

## JOSEPH M. STRITTO, SR.

Age 81, of Plum Borough, passed away on Tuesday, October 10th, after a brief but courageous battle with cancer. Joe was born on May 14th, 1942, to Dom and Marge Dello Stritto of Swissvale. Joe was preceded in death by his parents, his father and mother-in-law Norman Renter and Ellen (Toomey) Renter; nephew David Dello Stritto and niece Patricia (Ziga) Renter. He is survived by his best friend and beloved wife of 56 years, Carol (Renter) Dello Stritto; son Joseph M. and Cathy Dello Stritto of Pittsburgh, son Mark D. and Jodie Dello Stritto of Bellefonte, PA; and cherished granddaughter, Anna Catherine. Joe is also survived by loving siblings, brother, Dennis (Carol) Dello Stritto of Warren, Ohio; and sister Diane (Nucci) Scaramuzzo of N. Huntingdon; and many dear nieces and nephews. Joe graduated from Swissvale HS in 1960 and was a finalist for the Swissvale High School Athlete of the Year. He received a football scholarship to North Carolina State University. After graduating from NC State in 1965, he joined Plum Borough School District, where he established the district's elementary physical education curriculum. He was a teacher for 36 years, spending the majority of his career at O'Block Junior High School as a health and physical education teacher. Following his retirement, he served as a substitute teacher at St. John Catholic School in Plum. Joe coached football, wrestling, track and volleyball at both Plum Junior High and O'block Junior High. He began the wrestling program at O'Block in 1971 and coached for 14 years, helping to guide the squads to several undefeated seasons and section championships. The undefeated teams from 1977 to 1981 won 46 straight matches. From 1977 to 1985, Dello Stritto's teams were 65-3 in section matches and had an overall record of 80-28-2. Joe was inducted into the Plum High School Sports Hall of Fame in 2014 and the PA Sports Hall of Fame-East Boros Chapter in 2018. Joe was active in community service as a volunteer in many capacities, supporting programs for families locally and across Appalachia. He was a Fourth Degree Knight(s) of Columbus and an active parishioner of Holy Family Parish - Our Lady of Joy Church. Joe loved to entertain, blast Oldies music while dancing with his wife and gather people in celebration, telling stories and making people laugh and cry. He was a gentle man with a big personalty. Joe will be remembered as a blessing to all who knew him. Family and friends will be received on Monday, October 16th at the **MAURICE L KNEE FUNERAL HOME**, 7663 Saltsburg Rd, Plum, PA 15239. Visitation will be from 2:00 - 8:00 pm with a Rosary offered by the Knights of Columbus from 4:30 - 5:00 pm. Funeral service for family and friends will be held in the funeral home at 10:00 am on Tuesday, October 17th, followed by a Mass at Holy Family Parish - Our Lady of Joy Church, 2000 O'Block Rd, Plum, at 11:00 am with Father Al Zapf officiating.

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