was equally proud of his long and distinguished service to his country. As an Air Force Officer and Civilian Official, he served the nation for a total of 35 years. He served with distinction in three major wars: WWII -in which he flew 35 missions in B-17s, receiving the Distinguished Flying Cross and six Air medals among his many awards and citations -Korea, and Vietnam. In the mid 1950's he was actively engaged in the Beirut Crisis while stationed in Ankara Turkey. His civil service included a post to the Defense Attache Office in Saigon where, at the conclusion of the Vietnam War, he was actively engaged in the evacuation of approximately 300, 000 Vietnamese and 1, 000 American personnel. After retiring from the Air Force and civil service, Joe worked for Lockheed, assigned as Transportation Advisor to the Iranian AF General charged with Transportation responsibilities in the Iranian AF Logistics Command. In that position, he helped evacuate the last Americans from Iran prior to the seizure of the hostages in 1979. In 1982, he returned to San Antonio to represent Rohr Industries at Kelly AFB, a position he held for 11 years. Joe Rush was a bon vivant, a raconteur and eager world traveler. He was a man who never met a stranger. He and his wife Adeline nee Engel were married in St. Gerard's Catholic Church on June 14, 1949. He is survived by

his wife and eight children. Harold J. Skip Rush of Kauai, Hawaii; Sharron and son-in-law Ron Hicks; Candice and James Moore of Austin, TX; Melanie and Kemp Davis, Kathleen {Tish Rush, Michael and Paula Rush, Laurie and Pat Praeger all of San Antonio and Lisa and Jeff Sterba of Omaha, NE. The children were all born during his years as an Air Force Officer and shared in most of the overseas tours that included England, Okinawa, Japan, Korea, Turkey, Philippines, Vietnam and Iran. He is further survived by his eleven grandchildren, by his sister and brother-in-law Dolly and James Daly of Palmyra, VA and sisters-in-law Janet Rush from Jersey City, NJ, and Evie Magee and her husband Buddy of San Antonio. His passing is a deep loss to his hundreds of dear friends all over the globe. Following the ceremony, an "Irish Wake" will take place at his residence. All friends and some selected enemies are invited to attend. In his words; but not in reality: "There will be a no-host bar."

SERVICES

A visitation will be held from 5:00 - 9:00 PM at Mission Park Funeral Chapels North on Wednesday, September 7, 2005 with a rosary to begin at 7:00 PM. A church service will be held at 10:00 AM on Thursday, September 8, 2005 at St. Luke's Catholic Church with interment to follow at Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the American Red Cross Victims of Hurricane Katrina Fund, P.O. Box 37243, Washington, D.C. 20013 or to the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #7108, 8705 North F.M. 1560, San Antonio, Texas 78254.

Tribute Wall

CE

“ Dear Addie and family, Aggie and I were sadden to learn of Joe's passing, Our prayers are with you all. Aggie and I lost a dear friend who we were lucky to have known for 33 years. Remember well the get togethers in the PI at the watering hole on the porc

Charlie and Aggie Erwin - September 30, 2005 at 12:00 AM

JK

“ What I'll miss most is Joe's laugh and his hearty greeting of "James, my boy!" One Thanksgiving, Joe got so tickled at me for my over-the-top hatred of the Dallas Cowboys! I always got the feeling that Joe was LIVING life more than I was. He breathed it,

Jim Kanady - September 17, 2005 at 12:00 AM

DF

“ Our prayers and thoughts are with you and your family in this deeply difficult time. Love and peace...
Derek, Kathryn, Kaitlyn, Kyla and Kampbell Featherstone

Derek Featherstone - September 14, 2005 at 12:00 AM

JL

“ Our thought and prayers are with you and your family. Uncle Joe was the hero of the Rush clan. Love Jeff, Chris, James, Patrick and Kerry

Jeff Lee - September 14, 2005 at 12:00 AM

MH

“ Although I have never personally met Joe, I have had the wonderful and unique privilege of knowing and loving his daughter Sharron for over 25 years. As my sister-in-law, Sharron has shared over the years some of the adventures Joe has had during his ”

Michael Hicks - September 13, 2005 at 12:00 AM

SK

“ What a wonderful and full life he enjoyed with such a great family. Tish is one of my dearest forever friends and I know he must have had a great impact on her and many other lives. All my love and prayers to the entire family, Love Sonia was in the PI

Sonia Kirk - September 11, 2005 at 12:00 AM

JB

“ Dear Addie and family, We loved Joe and will truly miss him. As you know, he was our sponsor when we arrived in the Philippines. From that first meeting, we have nothing but pleasant memories of the Rush family. Joe had a way of making us feel we were

