



Joseph "Joe" Michael Muto

March 19, 1936 - August 23, 2025

Joseph Michael "Joe" Muto 89, died on August 23, 2025 at Thomas Memorial Hospital in South Charleston, WV.

He was born in Fairmont, WV on March 19, 1936, the second child of the late Frank Pasquale Muto and Louise Mainella Muto. In addition to his parents, he was also preceded in death by his brother, Domenick Muto.

He lived in Fairmont until 2008, when he and his wife moved to Scott Depot, WV to be near their sons and some of their grandchildren.

He completed his public school education at Fairmont Senior High School in 1954. In 1958, he graduated from Fairmont State College (now University) with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Education with a major in Mathematics and Science. He later received a Master of Arts Degree in Counseling and Guidance from West Virginia University.

Prior to graduating from Fairmont State in his last semester of college, Joe was hired by the Marion County Board of Education to fill an emergency teaching position in Science courses at Barrackville High School. He immediately loved teaching and the high school students. He also taught mathematics at Fairmont Junior High School and Fairmont Senior High School. He then served as Guidance Counselor at Fairmont Senior until his

retirement in 1988. He also served as the freshmen basketball coach and the varsity tennis team coach for several years.

Joe was a natural athlete, having played both basketball and football at Fairmont Senior High. After taking an elective class in tennis to the late Deacon Duvall at Fairmont State, Joe learned the game quickly and earned the number one spot on the college's varsity tennis team. He gained a great love of tennis and was responsible through the Marion County Playground Association for teaching tennis during the summers to hundreds of Marion County students at the clay courts at Twelfth Street.

While teaching mathematics, Joe met another math teacher, the love of his life, Anne Virginia Drane of Piedmont WV, also a Fairmont State graduate. They were blessed with five children: Jennifer Muto of Fairmont, WV, Mary Beth (Mike) Briskey, of Annapolis, MD, Dr. Joseph Michael Muto of Hurricane, WV, Wendy Gilpin of Morgantown, WV, and Dr. Frank (Dr. Deidre Naylor) Muto of South Charleston, WV. Their children blessed them with ten grandchildren: R.J. Yanero (Rachel), Alex Briskey, Matthew Briskey, Nick Muto, Joseph Muto, Gianna Muto, Anna Gilpin (David) Buch, Julia Gilpin, and twins: Anthony Muto and Christopher Muto. In addition to his wife, children, and grandchildren, Joe is also survived by his sister, Lois (Bill) Laughlin as well as several cousins.

A Mass of Christian Burial Service for Joe will be 11:00am Wednesday August 27, 2025 at Ascension Catholic Church located at 905 Hickory Mills Road Hurricane, WV 25526 with Fr. Shaji Thomas officiating.

Friends may visit the family an hour prior to the service at the church.

Anyone wishing to leave an online memory may do so by visiting Joe's tribute page at: www.chapmanfuneralhomes.com.

Chapman Funeral Home 3941 Teays Valley Road Hurricane, WV 25526 is honored to serve the family.

Cemetery Details

St. Patrick's Catholic Cemetery

Joyce Road
Scott Depot, WV

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 27. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Ascension Catholic Church
905 Hickory Mills Road
Hurricane, WV 25526

Mass of Christian Burial

AUG 27. 11:00 AM (ET)

Ascension Catholic Church
905 Hickory Mills Road
Hurricane, WV 25526

Tribute Wall

CG

“ *He was always a special person to me.*

Christiane Gamos - February 04 at 09:58 PM

JG

“ *May his soul rest in eternal peace with God.*

John Paul Gotses - September 03, 2025 at 01:56 PM

DB

“ *What an awesome teacher. He assisted me in making my decision to go to Fairmont State College. He was very caring and listened to my dreams. I am so grateful for his helping me pursue my dream.*

Debbie Brookover - September 01, 2025 at 10:27 AM

TG

“ *Joe and Anne were our neighbors across Shirlane Ave. Wonderful neighbors! Joe was always working outside keeping his yard impeccable. Our deepest sympathies to Anne and the Muto family.*

The Gibsons - August 31, 2025 at 10:58 PM

FC

“ *Both Joe and his brother Dom were great tennis players in Fairmont and many of us younger kids had the pleasure of playing with them on the clay 12 street courts.*

Frank Clark

Frank Clark - August 30, 2025 at 05:46 PM

AH

“ Joe was my math teacher at FSHS and he and his brother taught tennis at 12 th street where myself and classmates had a wonderful time. He had such a good sense of humor and a fantastic teacher. Great memories for me. Prayers for his family and Lois whom I knew along with Rachel Whoolery. Thanks Joe for making math a subject I enjoyed. Annette Hawkins Hogle

Annette Hawkins Hogle - August 30, 2025 at 12:19 AM

BB

“ Mr. Muto was a new teacher and my Algebra teacher at Barrackville High School. The next year was Geometry—On and on, he lead me and my classmates into a love of math. When I went to Fairmont State, I was advised to major in math because of my strength. Doubting myself, I majored in English. I can recall those days as though they were yesterday in spite of the decades that have rolled by. God bless this wonderful, caring teacher who left his arm on so many of his Barrackville students.
Dr. Beverly (Fulayter) Baird Boothe

