



Joseph C. Cocalis

September 23, 1950 - August 7, 2025

Captain Joseph C. Cocalis, 74, of Point Marion, Pa., died Thursday, August 7, 2025, following a long battle with Parkinson Disease. Born Sept. 23, 1950 in Elizabeth, NJ, he was proud of his Greek Heritage, and was a son of the late James and Eleanor (Hopkins) Cocalis. Also deceased is his wife, Donna (Fuhs) Cocalis on March 30, 2021.

Joe graduated from the University of Texas, and received his Masters Degree in Engineering of Mines from WVU. He honorable served in the U.S. Army, and later was with the U.S. Public Health Service and detailed to the U.S. Coast Guard. He retired as a Captain with the Public Health Service, and worked at and retired from NIOSH in Morgantown where he was an Industrial Hygienist.

He was active with the Friendship Hill Association, the Point Marion Rotary, where he was a Paul Harris Fellow and a member of the Paul Harris Society, the NCEES (National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying) where he helped to develop the professional exams, and with the Country Road Cyclists. In his spare time, he enjoyed bicycling, puzzling, cross country skiing, canoeing and playing the stock market. Joe's "never give up" attitude in dealing with his illness over the years was an inspiration to all who knew him.

Surviving is his wife, Cynthia L. Cocalis; two sons, Dwight (Stephany Moody)

Sisk of Sykesville, MD, and Travis (Janelle Barnhart) of Chesapeake, VA; grandchildren, Noah, Kiley, Garrett and Peyton Sisk; two sisters, Susan Cocalis and Michelle Sharkin; two brothers, Guy Cocalis and Ralph Cocalis; his special great-grandchildren, Griyson, Kallie, Layla, Adelyn, Harper, Jenson, Raegan and Brier; and a number of cousins, nieces and nephews.

The family will receive friends in the Richard R. Herod Funeral Home, Point Marion, on Monday from 2 – 4 and 6- 8 PM. Funeral services will begin at 8:00 PM in the funeral home, with Rich Schimansky and Rev. George Relic officiating. Interment, with military honors, will take place at a later date.

Memorials, in lieu of flowers, may be offered to St. Jude's Research Hospital, Memphis, TN.

Cemetery Details

Evergreen Memorial Park

7500 Morgantown Road
Point Marion, PA 15474

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 11. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Herod-Rishel Funeral Home
501 Morgantown Street
Point Marion, PA 15474
(724) 725-5245
rishel@atlanticbb.net
<https://www.herod-rishel.com>

Visitation

AUG 11. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Herod-Rishel Funeral Home
501 Morgantown Street
Point Marion, PA 15474
(724) 725-5245
rishel@atlanticbb.net
<https://www.herod-rishel.com>

Service

AUG 11. 8:00 PM (ET)

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Tribute Wall

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“ Joe was a neighbor and friend for many years here in Pt. Marion. He was active in the community and eagerly determined to participate in all that he could even as his illness took its grip on him. He had a wry sense of humor and a dear laugh which will be missed. He had a quiet reserve but was always happy to see friends and share his time. Peace to you, Joe. Fondly Jane and Jack Stewart

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