



Joe Malak Jr.

April 10, 1936 - September 11, 2009

Joe Malak, Jr. passed away in New Waverly, Texas, on Tuesday, September 8, 2009. He was 73 years old. Joe was born on Good Friday, April 10, 1936 in New Waverly to Joe and Victoria (Buckner) Malak. He was a great grandson of Polish immigrants who settled in south Walker County as part of the Waverly Emigration Society. He lived on Vicks Spring Road all his life. Joe was Commissioner of Precinct 4 from 1971 until his retirement in 1999, a total of 28 years service to Walker County. He was a 20 year member of the Houston-Galveston Area Council where he served as secretary, vice-president, and president. He was instrumental in working with county officials to establish the 911 emergency system for the H-GAC area including Walker County. He was a member and chairman of the Walker County Housing Authority. Upon his retirement, the Precinct 4 Commissioner's complex in New Waverly was named by the Walker County Commissioners Court the "Joe Malak, Jr. Facility" in his honor. Joe was a faithful, active member of St. Joseph Catholic Church in New Waverly. His ancestors were founding members of the Parish and Church. He served as usher, lay reader, and Eucharistic Minister; he served on the Parish Council and in any capacity when he was called or saw a need. Joe was a charter member of the Father Bily #5921 Council, Knights of Columbus; charter member of the New Waverly Lions Club. As a life member of the Walker County Fair Association, he worked on several committees. He was a member of the Texas Sheriff Association, Walker County Genealogical Society, Century Families of Walker

County, Waverly Emigration Society of Polish Families and other organizations. He was an honorary member of several groups, including New Waverly High School Beta Club, Future Farmers of America, and Band. He was a school bus driver for the New Waverly School for ball games, band trips, Beta Club and other special occasions. The students lovingly referred to him as "Daddy Joe." Joe was one of the popular, fun-loving Mighty Fine Country Cookers barbecue team, of which he was chief chili cook (Malak's Pot Hole Chili). They raised money for various groups—usually youth groups—as well as the Walker County Fair and New Waverly Public Library. He also cooked chili to help raise funds for the New Waverly Fire Department. Joe married Clara Mae Loper, September 17, 1966. They have one daughter Laura Elaine. Joe was preceded in death by his parents and his sister, Sadie Mae Malak Billnoske. Joe is survived by his loving wife Clara, his daughter and son-in-law Laura and Stephen Drake, three precious granddaughters: Brittany, Sarah, and Rachel Drake, all of New Waverly. He is also survived by his brothers-in-law Adam Billnoske and Carl "Buddy" Loper and wife Becky; one niece, Mary Ann Billnoske Slott and husband Jimmy; two nephews, Joe Thomas Billnoske and wife Elizabeth, and Steven Billnoske and wife, Donna, several great nephews and nieces. Visitation will be held at Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home, 1700 Normal Park Drive, Huntsville, Texas, Thursday evening, September 10, 2009, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m., followed by a wake service and rosary. Funeral service will be at 11:00 a.m. Friday, September 11, 2009, at the St. Joseph Catholic Church in New Waverly, with Rev. Daokim Nguyen officiating. Burial will follow at St. Joseph Elmina Cemetery, New Waverly. Pallbearers will be Joe Thomas Billnoske, Steven Billnoske, Dr. Tom Cole, Richard Drake, Carl Loper, and Michael Slott. Honorary pallbearers include Adam Billnoske, B.J. Gaines, Craig Godwin, Buddy Reynolds, Judge Frank Robinson, Jimmy Slott, Jim Teutsch, and Judge Charles Wagamon, The family wishes to thank their beloved physician, Dr. Tom Cole for his years of faithful devotion and medical care. Special appreciation is extended to Keith and Sheryle Ellisor for their tender care. The

family expresses their gratitude to Doctors Levin, Tremont, and Rao. The family requests that in lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the M. D. Anderson Cancer Center, P O Box 4486, Houston, Texas 77210-4486. “If God ever created an unselfish man, it was Joe Malak” – Walker County Judge Charles Wagamon at the dedication of the Joe Malak, Jr. Facility in New Waverly. Memorial condolences may be made to the family online at www.shmfh.com

Tribute Wall



“ *Joe Malak Jr.*

November 15, 2022 at 08:33 PM



“ *I'm so sorry to learn about the death of your husband. My thoughts are with you.*