Beverly Baird Boothe - August 28, 2025 at 09:04 PM

BG

“ I'm so sorry to learn of Joe's passing. I remember Joe and all the Muto family with fondness from my younger days, especially at 12th Street tennis courts in Fairmont. Joe was always a "class" act and will be remembered with love. Sincere condolences to Anne and all his family. Joe made the world a better place by being in it. He will be missed. Sincerely, Brenda JOE Giannis

Brenda Joe Giannis - August 28, 2025 at 06:32 PM

GG

*I am sorry to hear of Joe's passing .we are cousins (his father Frank and my grandfather Louis were brothers).
He was always kind and loving.
Gary Gallucci*

Gary Gallucci - August 31, 2025 at 08:38 PM



“ *A grove of 5 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Joseph "Joe" Michael Muto.*

August 27, 2025 at 08:26 PM

RE

“ *I am heartbroken to learn of Mr. Joe Muto's passing. Mr. Muto had a tremendous impact on my education and my life. He was a relative, a mentor and one of the finest teachers and advisors that I have ever had the privilege of having in my life. He was a world class person and one of the very best educators ever. I am forever grateful for all that Mr Muto did for me as a young man, and will always remember the life lessons and great memories of his advice to me and so many students over the years. I would like to say thank you to the beautiful Muto family. As you well know, your Father was so very special and influential to me and so many of us that were fortunate enough to know him. God bless you and travel well Cousin. Love you always.
Ron Everhart*

Ron Everhart - August 26, 2025 at 08:22 PM

CF

Very beautiful worded Ronnie. I wholeheartedly agree. Charlie Francis

Charles D. Francis - August 27, 2025 at 08:17 PM

CF

Very beautifully worded..

Charles D. Francis - August 27, 2025 at 08:17 PM

FB

Thank you for my math education. I used it throughout my entire engineering career... god bless you ..

frank Beafore - August 29, 2025 at 01:05 PM

BS

“ *Prayers goes out to the family.* 🙏🙏🙏

Babe Stingo - August 26, 2025 at 05:55 PM

PE

“ *My condolences to the Muto Family. Joe and Dominic were my Tennis heroes at the 12th Street clay courts during the 1970s! Such kind, funny and generous human beings. I hope they are happily reunited and enjoying a friendly volley on the Heavenly Court! Peace be with them and their loved ones!*

Patricia Pollack Engelhard - August 26, 2025 at 12:37 PM

BC

“ *Joe cared about students. Very kind, gentle man. Never forgotten after all these years!*

Brad Crouser - August 26, 2025 at 10:18 AM

SS

“ When Joe Muto was my math teacher, he mentored stunningly beautiful student teacher Anne Drane. Long story short, they both married very well and lived happily ever after! Joe was an exceptional math teacher and human being who made this world a better place. Anne and all his family have my sincere condolences.
Stanard L. Swihart,MD

Stanard Swihart - August 26, 2025 at 09:45 AM

JC

Mr. Muto was the senior guidance counselor when I was a student at Fairmont Senior. I will never forget his help and direction for me to apply for financial aide and scholarships. He knew I wanted to be a teacher, as well. God bless his family in this time of sadness and separation. Sincerely, Jackie Mossburg Chambers

Jacqueline Chambers - August 26, 2025 at 03:56 PM

SG

“ I remember Mr Muto. I was a senior at Barrackville High School and in his Physics class. My father, Larney Gump, was the Principal. Our class just held its 67th reunion. I send sincere sympathy to his family.

Sandy G Graff - August 26, 2025 at 08:58 AM

LS

“ He was such a wonderful and kind person.
Barrackville high school was so very fortunate to have him as a math teacher.
Prayers for the family 🙏🙏🙏
Richard and Linda Stickler

linda stickker - August 26, 2025 at 08:20 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Joseph "Joe" Michael Muto.



August 26, 2025 at 06:13 AM



“ I'll never forget when I was a junior at Fairmont Senior High School and starting to think about applying to college. Mr. Muto walked into his office and gave me a brochure of a school that I never thought otherwise I could reach. He encouraged me and gave me reason to believe in myself. I'll always remember him as a helpful, kind, positive man. Blessings and strength to Mike, Wendy and the entire Muto family. Jennifer (Brumage) Tombaugh

Jennifer Tombaugh - August 26, 2025 at 12:25 AM



“ Devin, Betsy, J.T. And Silas King purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Joseph "Joe" Michael Muto.



Devin, Betsy, J.T. And Silas King - August 25, 2025 at 07:48 PM



“ I can say without question that Joe was the most liked and admired guy in our class of '54 at Fairmont Senior High School. Everyone knew Joe and he will always be remembered as outstanding in all respects. Rest in Peace, Joe.

Bill Beckers - August 25, 2025 at 06:23 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Joseph "Joe" Michael Muto.

August 25, 2025 at 06:11 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of Joseph "Joe" Michael Muto.



August 25, 2025 at 06:11 PM