



Joseph Alton Zorich

April 18, 1945 ~ March 24, 2021 (age 75)

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Obituary

Joseph Alton Zorich, age 75, of Reynoldsburg, Ohio, passed away on March 24, 2021. Joe was born April 18, 1945 to the late Stanley and Janet (Volpe) Zorich in Martins Ferry, OH, and graduated from Bridgeport High School where he excelled at football and golf. He then went to study university at West Liberty University where he was a member of the Theta Xi Fraternity and graduated with a degree in microbiology; and then to The Ohio State University where he earned his MBA. He was retired from the Ohio Department of Health as an Administrative Manager where he was also on the Governor's Emergency Medical Task Force.

Joe is survived by his loving son, Brent Zorich; and sister-in-law, Pat Sotak. He was preceded in death by his wife, Jane "Cookie" Zorich; mother-in-law, Irene Sotak; and father-in-law, Gaze Sotak. Joe will be remembered for being a loving father, and amazing husband, and a fantastic brother-in-law.

He was always there to give his son, Brent, advice, help him with his math homework growing up, and with Brent being an only child, spoil him with all of the best and latest toys, clothes, baseball cards, video games, and gadgets for birthday and Christmas. Brent remembers having oral surgery when he was a child and his dad surprising him with a Star Wars 12 inch Boba Fett toy that Brent still has on his shelf in his bedroom. He was very involved in Brent's post curricular activities growing up including being involved in a "Quarterback Club" for football while Brent was at St. Pius X Elementary and St. Charles Preparatory High School; and the 13 years of private art lessons Brent had with The Central Ohio Art Academy in Reynoldsburg.

Joe was a huge Ohio State Football fan and he went to the Rose Bowl with his college friends in the 1960's for the National Championship Game under Coach Woody Hayes where he got a piece of the goal post which hangs in his office. A Corvette owner and lover of music, he had a huge collection of records and cds from the Motown era, with The Four Tops being his favorite, as well as was a very big fan of The Rolling Stones and Guns N' Roses; with "Patience" by GNR being his favorite song and ringtone. He was a huge fan of action movies and loved watching "Die Hard" with Bruce Willis every year for Christmas; was a fan of Denzel Washington; as well as "Indiana Jones and The Raiders of the Lost Ark" by Steven Spielberg; and finally the old westerns with Clint Eastwood like "The Outlaw Josie Wales." Chances are, if he were in the family room with the TV on, he'd have on ESPN watching Lebron James in the NBA, or pulling for The Cleveland Browns in the NFL. Joe looked forward to March Madness College Basketball every year and was a fan of Coach Bobby Knight. He was also attentive every April to the NFL Draft, which usually fell near his birthday. In the 90s, Joe was a humongous follower of The Chicago Bulls and used to continuously watch one of his favorite athletes, Michael Jordan, always making sure his son, Brent, had the latest Nike "Air Jordan's" in high school. To the neighbors up the street as well as his coworkers he will always be known as "Joe", but to Brent he will be known as "My Best Bud."

Joe met the love of his life, Cookie, when they were both in the same wedding. Cookie was the Maid of Honor and Joe was the Best Man. A year or so later, in 1970, they met again and were married in six months which included planning a big wedding, with the first album he got her being "Your Song" by Elton John. The entire Zorich Family and the Sotak Family became one big family, celebrating all holidays together. Cookie and Joe were each other's best friends for the rest of their lives and Cookie often said that she was the luckiest woman on the planet right up until she died in 2017.

Services will be held at St. Pius X Catholic Church where Joe was a member. Visitation will be held on TUESDAY, April 06, 2021, from 10 AM - 11AM followed by The Mass of Christian Burial at 11:00 with Msgr. Patrick Gaughan officiating. Burial will follow in the Holy Cross Catholic Cemetery. Online condolences available at www.pfeiferfuneral.com.

STATE OF OHIO

Executive Department

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Columbus

In recognition of

Joseph Zorich

Joe Zorich began his 40-year public health career in 1970 as a Bacteriologist I with the Ohio Department of Health Laboratory.

