



## Joseph Ralph Scalzo

August 11, 1946 - May 30, 2017

Joseph R. Scalzo, Jr., 70, died suddenly on May 30, 2017 at St. Anne's Hospital. He was born on August 11, 1946 in Toledo, Ohio to Joseph and Edith (Guyer) Scalzo, Sr. Joe graduated from Central Catholic High School and the University of Toledo with a business and law degree.

He proudly served his country in the U.S. Army in Vietnam from 1969-1971. Joe taught at UT in the criminal justice department and health and human services from 2001-2009. He was in private law practice, Scalzo and Scalzo for three decades. Joe worked for Legal Aid in juvenile defense.

Joe had been a huge contributor to wrestling in the United States, at the State, National and International level as a coach, referee, and tournament director. He began wrestling at a YMCA kids program, continued through high school and college, where he placed yearly in the Mid- Am conference. He won the National YMCA championship in Las Vegas, and several Ohio and AAU Championships. Joe became an international referee-judge and traveled the world. He is the only FILA Referee-Judge to gain the highest international officiating award- Exceptionelle-on four different occasions. Joe and his father were tournament directors at every World Cup held in Toledo, its home for over a decade. He was inducted into the AAU Hall of Fame in 2006 and Central Catholic High School Athletic Hall of Fame in 2011.

Joe has been a member of the Toledo Opera Chorus for over 30 years. It was his love and passion to sing. He was a past Board of Trustee member of the Toledo Opera Association. He shared his talent at many loved ones' weddings

and funerals.

He was vice president of the Bull Terrier Club of America from 1991-1993. He and his wife Kathy were breeders of purebred bull terriers, involving themselves in many National shows and competitions.

Joe spent many days at the St. James Health Club, as a certified instructor of Body Pump, Silver Sneakers and water aerobic classes.

Joe is survived by his loving wife Kathleen (Kelleher), children Krista Scalzo, (Beth Reasner), Erinn (Brad) Venia, Joe Scalzo III (Katy) grandchildren Diana, Keegan, Kenna, Kayleigh and Ellie; his siblings Mike (Melissa) Scalzo, Sandy (Mark) Geudtner, JoAnn Scalzo, and Terry (John) Abel. He leaves behind many nieces and nephews as well as dear friends. Joe was preceded in death by his parents, and sister Bonnie Kaminsky.

Friends may visit at the Coyle Funeral Home, 1770 S. Reynolds Rd. on Monday, June 5 from 2-8 p.m. with a Scripture Service at 7. The funeral will begin at Coyle on Tuesday, June 6 at 9:30 with Mass to follow at Gesu Catholic Church at 10 a.m. Interment will be private.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be given to Central Catholic High School or the Toledo Opera Association. Please view Joe's Memorial Video Tribute and leave a condolence message for the family at [CoyleFuneralHome.com](http://CoyleFuneralHome.com).

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUN **5**. 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Coyle Funeral Home  
1770 S. Reynolds Road  
Toledo, OH 43614

## Funeral

JUN **6**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Gesu  
2049 Parkside Blvd  
Toledo, OH 43607

# Tribute Wall



“ We offer our condolences to Kathy and the family. Joe was a college friend to both of us. May he rest in peace. Alyce and Stewart Segall

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**Stewart Segall** - June 06, 2017 at 08:41 AM

MG

“ Proud to know Joe and his family for almost sixty years. Certainly one of the great promoters of amateur wrestling, as was his father, Joe senior. He will surely be missed. Rest in peace, Joe.  
Mike Giovanni

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**Mike Giovanni** - June 05, 2017 at 06:47 PM

SH

“ Please accept my most sincere condolences. I got to know Joe through exercise classes. A delightful man, he was always very enthusiastic & friendly. A gentleman, he will be missed by everyone. It was a pleasure to have known him.  
Susan Hopkins

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**Susan Hopkins** - June 05, 2017 at 11:47 AM

CM

“ I really miss Joe. I started body pump at St James and looked forward to his classes 3 days a week for the past 2 years. He made it so much fun. From singing pieces from the opera to trying out a few steps from the ballet classes he did as a child to the stories of his journeys around different parts of the world, entertainment was part and parcel of these enjoyable classes! There will never be someone like him- he was one of a kind! May the lord help his family through this great loss. I feel like I know all of them well as he spoke about his family all the time. He was so proud of his grandkids. Praying for all his loved ones- Crystal Luke

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**crystal luke, MD** - June 05, 2017 at 06:33 AM

TG

“ I was saddened to hear the news about Joe. He was a dedicated instructor at the club and it was a treat to be around Joe so much. He will be greatly missed by the entire 'family' at the St. James Club.

