



## Iossif "Joe" Marios Gressis

June 26, 1976 - September 7, 2021

Iossif Marios Petros Gressis

06/26/1976 – 9/07/2021

A Father, Husband, Son, Brother, Mentor, Protector, and a Friend. He was selfless, caring, and always giving. Iossif Marios Petros Gressis, better known as Joe, embodied all that was good in this world and was proud of his Greek heritage. He espoused the value of 'Φιλοξενία' which means a friend to strangers; he truly cared for his family, friends and community. He saw value in everyone and was loved by everyone.

Joe found joy by helping those around him, whether strangers or friends.

In November 2015, he hosted his first all free Thanksgiving meals at Galazio Restaurant for anyone who needed either a meal or just someone's company. He enjoyed sitting at the tables and sharing his stories with strangers, while at the same time hearing theirs. Only a small handful of families came, however the event sent shockwaves of gratitude throughout the community and became an yearly event.

His presence had a massive impact on people's lives and he had a way to help anyone who may have given up or made terrible mistakes. To Joe, no one was beyond helping.

Additionally, Joe had a gift, the gift of simply putting people on the right track; he simply knew what was good for people and encouraged them to become the person they wanted to be. He never held back either, he wasn't only a mentor to the young, but he was able to offer sage advice to anyone no matter where they were in life. There are countless stories of those who knew Joe and found new meaning in life because of his influence.

To his staff that learned the value of hard work, to the advice and encouragement he always gave his friends, and to his family that depended on him for being the rock that he was, and to the countless displays of generosity to the Charles County Community--Joe helped us all.

It's with deep sadness that Iossif Marios Gressis has passed on. He was a mountain of a man and left behind a cavernous hole in our hearts. There is no replacing him, and we will never see anyone like him again. The best we can do now is hold onto him, every memory, as best as we possibly can. We are not Joe, but at least we can try to adopt some of his many qualities and talents. He was such a rare person who could do so many things and had so many interests; he loved music, hunting, traveling, eating, building, conversing, a glass of Glenlivet, but most of all, he loved playing Poker.

He became a person who was fearless, full of optimism and filled with hope. His hopes, dreams, and desires were infectious, and they radiated to everyone around him. He had a gift for guiding others to realize their dreams. Anyone who knew Joe knew how funny he could be. He was a great imitator, a storyteller, and he could make anyone laugh. He naturally knew how to lift the environment and put on a good show. He was also a loving and caring husband and he continued to honor, respect and obey his vows everlastingly. Joe was a loving and caring father who would do anything for his children, Asimina and Petro. He would wake them up with music and laughter every morning and take them to school. Petro learned how to fish and play chess from Joe and he would take Asimina to horseback riding lessons and taught them both how to play poker. He cared for his employees not only as a boss, but more importantly, as a mentor. Even during the Pandemic, as a generous act, Joe granted the restaurant's gross sales for the day back to his employees to help them and to support them during their difficult times.

Joe could connect with anyone, and we only wish that we could connect with our Joe again one more time. For so many of us, our only desire now is to make you proud, and we know that means we must live our lives to the best because that is your expectation from us. We love you Iossif Marios Gressis and we will miss you and cherish you for the rest of our lives. Your name will never be forgotten in our community.

A visitation will be held on Sunday, September 19, 2021 from 5PM to 8PM at New Life Church, 9690 Shepherds Creek Place, La Plata, Maryland 20646.

A funeral service will be held on Monday, September 20, 2021 at 11AM at New Life Church, 9690 Shepherds Creek Place, La Plata, Maryland 20646.

Interment will be private.

Memorial contributions may be made in Joe's name to Arnold House, 3444 Rockefeller Court, Waldorf, Maryland 20602, online at [www.thearnoldhouse.org](http://www.thearnoldhouse.org), or Life Styles, P. O. Box 1794, La Plata, Maryland 20646, online at [www.lifestylesofmd.org](http://www.lifestylesofmd.org), or New Life

Church, 9690 Shepherd's Creek Place, La Plata, Maryland 20646, online at [www.newlife.live](http://www.newlife.live).