From 1974 to 1978, Joe progressed from a Bacteriologist I, II and III to an Administrative Officer I. Joe served as a Health Planning Administrator II from 1996 to 2005.

Joe was promoted to Health Planning Administrator 3 with the Division of Prevention Office in 2005 where his primary responsibility was to maintain the financial health of the Division of Prevention. He did this by being the fiscal liaison for the Division of Prevention to the Office of Financial Affairs. He also assisted Bureau Chiefs on ensuring their budgets were loaded into the appropriate categories and monitored expenditures to ensure funding was spent appropriately and timely. He assisted staff with payroll adjustments, grant expenditures, contracts, requests for proposals, purchase orders, and numerous other financial documents. He monitored grants, fee accounts, and general revenue accounts and assisted staff with a smile and good sense of humor.

Joe participated on the ODH Grants re-engineering project, which was a complete re-assessment of the methods, processes, and policies surrounding grants at ODH. He was a member of the Grant Compliance Committee, whose task was to ensure sub-grantees were in compliance with the state and federal regulations governing the grant deliverables.

Joe spent the majority of his 40-year state service at the ODH Laboratory (then located on the campus of the Ohio State University). He was the Laboratory's Business Administrator. Joe's knowledge of the old and the new state accounting systems were a resource to the whole department. He was dedicated to understanding these systems to assist the public health programs (from the financial perspective) meet their objectives of making the citizens of Ohio healthier.

Joe will be missed in the Division of Prevention not only because of his tremendous financial knowledge, but because of his sense of humor and good nature.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, TED STRICKLAND, Governor of the State of Ohio, do hereby recognize Joe Zorich for his 40 years of public service.

Frances and I extend our best wishes for an enjoyable retirement!

On this day, January 29, 2010



Ted Strickland
GOVERNOR





Jane Gay Zorich

June 26, 1947 ~ November 22, 2017 (age 70)

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Obituary

Jane Gay "Cookie" Zorich, age 70, of Reynoldsburg, passed away on November 22, 2017, at The OSU James Cancer Center. Cookie was born June 26, 1947, to the late Gaze and Irene (Harcher) Sotak in Beckley, WV. She was a graduate of Ravenwood High School in 1965. While in high school, she was a majorette for 3 years and served as head majorette in her senior year. Then in 1967, Cookie graduated from Charleston General Hospital in Medical Lab Technology. In 1970, Cookie married the love of her life, Joe Zorich, and in 1974, their son was born. During her career as a laboratory technologist, she worked at Bellaire Hospital and Jackson General Hospital in Ripley, WV. Then in 1970, she moved to Columbus and worked at Doctor's Hospital North in the blood bank. When Brent was four, Cookie made the decision to become a stay at home mom. During this time she volunteered at St. Pius X Catholic Church as a teacher's aide. Then in 1985, she became a teacher's assistant at Bethany Lutheran Preschool, working there for 9 years. Cookie had an infectious smile and a joy of life that made those around her feel good. Her passions included, flower gardening, walking on the seashore in Florida, and interactions with new people, especially children. She was an avid Buckeye football fan, season ticket holder for many years, who loved going to the games. Cookie will be profoundly missed by her family and many friends whom she encouraged, inspired and made laugh. She is survived by her husband of 47 years, Joe Zorich; son, Brent Zorich; sister, Pat Sotak. In addition to Jane's parents she is preceded in death by her father and mother-in-law, Stanley (Janet) Zorich. A visitation will be held at the PFEIFER FUNERAL HOME on Monday, November 27, 2017, from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Tuesday, 10:30 a.m. at St. Pius X Catholic Church on Waggoner Road with Msgr. David Funk officiating. Burial will follow at the Holy Cross Catholic Cemetery.

Cemetery Details

Holy Cross Cemetery
Holy Cross Cemetery. 11539 National Road S.W. U.S. Route 40
Pataskala, OH, 43068

Visitation

NOV 27. 06:00 PM - 08:00 PM

Pfeifer Funeral Home and Crematory

7915 East Main Street

Reynoldsburg, OH, US, 43068

<http://www.pfeiferfuneral.com>

Funeral Service

NOV 28. 10:30 AM