Terry Gomez  
St. James Club

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**Terry Gomez** - June 04, 2017 at 08:36 PM

GN

“ My wife, Suellen, and I were on a cruise with Joe and Kathleen in 2015 along with other members of The Toledo Bar Association from which we have many fond memories. I saw Joe quite often during my years as a staff attorney for Lucas County, and my wife and I enjoyed his performances at the Gridiron Show.

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**GARY NEWNHAM** - June 04, 2017 at 06:18 PM

CV

“ 1 file added to the album VIDEO TRIBUTE



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**COYLE FUNERAL HOME VIDEOS** - June 04, 2017 at 10:58 AM

TT

“ *Mr. Scalzo represented me as a criminal defense attorney in 2004. He showed me that being a stand up person will always show in the long run. I always was represented by the same attorney but he didn't get along with the judge that was on the case so i was referred to Mr. Scalzo. Thanks for representing me and giving me great advice. My condolences and prayers to you and your family. Great Guy and one of the few Good Guys in law practice today and you will be missed. Terrance Taylor will never forget you. Rest in Heaven my friend.*



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**Terrance Taylor** - June 04, 2017 at 09:20 AM

EJ

“ *Condolences to his family. CCHS, UT and the World Cup were all good years.  
Ernie*

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**ernie jacob** - June 04, 2017 at 12:34 AM

HB

“ Dear Kathy,  
We can't imagine your feelings at this terrible time of grief!  
There are no words.....  
You are in our hearts and ask the Lord to bless you and give you  
strength

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**Harvey and Judy Bowles** - June 03, 2017 at 07:19 PM

MM

“ Please accept my sincere sympathy. Joe and I met at St. James.  
We often had  
great converstions. He well be greatly missed.

*Matthew McQuade*

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**Matthew McQuade** - June 03, 2017 at 12:22 PM

TF

“ The Wager Family purchased the Beautiful in Blue  
for the family of Joseph Ralph Scalzo.



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**The Wager Family** - June 02, 2017 at 08:42 PM

MH

“ I knew Joe from St. Jame's club. He was intelligent, funny and kind.  
The world has lost a great guy.  
JoAnn Helweg

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**Meredith Helweg** - June 02, 2017 at 07:30 PM

TS

“ We were so sorry to learn of Joe's passing. We have known and worked with him for so many years and will miss him dearly. Joe was such a warm, kind-hearted person and talented in so many ways. He will be remembered with fondness and missed by the many people whose lives he's touched. Sending our love and prayers to Kathy and their family. With deepest sympathy, Tracy & Debby Sniderhan

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**Tracy & Debby Sniderhan** - June 02, 2017 at 12:39 PM

HP

“ Joe was a wonderful singer and a good friend. I will miss him. My condolences to the Scalzo family.

*Henry R. (Hank) Povolny*

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**Henry Richard Povolny** - June 02, 2017 at 09:41 AM

MH

“ When I worked for Meijer Pharmacy, it was my pleasure to have met Joe Scalzo. He had such positive vibes about him. I considered myself lucky if he broke into a song-- that rich, deep voice! This life has lost a truly bright & extraordinary presence as he moves on to his next "role"....

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**Marilyn Hall** - June 01, 2017 at 11:49 PM

KW

“ Joe was one of my coaches at Ottawa Hills. He taught me determination and to never quit. In one tournament, I pulled a muscle in my neck and Joe worked on me for over an hour so I could compete in my next match. He will truly be missed.. RIP Joe.

*Kevin Wexler, 98 Lb. Wrestler, Ottawa Hills Green Bears....1974*

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**Kevin Wexler** - June 01, 2017 at 11:27 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Joseph Ralph Scalzo.*



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June 01, 2017 at 08:52 PM



“ *RIP Joe Scalzo. You were a scholar and a gentleman. Ironically I write this from Italy. Over the past 40 years you always enriched our exchanges. You will be missed Joe. You are leaving us way too soon.*

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**Linda Mansour** - June 01, 2017 at 06:43 PM



“ *We are very sorry to hear of Joe's passing. We'll miss his wonderful voice, which was always willing to share an entertaining story or an amazing song. Our thoughts are with the entire Scalzo clan.*

*- Aaron and Jennifer Spielman*

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**Aaron Spielman** - June 01, 2017 at 04:40 PM



“ *The Albery Family purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Joseph Ralph Scalzo.*



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**The Albery Family** - June 01, 2017 at 03:00 PM

PK

“ We all loved Joe. His Body Pump classes were always fun and entertaining whether he was teasing any or all of us or singing opera. We were anxiously awaiting his return. God bless his family. Sincerely,  
Paul Kozy and all his "Pumpers"

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**Paul Kozy** - June 01, 2017 at 01:46 PM



“ Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Joseph Ralph Scalzo.



