

JOSEPH ANTHONY IONTA



Age 71, of Monroeville, passed away on Tuesday, March 4, 2025. Beloved husband of Linda Young Ionta; loving brother of Dominic (Karen) Ionta and the late Vincent (Kaye) Ionta; also survived by his nieces and nephew, Thomas, Tracy, Domenic, Jr., Joy, Jeaneen, Jodi, Michele, and Richard; his great-niece, Ashleigh; preceded in death by his parents, Joseph and Josephine Ionta.

Joe was inducted to Plum High School, Hall of Fame on November 8, 2012. On June 13, 2017, Joe was honored at the annual Positive Attitude Pittsburgh Awards Ceremony at the Senator John Heinz History Center. As a long time track and cross country coach at Plum, he mentored thousands of student athletes over his 40-plus years at the school. He continued to do so after a leukemia diagnosis in the 1970's. Not wallowing in his misfortune, he made a difference for others with leukemia through Pitt's Hillman Cancer Center. He spearheaded the annual Stampede in the Park race for more than ten years. At one point \$240,000 was raised for cancer research. Ionta, along with 31 other coaches and student athletes from the WPIAL and throughout Western Pennsylvania, were celebrated by Positive Athlete Pittsburgh for their positive attitudes in and out of the sport's arenas. The program's seven definitions of a positive attitude are as follows: an optimistic attitude, always encouraging teammates, being a servant leader, showing heart for others, admitting imperfections, always giving 100% and putting the team first. The goal is to be the most valuable person possible with God's help.

Friends will be received Saturday, March 8, 2025, 9 a.m. - 11 a.m. at the **JOBE FUNERAL HOME & CREMATORY, INC.**, 118 Shaw Avenue, Turtle Creek (412-823-1950), where a blessing service will follow March 8, 2025, at 11 a.m. Interment to follow at Good Shepherd Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to Presbyterian Church of Pitcairn. Please add or view tributes at:

www.jobefuneralhome.com

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