Jim and Judy Blaharski - September 11, 2005 at 12:00 AM

RA

“ As someone fortunate enough to be related to this wonderful man, I know how deeply his loss will be felt. While our two families were never close geographically, we were always close in mind, heart and spirit. With every visit, the time between seemed to

Ronni Ackermann - September 09, 2005 at 12:00 AM

FD

“ To: Addie and the family of Joe Rush. Please accept our deepest sympathy. Joe was a very special gentleman and friend. A true Irishman and truly a hero of our time. His warm jovial personality made our times on the golf course a treasure and a barrel of I

Frank and Margie Dix - September 09, 2005 at 12:00 AM

KS

“ Dear Rush family,
I have many fond memories of the Draxton and Rush gatherings from the early days in Vacaville before you left for overseas up to winter weddings in Tahoe. Joe will always have a spot in my heart for his kindness and love of life. My th

Kathy Sutherland - September 09, 2005 at 12:00 AM

PS

“ We were so blessed to share time with Joe and Addy during Bill's stay at Regent Care, the Lord Bless. Our love to you Addy!

Patricia and Bill Stucky - September 09, 2005 at 12:00 AM

GF

“ Uncle Joe it was no secret, has always been one of my heroes. Many times in my life when things got bumpy, I tried to imagine how he would handle them. I have always tried to treat people with his same enthusiasm, warmth and most of all, sense of humor. I w

Gregg and Deborah Daly and Family - September 09, 2005 at 12:00 AM

JM

“ Dear Rush Family:

I did not personally know Harold Joseph Rush, but I do know his daughter Sharron quite well. I have heard many, many wonderful stories about the influence Mr. Rush had on his family and the lessons he taught you about tenacity, integ

Jan McSorley - September 08, 2005 at 12:00 AM

CS

“ *My thoughts and prayers are with the Rush family. I know how difficult this time is for all of you. Know your husband/father is in a better place. Take Care*

Cathy Slauter - September 08, 2005 at 12:00 AM

JH

“ *To Laurie and Brandon,
I am sorry we could not be there with ya'll. I know I didn't know your father but from the stories I have heard I know you will have wonderful memories to cherish forever. Our thoughts and prayers and with you and your family.*

julie huddleston - September 08, 2005 at 12:00 AM

BS

“ *Addie - I was saddened to hear of Joe's passing. I hope that you are doing fine and that all the good memories keep you happy.*

Bill Stern

Bill Stern - September 07, 2005 at 12:00 AM

JJ

“ We had only met a few times but i felt a warm hand and saw a geniune smile that reminded me of my father. I can only imagine how wonderful it was growing up in the large Rush family, and how deeply his presence will be missed. I know he had a very accompi

jim jarmon - September 07, 2005 at 12:00 AM

JB

“ My love and prayers are with you and your family. Your father had a very full life and gave so much to others. I know that you are proud of all that he did and who he was - and that you will all miss him so much. I will remember all of you in my prayer

Janice Hughes Bragg - September 07, 2005 at 12:00 AM

GS

“ Mike & Paula and all the Rush Family, we send our sincerest condolences in the loss of your father. I lost both of my parents in 2004 and it was hard, but I know they are in a better place and at peace.

Gene & Susie Salmon

Gene & Susie Salmon - September 07, 2005 at 12:00 AM

RJ

“ Harold Joseph Rush

Robert Johnson - September 07, 2005 at 12:00 AM

RL

“ I am a friend of Laurie's and my son is a friend of Brandon's. I will try to make it to the memorial tonight, but don't know if I will make it. My sincere condolences. I lost my husband almost 2 years ago and know what you are going through. Rhonda Le

Rhonda Leifur - September 07, 2005 at 12:00 AM

DT

“ My sympathy to the family. I only have met Joe on a few occasions and was always warmly welcomed. His passion for life was genuinely apparent. My prayers will include the family who I know will miss him greatly.

Debbie Sterba Thielen - September 07, 2005 at 12:00 AM

JT

“ My thoughts and prayers are with the Rush family, especially Lisa. I know that the loss of a loved one is very difficult and the best way to deal with the loss is through the love and support of friends and family. Take care.

Jeanie Talbott - September 07, 2005 at 12:00 AM

TF

“ Harold Joseph Rush

Thomas W. Fisher - September 07, 2005 at 12:00 AM

EB

“ We extend To the family our deepest sympathy.

Eugene & Florence Biedrzycki - September 07, 2005 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ Lisa: Sorry to hear about your dad. We will be praying for you and your family!

Jeff Skinner

Jeff Skinner - Engineer - Parrish School - September 07, 2005 at 12:00 AM

RR

“ I am so very saddened by the family's loss-and at the same time, grateful he is not suffering any longer and is in a better place. May he rest in peace and may the sorrows help the family to be closer and closer every day. God bless the entire Rush family

Robin Reeves - September 07, 2005 at 12:00 AM

BE

“ We will miss him.