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June 01, 2017 at 01:37 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Joseph Ralph Scalzo.



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June 01, 2017 at 01:28 PM

GW

“ Joe was a unique person. I was lucky to count him as a friend and for a short while in San Francisco as my roommate. My deepest condolences to his family.

Gary Wilker

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**Gary Wilker** - June 01, 2017 at 12:43 PM

TK

“ I will always remember Joe playing piano at the annual Santa party. He had musical talent he loved to share with others. My heart goes out to you and your family during this difficult time.

Toni Kincade

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**Toni Kincade** - June 01, 2017 at 12:33 PM

JH

“ Joe was always a very special person, with many gifts and talents, who cared greatly about others. I had the great privilege to know him since I was 4 years old - my longest term friend. It is so sad to say goodbye to such a great friend and family man.

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**James P Hauptert** - June 01, 2017 at 11:13 AM

RK

“ Dear Joann and family, so sorry to hear of your loss. Thinking of all of you with prayers. May he RIP.

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**Rosie, Dick and all the Koziarski's** - June 01, 2017 at 11:05 AM

DJ

“ My heart was overwhelmed with sadness when I heard Joe, had passed away. Joe, was a gentle giant. His smile, compassion and love for others along with sharing his extraordinary voice in song will always be remembered. May the Lord comfort and strengthen you all during this difficult time.

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**Debra K. Jelks** - June 01, 2017 at 10:49 AM

JP

“ *My sympathies to Kathy and Joe's family. Joe was always friendly and helpful, and quite entertaining at our monthly "Central Class of 1964" dinners. We will miss hi presence, but cherish his memory.....Jan Peer*

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**Jan Peer** - June 01, 2017 at 10:25 AM

HP

“ *Late night karaoke on Jewel of the Seas just took a major hit. Rest in peace, Joe.*

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**Harry Porthouse** - June 01, 2017 at 09:51 AM

AK

“ *Joe was a regular presence in my office when I was an assistant prosecutor in juvenile court. Though our cases were serious, Joe never took himself too seriously, and we always worked well together. He was a great advocate for children, and he will be greatly missed.*

*Anne Kirkhope*

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**Anne Kirkhope** - June 01, 2017 at 09:12 AM

TB

“ *Trudy Bryson lit a candle in memory of Joseph Ralph Scalzo*



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**Trudy Bryson** - June 01, 2017 at 08:38 AM

LZ

“ Joe was a wonderful person. We worked on a number of cases together and I will always remember one particular case where he was the GAL. Condolences to the family. Joe will surely be missed.

*Lorin Zaner*

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**Lorin Zaner** - June 01, 2017 at 04:32 AM

PH

*Joe was a joy to be around and an amazingly talented singer. I will always remember his many performances in the Gridiron show and particularly his Finkbiner here, Finkbiner there rendition. He will be truly missed by all that knew him.*

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**Patrick Hendershott** - June 01, 2017 at 08:07 AM

MS

“ He was a great man who I enjoyed seeing everytime he walked into the court room. I will always remember that smile of his and his Italian greeting "Ciao Paisano " and I would reply "Sto Bene tu" . I will miss him so. Addio Amico Mio and to your family, Matthew 5:4. May GOD BLESS Him and his family.  
*Mike Shrews, Deputy Sheriff*

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**Mike shrewsberry** - May 31, 2017 at 10:16 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Joseph Ralph Scalzo.



