



## Joseph Peter Bycz

November 19, 1948 - July 6, 2022

It is with profound sadness we announce the passing of Joseph Peter Bycz on July 6, 2022, a loving and devoted husband, father, grandfather, and friend to all whose lives he touched.

Joe was born in Johnson City, New York on November 19, 1948. He graduated from Farmingdale State College with a Chemistry degree, SUNY Binghamton with a degree in Biology and went on to graduate school at Northern Illinois University for Aquarium Sciences.

Joe was an adventurer, always looking to explore new opportunities and places. He was brought to Florida by SeaWorld where he participated in projects for the safe release of sea turtles and participated in the capture of sharks for the opening the Shark Encounter. Later he took advantage of the opportunity to take his family to live in St. Thomas in the U.S. Virgin Islands where he worked as a senior aquarist at the local aquarium, Coral World. When the opportunity presented itself, he joined the team at EPCOT's Living Seas aquarium where he ultimately became Acting Curator. Joe lived a life most people only dreamed about.

Beyond the excitement of being a marine biologist, Joe was first and foremost a family man. He met the love of his life, Linda, in Johnson City, NY. They were married at 19 and throughout the challenges of life remained married for

54 years. Joe and Linda had one daughter, Lisa, and two grandsons, Cameron and Zach. Joe was the most amazing father and grandfather, completely devoted to his family. He was always actively involved with them and always provided complete love and support along the way. He was the true family man, never missing the opportunity to spend one minute with them.

Joe was a quiet, laid-back, fun-loving soul, always making jokes right up to the very end. He touched the lives of everyone he met. Joe will be dearly missed by his family and friends, but he will live in their hearts forever. Joe is survived by his wife Linda, daughter Lisa, and two grandchildren, Cameron and Zach. He will be greatly missed.

The family requests those who wish to express sympathy to consider making a donation to Parkinson's or Alzheimer's research in Joe's name.

# Previous Events

## Graveside Service

JUL 12. 10:00 AM (ET)

Greenwood Cemetery  
1603 Greenwood Street  
Orlando, FL 32801

# Tribute Wall



“ I will miss Joe not only as a faithful person and Christian, but also for his witty observations that he shared. Those who know him will miss him, and I will surely miss him. Fr Harry.

---

**Father Harry Linsinbigler** - July 20, 2022 at 05:46 PM

“ Linds, Lisa and Family



*Somehow my previous post didn't upload!*

*What can I say about Joe? He was one of my best friends in life! Joe and I meant at Sea World and worked together for 5 years there! We had been assigned once together to take care of the "World of The Sea": 13 small Jewel tank aquariums and a large 160,000 aquarium. I got to know Joe really well at the time. We became great friends! We worked at the Living Seas together for 7 years. I have so many stories about Joe and I! We were friends and partners in crimes! Two kids really that never grew up! Joe made it fun to come into work everyday! Where you saw Joe or Jim the other wasn't far behind! That's how it was for us two Clowns. I'm sure others saw us that way two! We didn't care...we had our fun..as Sinatra sang " We did it our way" -- Joe and I did it our way! Joe was a great listener..*

*often quiet but he spoke his mind too!*

*He always had a smile and laugh for us all who worked with him! For me it was my daily diet of Joe! Really good friends don't come around often! Certainly not like Joe! He was a loyal friend....I could always count on him to brighten my day! The stories and pranks we played will remain anonymous now - I'll never tell LOL. I loved the guy .... some things don't need words. You just know? Joe and Linda were my good friends! We had many gatherings! Poor Linda, she was always having to monitor us...quiet down guys...cut it out...we did, but not before we had our fun! I guess she didn't mind much for after our reprimanded Linda would smile. Anyway, Joe, will miss you buddy I will! Your were a real brother to me!*

*Rest now Joe! You had a great life, family and friends! No goodbyes my friend just so long for now! I'll catch up with you later! Lordy, Joe and Jim in Heaven goofing off! Oh well they will just have to get used to it!!! Some things never change!*

*Always your loyal friend Jim ! God bless you Joe!*

**Jim Korzep** - July 11, 2022 at 02:42 PM

CA

“ *I absolutely adored Joe & consider myself lucky to have met him, I throughly enjoyed the years training with him,  
He was a very sweet soul!!  
My sincerest heartfelt condolences to Linda, Lisa and family. God Bless you all!!!*