Please use this link for the Live Stream: <https://youtu.be/N1FT5CcaGsE>

# Events

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**SEP** **Visitation** 05:00PM - 08:00PM

**19**

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New Life Wesleyan Church

9690 Shepherd's Creek Place, La Plata, MD, US, 20646

**SEP** **Service** 11:00AM

**20**

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New Life Wesleyan Church

9690 Shepherd's Creek Place, La Plata, MD, US, 20646

# Comments

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“ I just found out about Joe last week. My sister and I go to Obo's in Smallwood Village all the time. I had no idea until I came across an article on Twitter, I think.

After reading all the tributes, I only wish I'd known him and the family better. He sounds like an amazing guy with a huge heart. He gave to the community without expectations of anything in return. He was an angel on earth. Now he's an angel watching over his family. RIP Joe, you are missed and loved

Barbara Brown

Barbara Brown - March 10 at 06:35 PM

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“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of lossif "Joe" Marios Gressis.



September 21, 2021 at 04:07 PM

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“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of lossif "Joe" Marios Gressis.



September 20, 2021 at 04:03 AM

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“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of lossif "Joe" Marios Gressis.



September 19, 2021 at 08:44 PM

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“ I miss hearing your voice over the phone! What I wouldn't give for one more Hey Cheri it's Joe what do you need!! You will be missed my friend! Rest in Heaven! Prayers to your beautiful family!



**Cheri Kerns** - September 19, 2021 at 07:00 PM

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“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of lossif "Joe" Marios Gressis.



September 19, 2021 at 05:06 PM

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“ The world is a little colder since you left us. I will remember you and your family in my constant prayers until my last breath.



Jane Dintaman - September 19, 2021 at 03:20 PM

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“ Eddie Beyer lit a candle in memory of lossif "Joe" Marios Gressis



eddie beyer - September 19, 2021 at 02:46 PM

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“ Joe our family is really going to miss you I will never forget all the free nachos and cheese at the Smallwood village pool u trying to teach me how to swim all the crab feast we had at our house with your family and riding bikes in our neighborhood getting chased by dogs with your sister when y'all babysat me and my sister I still cannot believe your gone today and tomorrow will be a hard day for many people you were a hero to many in charles county u may be gone but never forgotten we love you joe and will continue to pray for your family and friends

eddie beyer - September 19, 2021 at 02:45 PM

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“ Thank you for being such a wonderful human being. Your smile, laugh and kindness will be missed by all.



Cindy Lesueur Beyrle - September 19, 2021 at 07:28 AM

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“ Wendy Bossert-Miller lit a candle in memory of lossif "Joe" Marios Gressis



Wendy Bossert-Miller - September 18, 2021 at 09:38 PM

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“ Ocean Breeze Spray was purchased for the family of lossif "Joe" Marios Gressis.



September 18, 2021 at 08:57 AM

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“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of lossif "Joe" Marios Gressis.



September 18, 2021 at 08:26 AM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of lossif "Joe" Marios Gressis.



September 17, 2021 at 11:54 AM

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“ I never met Joe, but I have seen and heard of the wonderful things he has done for people and the community. I pray for his family and his friends, and that his memory will stay alive. RIP Joe.

**patty mackert** - September 17, 2021 at 11:12 AM

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“ Laura Huber lit a candle in memory of lossif "Joe" Marios Gressis



**Laura Huber** - September 17, 2021 at 11:00 AM

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“ Joe, you were a funny guy when you were in my CDL A class at CSM. I still have a copy of the CD you made for all your fellow students and us instructors there, about your time at the CSM CDL Range. You will be missed my friend. Francis Chandler

**Francis Chandler** - September 17, 2021 at 09:26 AM

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“ What a beautiful tribute for an extraordinary soul. Joe, we will all miss you and hope you rest peacefully in eternal heaven. There are no words to express our gratitude for each and every one of your acts of kindness. They say he only takes the best and I can't think of a time this rang more true.

