



## Joseph Edward McGrath

February 26, 1930 - April 2, 2010

Joseph Edward McGrath, age 80, of Albia, went to be with the Lord on Friday, April 2, 2010, at Oakwood Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Albia.

Joe was born February 26, 1930, in Melrose to William Francis and Mary (Judge) McGrath. Joe was adopted and raised by Jack and Kate McGrath. He attended elementary school in Georgetown and Melrose and graduated from St. Ambrose Academy in Davenport, Iowa in 1949.

Following high school graduation Joe served in the United States Air Force from 1951 to 1955. He was stationed at March Air Force Base in California and served under General Curtis LeMay in Saudia Arbia where he served in the communication field.

After his discharge from the military, he returned home to Georgetown, Iowa and worked on the family farm for a number of years. Joe served as an Albia Police Officer in the 1980's and retired as a police dispatcher. He was also a bus driver for the Albia Community School System.

Joe married Laura Toopes Shelford on October 3rd 1981 at St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Georgetown.

Joe was a member of St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Georgetown, where he enjoyed helping with parish events. He was also a member of the Eagle's Club in Albia,

He is survived by his wife, Laura; sons, Leonard (Dee) Toopes and Bob Toopes both of Albia, and Greg (Hollie) Shelford of Knoxville; daughters, Donna (Mike) Kearney of Newton, Carol (Steve) Arnold of Knoxville; 11

grandchildren,; 14 great-grandchildren; a sister Rose Mary Stansfield of Festus, Missouri; and numerous relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, and adoptive parents; one brother, William F. McGrath; a sister, Dorothy Beary; and a grandson, Michael Kearney.

In Lieu of Flowers a memorial has been established to St. Patrick's Church in Georgetown.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Joseph Edward McGrath*

January 30, 2023 at 05:06 AM



“ *Joseph Edward McGrath*

January 30, 2023 at 02:53 AM



“ *The Albia Police Department wish to express our condolences to Joseph's family at this sad time. We wanted to thank Joseph for his years of service to this community. Such service does not go unrecognized or unappreciated.*

**Chief Jay Andrews** - April 07, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ *HE WAS THE BEST GRANDPA ANYONE COULD EVER HAVE! I WILL MISS HIM SOOOOOOOOOO MUCH, HE TOUCHED SO MANY PEOPLE. HE WAS TRUELY LOVED BY MANY!*

*I LOVE AND MISS YOU GRANDPA  
~MANDY*

**Amanda Toopes** - April 03, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ *We are saddened to hear about the loss of Uncle Joe. The memories of him will be cherished in our hearts forever. So sorry we will not be with you during this difficult time, but you will be in our thoughts and prayers. Much love!*

**Donny & Yvette Spicer** - April 03, 2010 at 12:00 AM

WS

“ Sorry to hear about joes passing I remember joe from way back when he worked for my dad at the Skelly truck stop. He was quite a card always happy with a story to tell and a smile for everyone. I am sure he will be missed greatly by family and his many friends.

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**wayne steele** - April 03, 2010 at 12:00 AM