Bob & Mary Eklund - September 07, 2005 at 12:00 AM

MM

“ With deepest sympathy from the Moore family, Mike, Denise and Zoe.

Michael Moore - September 07, 2005 at 12:00 AM

PC

“ Dear Addie, There is so little one can say at a time of such a great loss, but you and your family are in our thoughts and prayers.

*Much love,
Pat, Cindy and Luke*

pat cavanaugh - September 07, 2005 at 12:00 AM

TB

“ Dear Addie,
I'm so sorry for your loss. Although we have not seen you in many years. I've always heard about you through my parents. I also remember when you moved to the Philippines or was it when you came home? Some of you stayed with us in Vacaville

Terri Draxton Beam - September 07, 2005 at 12:00 AM

DD

“ I am very sorry for your loss but I know that Mr. Rush is now Heavens gain. My prayers are with you all.

I never got to know Mr. Rush, but if knowing Laurie is even a hint of who he was, I know he must have been a great man. God bless you during this

Debby Derflinger - September 07, 2005 at 12:00 AM

TF

“ I am so sorry to hear about your loss. I have heard many wonderful stories about your family and admire the strength and bond you share.

Tracy French - September 07, 2005 at 12:00 AM

JB

“ Our Prayers and thoughts are with you and your family.
Love the Burger Family

Jeff & Debbie Burger - September 07, 2005 at 12:00 AM

JB

“ Our Prayers and thoughts are with you and your family.
Love the Burger Family

Jeff & Debbie Burger - September 07, 2005 at 12:00 AM

CC

“ Our deepest sympathy to all the loved ones. Hold on to all the wonderful memories of Joe, we will all going to miss him.

Caring & Russ Crews - September 07, 2005 at 12:00 AM

DD

“ Joe’s daughter Melanie and my wife Judy have been best friends for almost twenty-five years. Joe and the entire Rush family naturally became an endearing part of our lives. Memories of many Christmas Eve parties at the Rush home are some of my favorites w

Dennis Dickey - September 07, 2005 at 12:00 AM

JD

“ Dear Addie & Clan,
From that first 22nd AF office picnic circa 1967-8 to date two families & heritages formed a bond -Irish & German Note which takes precedence! Over the years many festive and memorable occasions were shared: the transportation of Adelin

Jean Draxton - September 06, 2005 at 12:00 AM

KE

“ where to start ? the momment I met Joe I was welcomed into his life. Little did I know what a wonderful trip it would be. Just like young college students, we would stay up late into the night discussing every aspect of life. Joe had these wonderful life

Kemp - September 06, 2005 at 12:00 AM

JD

“ Dear Addie & Clan,
From that first 22nd AF office picnic circa 1967-8 to date two families
& heritages formed a bond -Irish & German Note which takes
precedence! Over the years many festive and memorable occasions
were shared: the transportation of Adelin

Jean Draxton - September 06, 2005 at 12:00 AM

AH

“ Dearest Addie,
Joe will always be one of our favorite people, and he'll be
profoundly missed by our whole family.
We will always cherish memories of work in Iran God bless Joe
for hiring Al at Lockheed!, play in Iran those always challenging

Al and Barb Harris - September 06, 2005 at 12:00 AM

CR

“ Joe was a wonderful singer, and taught me some great songs in my
youth. When I first met him, he was a purser, which sounded quite
romantic to a teenager. He would come home to his children and
bring gifts from far-away lands, and Sharron told me he broug

Cynthia Royce - September 06, 2005 at 12:00 AM

MH

“ Melanie, Kemp and Emma:

You are special people in our lives and we want you to know that
you and your family are in our prayers.

Love, Mary, Scott, Amanda, Peter and Julie

Mary Hime - September 06, 2005 at 12:00 AM

DP

“ A True and Loving friend; Our lives are so much richer for having known him over the many years. Our love and prayers to Addie and the family....

Don and Katie Pope

Don & Kate Pope - September 06, 2005 at 12:00 AM

DD

“ Melanie,
My condolences for the loss of your Dad. He sounds like a wonderful man who contributed so much to the lives of the people he encountered. I can see where you get your wonderful personality and spirit.

Let me know if I can help you and your f

Deb Deveau - September 06, 2005 at 12:00 AM

LF

“ Good Bye!
My wonderful Friend and Neighbor.
Always a Smile and Hug, and a Chris my Boy! for Chris. You and your family will forever be in our thoughts and prayers.
To Addie and the Children I know your hearts are broken over the loss of your Husband

Linda Fields Wilbanks & Family - September 06, 2005 at 12:00 AM

AW

“ Melanie-
My heart goes out to at this time. Your father sounds like he was so very strong with a great sense of humor. Let me know if you need anything.