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May 31, 2017 at 09:22 PM

VS

“ *Buon viaggio, Giuseppe. I shall miss you, a kind and gentle man.*  
*Veronica Szozda*

Veronica Szozda - May 31, 2017 at 08:47 PM



Theodora  
Elizabeth

“ *Theodora Elizabeth lit a candle in memory of  
Joseph Ralph Scalzo*



Theodora Elizabeth - May 31, 2017 at 08:39 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for  
the family of Joseph Ralph Scalzo.*



May 31, 2017 at 07:58 PM

RD

“ *Joe was a great man and a wonderful attorney. He was a good  
friend to my late mother Mary Coronado. He handled a divorce for  
me and when my youngest daughter needed to come live with me it  
was Joe who represented me in that case. He joked that it nice to  
be on the side of the good guys for a change. My condolences to  
the family. His presence will be sorely missed.*  
*Robert (Butch) Deitzel*

robert (butch) deitzel - May 31, 2017 at 07:28 PM

CL

“ So sorry for your loss. Would see Joe most evenings at St James Club his attitude of helping others was a joy to see. Prayers out to the family. Chickie Lenga

Chickie Lenga - May 31, 2017 at 07:16 PM

TL

“ Joe would come into the Juvenile Prosectors Office before afternoon Arraignment and talk with Chip Guy. He really enjoyed talking to Chip, they were both veterans and Joe enjoyed a good afternoon chat. I was there listening at my desk and would join sometimes but mostly I just listened. I knew Joe really liked having a friend to talk to. These were good times with Joe, I will miss him a lot, he was a great guy.

Terry Leonard - May 31, 2017 at 06:24 PM

CS

“ He always had a smile on his face and always made me smile when I saw him no matter how bad I was feeling. I'm so going to miss seeing him everyday



Carly Smith - May 31, 2017 at 05:51 PM

MB

“ I will remember Joe's sparkling eyes and how he would break in to song at any moment and somehow it fit right into the conversation! The last time I talked to Joe he was planning a cruise vacation with his ol' high school friends. He sort of invited us to come but said to beware that he and his friends "Do NOT act their age! And that some find this annoying!" Joe loved his family and our great big Irish family (O'Donnell/Kelleher). I always felt welcomed and loved by Joe. I will miss him greatly. I can imagine him with Rosemary, Michael, John, my dad, his dad....Heaven is in for a treat!

Meg Boyer - May 31, 2017 at 04:03 PM

PG

“ Joe and I spent many years in practice together. He was a quality lawyer who was extremely compassionate. The profession lost a great lawyer and I personally lost a good friend.  
Paul Geller

Paul L Geller - May 31, 2017 at 03:36 PM



“ Nancy Welch Rose lit a candle in memory of Joseph Ralph Scalzo



Nancy Welch Rose - May 31, 2017 at 03:04 PM

RT

The world's shortest baritone - you will be missed my friend and CCHS wrestling teammate.

Rick Toeppe - June 02, 2017 at 07:20 AM

JB

*Opera chorus will never be the same. Joe and i had great fun. My condolences to Kathleen and the family. We will all miss him.*  
*Jim Burns*

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**James Burns** - June 03, 2017 at 09:36 AM

LS

*my mother Joan Skow and I are shocked to learn about Joes death from a friend who snow birds to cocoa beach FL. and read about his detah in the newspaper and thought he might be my relative which he was my cousin, his dad was my uncle/Godfather, his mothe rEdie was his consolation after his dad died and his wife and children/siblings, we visited them when Edie was alive and tried to keep in touch , we lost touch but Joann was our closest connection he is with his parents now , as catholics we will pray for you all and his soul if ever want to keep in touch cell 321 747 4322 our home # is 321 747 4322*

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**lawrence scalzo** - June 04, 2017 at 07:58 AM

LK

*With deepest sympathy to Joe's family and all my Scalzo cousins. I will miss Joe's emails and phone conversations we fondly shared the past few years. God speed Joe.*

*Louie Kerdock - Hyattsville, Maryland*

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**Louis J. Kerdock** - June 04, 2017 at 09:17 PM

CS

*My heart and prayers go out to the family. Joe was a big part of my daily life for the last 3 years. Some say we shared an office together. I say we shared time together. So many times he would come in my office and just sit and talk, about everything. Joe was a plethora of knowledge and wisdom, a man of many words and songs. I would often hear him just a singing away from his office and I would just smile, I knew music was deep in his soul so when he was singing I knew his soul was happy. We shared stories of our families and conversations of faith. He would always say I encouraged him to believe and have hope because of what I have been through. He was always genuinely concerned for me. I remember on his 70th birthday we filled his room with balloons and confetti, got him a cake and hung signs around the office chuckling about his age. He smiled so big and just enjoyed the celebration of his life! I will forever celebrate the life of Joe Scalzo and will miss him every day. " God is near to the broken hearted, I pray you all feel the peace of God around you.*

*May you all find comfort in each other and may Joe live on through the legacy he left behind.*

*Much love to all Carie Staerker*

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**Carie Staerker** - June 05, 2017 at 11:53 AM