

Joseph Vincent LaRosa

January 3, 1942 (Rockford, IL) November 20, 2022 (Rockford, IL)

Joseph Vincent LaRosa, 80, of Rockford, passed away Sunday, November 20, 2022, at home surrounded by his family. He was born January 3, 1942, the son of Vincent and Carmella LaRosa. He was a Veteran of the **United States Army**



stationed in Fort Knox. While on duty, one of his favorite memories was driving a tank he named "Baby Cakes." He married the love of his life Lynda Hinerichsen on May 8, 1971, in Saint Anthony Church of Padua, Rockford. His father built LaRosa & Sons grocery store in 1947, where Joe worked from childhood. In 1981, he proudly took over ownership of the family business until its closing in 2002. For 20 years Joe was a proud member of the St. Anthony Ambrogio "Butcher Boys" bocce team.

Everybody loved to talk with Joe. Commonly referred to as "Papa Joe," he was charismatic. You could count on him for a boisterous greeting and a story. He had such a passion for cooking, a love for

all animals, and that charming "son of a gun" loved to

dance. He was a loyal friend and a caring Father. Above all, his greatest devotion was to his Children, who loved him so very much. He was adored by many, loved by all, and will forever be missed. Survivors include his four Children, VJ (Stacey) LaRosa, Joseph (Jennifer) LaRosa and their Son, Giuseppe, Laura (Benny) Salamone, and Catherine Smoody and her Children, Haley, Stephen, Alexandria, Joseph, and Veronica; Brother, Gene LaRosa and Sister, Geri LaRosa. He was predeceased by his Parents, Wife, Brother Frank, and beloved dogs Caesar and Uno.

Per Joe's wishes, a memorial social gathering will be held in his honor on Sunday, January 22, 2023, at the St. Ambrogio Society, 802 Montague Rd., Rockford, from 2:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. In

lieu of flowers, please donate to the family for a Joseph LaRosa Memorial Bench in southwest Rockford. Arrangements were made by Tony Gasparini Funerals, Rockford.

Reference:

[Joseph Vincent LaRosa Obituary - Rockford Register Star](#)