Amy

Amy Williams-Eddy - September 06, 2005 at 12:00 AM

LB

“ *My dearest Addie,*

My prayers are with you during this time of such sadness. I know Joe will rest peacefully now, free from pain and the confines of his physical body. Be good to yourself and take good care. Mom and I will be in touch.

Much love,

Lynne Brown - September 06, 2005 at 12:00 AM

RE

“ *Addie & all of the Rush family:*

I received the news on 9/6/05 and felt both great sadness for all of you and your loss but also happiness because I can hear Joe's great booming laugh on Christmas Eve decorating the tree at midnight like he is in the room

Richard D. Edwards - September 06, 2005 at 12:00 AM

KM

“ *My thoughts and prayers are with you. Tish and I were the best of buddies in the PI; and I loved to go to your house. There was always something fun going on; lots of love; lots of laughter! What a pleasure to be w/ your family then. God be with you. M*

KAY-ADELL MALITZ - September 06, 2005 at 12:00 AM

RW

“ *Our deepest sympathy on the death of your husband.*

Ray & Jeannine Wangler - September 06, 2005 at 12:00 AM

GP

“ Tish, my sincere condolences to you and your loved ones during your time of grief. I am sorry for your loss but it will diminish with time. My familys thoughts and prayers are with you and yours.
Love,

Grace M. Peters

Grace M Peters - September 06, 2005 at 12:00 AM

JP

“ Melanie,

My thoughts and prayers are with you at this time. My father is also a WW II B-17 vet, so I feel a strong empathy for you and your family. God bless him for his service to our country, and God bless you in your time of mourning.

John Peed - September 06, 2005 at 12:00 AM

DK

“ Joe touched my life in so many positive ways. He was such a major influence. He made our work and life a virtual comedy while we were in Tehran. He called me his "retarded son" and I called him "Roscoe". I only hope that I have become half the man as Joe

Dave & Deanna Kelly - September 06, 2005 at 12:00 AM

LW

“ Dr. Lisa Sterba and Family:

I'm so sorry to learn of your loss. I know how special Mr. Rush must have been to all of you, but first-hand from Dr. Sterba. God Bless you all.

Lila Warner - September 06, 2005 at 12:00 AM

ES

“ Dear Addie & family

I'll always remember the first time I met Joe - it was a bridge game at Lafayette Place - we were partners and he bid his famous 'double' . From then on we were 'buddies' both of us were navigators in B-17s in WW2 - and we became

earl sampson - September 06, 2005 at 12:00 AM

FF

“ Dear Addie, Lisa and all the family:

*My sincere prayers for all of you upon Joe's passing into eternal life. He was a wonderful husband and father. I am celebrating the 11:30 Mass at Offutt AFB on Thursday and will offer it for him and you.
"Eternal*

Fr. Mike Fitzpatrick - September 06, 2005 at 12:00 AM

PW

“ Rush Family:

*I'm very sorry for your loss.
I hope all the memories help to heal your heart. Memories keep us all alive.*

God bless.

Patty Ward - September 06, 2005 at 12:00 AM

JB

“ Joe brought a smile each and every time we were together.

Jack Boyce - September 06, 2005 at 12:00 AM

WI

“ Hold fast to your memories, to all of the cherished moments of the past, to the blessings and laughter, the joys and celebrations, the sorrow and the tears. They all add up to a treasure of fond yesterdays that you shared and spent together, and they keep

Women's Health Initiative - September 06, 2005 at 12:00 AM

CD

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you. May your difficult times be smoothed by your wonderful memories of Joe.
Carol and Paul Dumont

Carol Meiser Dumont - September 06, 2005 at 12:00 AM

LC

“ My thoughts and prayers are with your family. Much love to you all,
Lisa Chaburkin

Lisa Chaburkin - September 06, 2005 at 12:00 AM

PS

“ May you find comfort with your large family and your many friends.

Phyllis Swinney - September 06, 2005 at 12:00 AM

MN

“ Extending our heartfelt condolences on the loss of your loved one.

Directors & Staff at Mission Park Funeral Chapels North

Mision Park North - September 05, 2005 at 12:00 AM

JD

“ Dearest Addie, Skip, Sharron, Candice, Melanie, Tish, Mike, Laurie and Lisa, As well as all spouses and grandchildren-

Joe Rush was one of a kind. He was always so pleasant to be around, and made us feel welcome in his home any time we visited.

J

Judy and Dennis Dickey - September 05, 2005 at 12:00 AM