With deepest sympathy,  
Jessica Calomeris

Jessica Calomeris - September 17, 2021 at 02:06 AM

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“ Robert, Elena & Family purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of lossif "Joe" Marios Gressis.



Robert, Elena & Family - September 16, 2021 at 11:11 PM

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“ To Joe's family & friends,  
I'm very sorry to hear of Joe's passing.  
I met Joe years ago through mutual friends at local social gatherings as well at catered parties.  
He was always very polite, professional and had a very pleasantcommunity. I especially remember he always had a very welcoming smile towards others. A dedicated individual who will be sorely missed in the community. My deepest condolences!  
Michele Ann Nutwell



Michele Nutwell - September 16, 2021 at 09:14 PM



“ Correction: Should say pleasant demeanor not community...

Michele - September 16, 2021 at 09:17 PM



“ To the Gressis, we send love and condolences to you all. My husband and I had the pleasure to meet Joe first at Galazio's where we were introduced to the best authentic Greek food, ever. When Lucianna's opened, Joe greeted us with the history of the name and the best place that Waldorf has ever experienced. His love for family and culture was necessary and needed in the county. He will be missed. May His memory be eternal to us all. From Leon and Theresa Hollowell & family.



**Theresa Hollowell** - September 16, 2021 at 08:38 PM

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“ Tina and Chelsea Fullerton purchased the Beautiful Heart Bouquet for the family of lossif "Joe" Marios Gressis.



**Tina and Chelsea Fullerton** - September 16, 2021 at 05:20 PM

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“ RIP



**Melinda Drumn** - September 16, 2021 at 04:55 PM

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“ Serenity Wreath was purchased for the family of lossif "Joe" Marios Gressis.



September 16, 2021 at 04:27 PM

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“ Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of lossif "Joe" Marios Gressis.



September 16, 2021 at 03:40 PM

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“ We met the entire Gressis family several years ago when they opened the OBO Restaruarnt in La Plata, and later when we accompanied them on an extended vacation trip to Greece. They all were a wonderful, caring family to us and to so many others. Joe left this life too early, but may he RIP.

Carolyn & Norm Chlosta  
Swan Point, MD



**Norman Chlosta** - September 16, 2021 at 03:14 PM

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“ Some people are just angels on earth. Joe was one of those angels. Joe was just a beautiful person we should all inspire to be. He would want us to carry on his mission, he would want the community to continue the legacy he began. I will miss seeing his huge smile. My prayers are with his wife, children and his entire family as they navigate this tremendous loss. We as a community mourn with you, as it will never be the same without him. #doitforjoe



Melissa Velasquez - September 16, 2021 at 02:59 PM

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“ Magnificent Life Spray was purchased for the family of lossif "Joe" Marios Gressis.



September 16, 2021 at 02:51 PM

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“ Joe,  
You thought about everyone in your brief life every single day,  
Your loved mom and dad, sister and brother, you loved your wife and children, your family and employees, you loved your Greek culture, your Greek food and music, and jokes and making Facebook videos.  
But today we think of you with love, and yesterday, and the day before. Since you left us. We think of you in silence, Your mother screams out your name, we see your face in a picture frame.  
We wonder why you had to leave us,  
And now God has you in His keeping.  
Rest in paradise

Irene Casella - September 16, 2021 at 02:49 PM

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“ Glinda Browne lit a candle in memory of lossif "Joe" Marios Gressis



Glinda Browne - September 16, 2021 at 02:32 PM

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“ Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of lossif "Joe" Marios Gressis.



September 16, 2021 at 02:19 PM

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“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of lossif "Joe" Marios Gressis.



September 16, 2021 at 02:15 PM

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I know Joe

My heart breaks right along with the family, work family and community. May You Rest In the Peace of Our Lord Joe. May perpetual light shine upon you. Soar high my friend, you made a difference  
God bless Luci and family



joyce edelen - September 16, 2021 at 01:44 PM

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Sue Schwartz lit a candle in memory of lossif "Joe" Marios Gressis



Sue Schwartz - September 16, 2021 at 01:36 PM