

*Joseph  
Langkamp*



## Joe's Life Story



Joseph Paul Langkamp was an adventurous man who was "full of fire." He lived each and every day with passion and vigor. He was an accomplished professional and a devoted family man. Of all his successes, he was most proud of his children. He loved his family and they knew it by his words and actions. Toward his family, friends and country, Joe lived his life fully and faithfully.

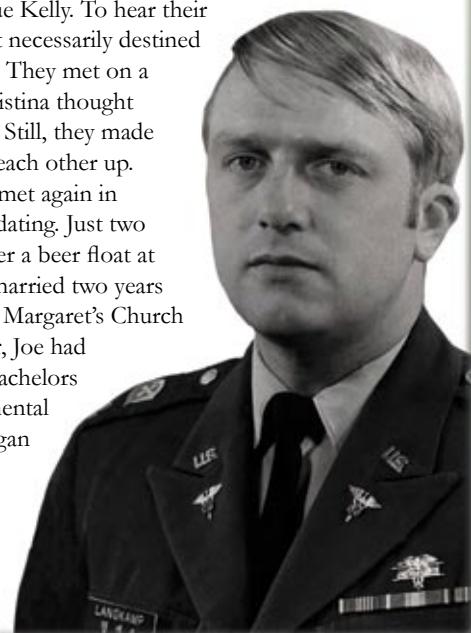


Joe was born at a time when World War II dominated American life. While men went off to war, women were drawn into the workplace as the entire country united around freedom. During such trying times, the family of Joseph and Marie (Balk) Langkamp was delighted by the birth of their son Joseph Paul on December 6, 1943 in Caledonia, Michigan. From an early age, Joe showed a zeal for living that continued throughout his life. By the time he graduated from Caledonia High in 1962, Joe was already invested in 4H and Boy Scouts and with the family dairy and Uncle Dobber's gas station. His adventuresome spirit propelled him toward further education and the joys of what lay ahead.

Joe attended Ferris State College and became a member of Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity. At Ferris, he also met the love of his life, Christina Sue Kelly. To hear their story, they were not necessarily destined to end up together. They met on a blind date and Christina thought

Joe was a bit crazy. Still, they made a second date, but both stood each other up. Finally a few weeks later, they met again in the student union and started dating. Just two months later, Joe proposed over a beer float at the Middleville Tavern. They married two years later on August 12, 1967 in St. Margaret's Church in Otsego. Earlier that summer, Joe had graduated from Ferris with a Bachelors of Science degree in Environmental Engineering and the couple began their journey together.

After college, Joe worked for the Calhoun County Health Department before



receiving a direct commission as an Army lieutenant in 1968. He served in the active duty Army from 1968 to 1981. As an Army Medical Service Corps Officer, Joe's duty assignment moved him all over the world. He was Preventive Medicine Medical Officer at the 97th General Hospital, Frankfurt Germany; Commander of the 5th Preventive Medicine Unit, Korea; Public Health Instructor at the Institute for Medical Assistance, Fort Bragg, South Carolina and Chief of Preventive Medicine, R.W. Bliss Army Hospital, Fort Huachuca, Arizona. In 1981, Joe honorably retired his service from the Army as a Lieutenant Colonel. His decorations and awards include the National Defense Service Medal, Army Expert Field Medical Badge, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal and the Army Commendation Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters. By his accomplishments and recognition, it was plain to see that Joe was a man of honor, discipline and loyalty.



After the Army, Joe was requested by the family to manage the Lake Doster Golf Course, Clubhouse, and Development Company. In some ways, it was the job of his dreams because the golf course was Joe's favorite place to be. But he constantly made personal sacrifices to ensure the longevity of the dream of his father-in-law, Jack Kelly. That's because Joe was a man of his word and, if he shook hands on an agreement, he followed through.

Joe was an inventive person who was curious enough to learn a little bit about a lot of subjects. He was always working on the world's next greatest invention or discovery. Such a can-do attitude produced success in 1990 when he was pouring the foundation of his new home. He thought the surrounding land would be perfect for a gravel pit, and that's how Doster Sand & Gravel was born. With the multitude of his accomplishments, it might seem that Joe's eagerness could cause anxiety. But his philosophy on life was one of calmness and certainty: "Don't sweat the small stuff. It is what it is...."

As matter-of-fact as he was, Joe was also very lighthearted. He always had a joke, he was great story teller, and his laugh was contagious. His remarkable zest for life and adventure took him to unknown parts of the world and made for incredible stories. He told of screaming monkeys attacking his hut and of trekking through countries of political unrest. Among his most memorable trips were missions to Guatemala. He loved the work he did there for Father Shaffer in Minneapolis, Minnesota and Sister Josine and the nuns from LaCross, Wisconsin. Joe was passionate about life and what he could do to make the world a better place.

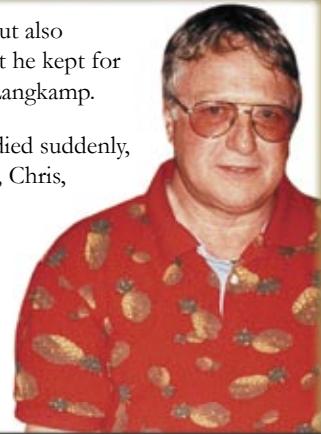


Joe was known by many as "Joey the Jet", not only because of his vigor for life but also because he was quick to accept a stranger. As a result, Joe made many friends that he kept for life. They, along with his beloved family, treasure the man and the legacy of Joe Langkamp.



Joseph Paul Langkamp, age 63, of Plainwell, died suddenly, May 10, 2007. In addition to his beloved wife, Chris, members of Joe's family include his children, Kelly (Michael) Herzog, Army Major Keirya Langkamp, Trenton (Katy) Langkamp and Trevor Langkamp; his grandchildren Lauren Herzog, Alexis Herzog, Carson Herzog, Avery Mandigo and expecting baby Langkamp; his sisters, Sandy (Mike) O'Malley, Kris Early and brother Mark Langkamp. He is preceded in death by his father, Joseph Langkamp, mother Marie Langkamp. Learn more about Joe, view his life story film and visit with his family and friends Monday from 1-3 and 6-8 PM at the Life Story Funeral Home, RDMG Plainwell, 120 S. Woodhams where funeral services

will be held Tuesday at 11 AM. Please visit Joe's memory page at [www.lifestorynet.com](http://www.lifestorynet.com) to archive a memory or photo, sign his memory book or, in lieu of flowers, make a memorial donation to Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration.



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