---

**Camille** - July 10, 2022 at 04:29 PM

FT

“ Linda, Lisa, Cameron and Zach - Joe was a blessing in my life for almost 45 years. We meet in graduate school at Northern Illinois Univ. and hit it off immediately. It was about a month or two before I knew he was married and had a wonderful wife and beautiful little girl. We had fun checking out the local aquarium stores searching for sick fish for Joe to cure and return to the stores free of charge. It was always on Thursdays because that was graduate seminar day. If we found them we would go back to the lab and put them in isolation tanks. Then fill up our coffee cups with wine or other adult beverage and head down to the dreaded night, Always a little bit happier than the other students ! We also used to congregate at the Bycz apartment on Saturday night to watch Saturday Night Live (the original cast) smoke our pipes and imitate Dan Ackroid and Steve Martins Chek brothers characters "We are two Wild and Crazy guys"! We still laughed at that decades later. We even went to see Animal House first run in the theater, After school we lost touch for a while then found each other in Orlando I was working in a dive shop and Joe was at Sea World. When he went to St Thomas I went to work at Disney couple years later we were working together at The Living Seas. Whenever it came time to go to the Keys it was usually two aquarists and one dive staff member. I usually went down with Joe and Larry Rutherford or Jim Korzep. The funny part was Joe did not go in the water. In fact he was deathly afraid of the water having suffered a near drowning as a kid. Some folks thought it was funny but there he was on the boat (wearing a life jacket) pulling the fish up we caught on the bottom and making sure they got back to Orlando alive and well. Joe never complained and we always had a great time on those trips and even back at the Seas (most of the time). Later I moved to Bermuda for a couple of years but we always kept in touch and reconnected when I came back. Well my friend the world is going to be less fun without you in it. All I can do is remember back on all the great times we had and wish you clear skys and following seas. I love you my brother and miss you terribly ! Rest well and we will see you again !

---

Frank Toal - July 08, 2022 at 09:09 PM

MB

“ Linda & Family,  
I'm so sorry for your loss. Joe was a great  
guy. I always enjoyed  
the times that we use to get together in  
Florida and JC. Those  
trips that you made from Orlando to St. Pete. for us to get together  
and go over memories...never to be forgotten....Memory Eternal!  
Mary Buckingham



---

**Mary Buckingham** - July 08, 2022 at 05:19 PM



“ Page Curry lit a candle in memory of Joseph  
Peter Bycz



---

**Page Curry** - July 08, 2022 at 03:08 PM

LI

“ Lisa lit a candle in memory of Joseph Peter  
Bycz

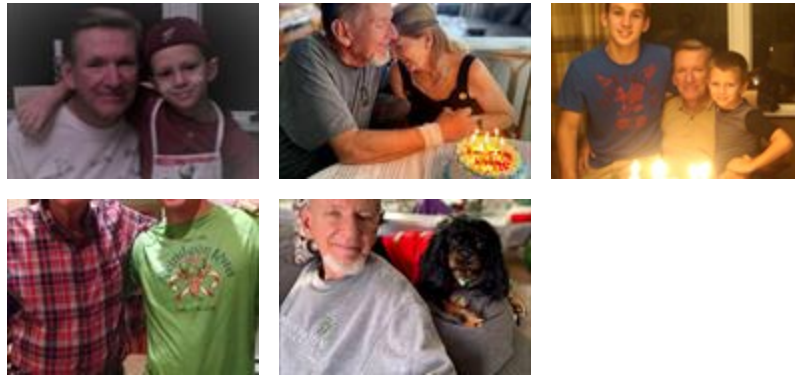


---

**Lisa** - July 08, 2022 at 01:01 PM

LI

“ 5 files added to the album dede



Lisa - July 08, 2022 at 12:55 PM



*The photos show the love that your family has for one another. He will be missed but he lives on in your heart and memories! RIP Joe*

Page Curry - July 08, 2022 at 03:07 PM

MK

*Linda, Lisa, Cameron and Zach, I will never forget growing up together, all the fun holiday celebrations from when I was born till Joe moved away. Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Easter and Thanksgiving, memories that I will cherish forever! Joe was always fun to be with and he was always a comedian....he always had a comment that made me laugh. He had a quiet way, but when you got him going... Rest in peace, Joe. May your memory be eternal.  
Veechnaya Pamiat*

Mary Ann Klish - July 08, 2022 at 09:21 PM

GF

*I met Joe briefly when I worked at Sea World, Joe had just come back from St. Thomas. We then worked together a short time later at the Living Seas at Epcot. I liked Joe immediately, we had the same sense of humor and shared many laughs together. He gave me great insight into life on the "island" when I also took a job in St Thomas. I'll always smile at those remembrances. Seems like it was only yesterday.*

Greg Fox - July 10, 2022 at 10:03 PM