



## Joseph F. Novak III

December 12, 1935 - December 23, 2017

Joseph F. Novak III was born December 12, 1935 to Joseph F. and Elizabeth Mary (Thornton) Novak, in Chicago, Illinois, where he grew up and attended school.

On January 6, 1954, Joe entered the United States Air Force proudly serving his country receiving the National Defense Service Medal and Good Conduct Medal before his honorable discharge on February 13, 1958.

Joe had a strong work ethic and for most of his working years drove a truck. He always enjoyed seeing various places during his trucking career.

On March 24, 1956 in Memphis, Tennessee, Joe married the love of his life, Carol Jeanne Swanson and to their union three children were born Michael, Katharine and Daniel. They made their homes in Chicago, Illinois and Lincoln, Nebraska until 2005. Together they shared nearly sixty years together before Carol's passing on March 16, 2016.

When Joe was a young man, he made a profession in faith. He and Carol loved listening to and watching various gospel quartets. Back in the day Joe occasionally led music at his former churches, one being in Romeoville, Illinois. He and Carol also welcomed the college and career group from FBC in Bellevue, Nebraska into their home for studies in the word, fun and

fellowship. After moving to Richland in 2005, Joe and Carol became beloved members of Grace Baptist Church where he was affectionately called “Papa Joe” and was known to give out warm hugs each Sunday to those he loved. Papa also had a humorous side and would jokingly let the pastor know that he’d just received the best sleep he’d had since last Sunday’s sermon which made everyone chuckle.

Joe’s morning and nightly routine was Facebooking with friends and family. His other hobbies included embroidering blocks of fabric for the beautiful quilts he made and crafting things from wood; this came in handy while making various things for his train station and village which he proudly displayed and showed to anyone interested. Papa was a lover of Golden Retrievers and had several special four legged friends down through the years. However times spent with his friends and family were most important to Papa. He was especially proud of all his grandchildren and their achievements.

Papa Joe was a simple man. He may have seemed a little rough and tough around the edges to some; but once you got to know him you’d soon realize he was just an old softie with a tender heart and was fiercely loyal to those he loved.

In the early morning hours of Saturday, December 23, 2017, lovingly surrounded by his family, Papa went home to be with his Lord and Savior having attained the age of 82 years and 11 days.

In addition to his parents, Joe was preceded in death by his loving, wife, Carol, beloved son, Michael Edward Novak, and two grandchildren, Rebecca and Bradley and one sister, Joann Sieger.

Joe’s memory will always be treasured by his two children: Katharine Cofer (Howard) of Nolensville, TN, Daniel Novak (Debra) of Richland, MO, 10

grandchildren: Kyla Nichols (Chas), Brian Cofer (Kate), Leah Morgan (Christopher), Melanie Vignal (Matt), Merikate Novak, Alicia Novak, Amy Cofer, Ashley Novak, Matthew Novak and Lydia Novak; 6 great-grandchildren: Coleman, Caeden and Loralynn Morgan, Logan Nichols, Harrison Cofer and Edith Vignal; brother: Arnold Novak and sister: Margaret Blameuser both of Chicago, IL; his beloved dog, Ellie Mae; several nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

Services were held at 10:10 A.M., Saturday, January 6, 2018 in the Grace Baptist Church of Richland, Missouri with Pastor Fred Bobe officiating. Eulogy was given by Robert Sieger. Daniel Novak and Howard Cofer shared their fond memories of "Papa" as did several other beloved family members and friends. Song leader and pianist, Mary Ann Tate led the congregation in singing "Near the Cross and "Victory in Jesus." Mary Ann then sang her "In the Garden Medley." Soloist, Becky Lercher followed with "I'll Fly Away." Serving as pallbearers were Howard Cofer, Brian Cofer, Matt Vignal, Daniel Novak, Matt Novak, Chas Novak, and Christopher Morgan. Burial with Military Honors followed and were provided by the United States Air Force and the American Legion Post 240 of Richland.

Services were under the care of Memorial Chapel of Richland.

Memorial contributions may be made in memory of Joe Novak to either Grace Baptist Church of Richland or to the St. Jude's Children's Hospital and may be left at the Memorial Chapel of Richland.

Online condolences may be sent to [www.memorialchapelsandcrematory.com](http://www.memorialchapelsandcrematory.com)

# Cemetery Details

## Sunset Memorial Estates Cemetery

Highway 17 South  
Waynesville, MO 65583  
(573) 774-6111  
[memorialchapels@embarqmail.com](mailto:memorialchapels@embarqmail.com)

# Tribute Wall



“ *Memorial Chapels and Crematory created a Tribute Video in memory of Joseph F. Novak III*



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**Memorial Chapels and Crematory** - January 08, 2018 at 03:08 PM



“ *Joseph F. Novak III*

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January 28, 2023 at 06:53 AM



“ *Annette Catts sent a virtual gift in memory of Joseph F. Novak III*



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**Annette Catts** - January 04, 2018 at 04:39 PM



*So sorry for your loss, Dan and Debra. It's always hard to loose a parent, but such a comfort to know they are in the arms of Jesus. We are praying for you and your family during this time of adjustment. We all look forward to that grand reunion in our eternal home in Heaven someday. Love ya'!!  
Bill and Annette Catts*

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**Annette Catts** - January 04, 2018 at 04:43 PM



“ 109 files added to the album *LifeTributes*



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**Memorial Chapels and Crematory** - January 03, 2018 at 09:10 AM

SL

“ *Thanking the Lord for Joe (and Carol's) service in Belleview, NE, in early 80s, on one USAF member. Their Bible Study for young adults after evening services helped spur us on in our walk with God. I was grateful to have the opportunity to rent my first apartment from Joe and Carol, and be an addition to their family, seeing Kathy and Danny mature. Oh, the fun and laughs, as well as correction in the Lord. And his carving skill with wood... oh, my, the lesson to keep hands busy during "free" time. Thanks, Joe. Sorry for your loss, Kathy and Danny. Love in Christ, Stephanie (Bartlett) Lebron. Heb 3:17, Jam 13:17*



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**Stephanie Lebron** - December 30, 2017 at 08:53 AM

BS

“ Joe will be sorely missed at Grace Baptist Church. We all loved him and will mourn the empty pew on Sunday Morning. He was a very intelligent and gifted man. the quilts he made were exquisite and beautiful! His dedication to his late wife Carol, was a tribute to the great love he had for her and for Joe I know he had a great reunion with her the second he entered Heavens gates, a reunion he was very much looking forward too.. My prayers for the family left behind that will miss him as we will. Looking forward to seeing you later Joe! Beverly Scott

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**beverly scott** - December 28, 2017 at 08:40 PM

MT

“ Joe was known for having several girls who he claimed as his. I'm happy to have been one of those!! I sure do miss your hugs Papa Joe!  
Love, Mary Ann

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**Mary Ann Tate** - December 27, 2017 at 01:01 AM

BO

“ Love, love, love our Papa Joe!!!! We all will miss his hugs and sense of humor. He was a loyal friend and will be deeply missed. However, am happy you are home with the Lord, Miss Carol, Michael and rest of your loved ones. Can't wait to see you again one day my friend. Until then I pray for God to bring comfort and peace to your family as only He can through these difficult days ahead. God bless.



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**Barry & Cheryl Oursbourn** - December 26, 2017 at 07:07 PM