Esther F. Sims - October 08, 2009 at 10:05 AM



“ *Dear Mrs. Malak and all the Malak Family:
I received your letter, thank you kindly. I also thank you for a copy of Joe's obituary, which I will keep with me forever.
I feel honored and proud to have taken care of a man of such stature; an outstanding citizen with a vocational service, second to none; and I wish that some day I can do or accomplish at least a fraction of what he did.
Ivo*

Ivo Tremont - October 06, 2009 at 08:19 AM

AH

“ Clara and Family,
Please know that our prayers are with you. Here is a hug for each tear you have shed and a kiss for each smile when you fondly remember Joe.
Cancer is so limited it cannot cripple love, it cannot shatter hope, it cannot corrode faith, it cannot destroy peace, it cannot silence courage, it cannot invade the soul, it cannot steal eternal life, it cannot conquer the spirit.

May His peace be with you.

Adam & Christine Hyman - September 14, 2009 at 08:51 PM

KP

“ Mr. Joe was a fine, fine man. I am so thankful that we have such wonderful memories of him.

Kelly Keeland Peck - September 14, 2009 at 04:10 PM

SA

“ Dear Mrs. Malak, My deepest sympathy to you and your family. Mr. Malak was a wonderful man. I will always remember some of the great conversations we had when ever I say him at my office or in town. He always had a smile on his face for whoever he saw. My prayers are with you. ---Shelly Gerbasi Allen

Shelly Gerbasi Allen - September 12, 2009 at 06:34 PM

LL

“ Clara and family, I am so sorry to hear about Joe. We will surely miss his smiling and happy face at all our "Daughters" meetings.

you are all in my prayers. May God bring you peace and understanding, and strength.

Linda

Linda Verbeck Ludecke - September 11, 2009 at 04:04 PM

JB

“ To the entire Malak family,
I am so sorry to hear about your loss. Mr. Malak was a wonderful person and a friend to all. I know that he will be deeply missed in the New Waverly community but his contributions will live on in the many years to come. May God Bless You and help you in your sorrow... Mr. Malak is smiling down to us all from above!
Jamie & Don Brinegar Family

Jamie Ellisor Brinegar - September 11, 2009 at 12:03 PM

NB

“ Clara,
By just reading his obituary I have found out that Joe was truly a man of God. I know you'll miss him but just think what a wonderful time he is having now. I will be praying for you and your family that God will give you comfort and strength and I know that He will.

*Love in Christ,
Nancy Burton
Decatur, MS*

Nancy Burton - September 10, 2009 at 08:34 PM

DU

“ *Our thoughts, love and prayers are with your family.*

Danny and Pam Upchurch - September 10, 2009 at 05:28 PM

TN

“ *Mrs. Malak and Laura,
Daddy Joe was such an integral part of this community, but I know to your family he was everything. As much as we are hurt and will miss him, I know your pain is so much greater. Losing a soul mate and a father can never be easy, but thankfully God does everything in His own time. One day you will all find yourself together again talking with our Lord and Savior. My prayers and thoughts will be with you.*

TaShanda and Comer Clark

TaShanda Clark Nephew - September 10, 2009 at 04:28 PM

DP

“ *All the things listed above pale in comparison to the love, care and devotion he poured into you, Clara, Laura and his precious grandbabies. His legacy is honorable and lovely. My prayers are with you.*

Debbie Chandler Pool - September 10, 2009 at 03:45 PM

SF

“ *Mrs. Malak, Laura, Brittany and Family... You are all in our hearts & prayers. May the many wonderful memories bring some peace to you during this difficult time.*

*Sincerely,
Charlotte(Loll), Chad, Clayton & Colton Swor*

Swor Family - September 10, 2009 at 03:00 PM

MC

“ Mrs. Malak and family you are all in our prayers. Our heart goes out to you during this difficult time.

Madelaina Carranza - September 10, 2009 at 12:31 PM

MR

“ I will never forget the years that I worked for Joe. He was always considerate and kind in everything that he did. His humor always brightened my day. I have missed seeing him regularly since his retirement. There will now be an empty space in this world that may never be filled. I miss him already.

Michele Rushing - September 10, 2009 at 11:02 AM

GB

“ Mrs. Malak,
It is doubtful there will ever be another like Mr. Joe. He will be missed by us all. From St. Joseph's to the "deer camp" and everywhere in between he has left a legacy that will forever be part of this community. He will be missed, but more importantly, he will be remembered. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.

Greg and Angela Buckner - September 10, 2009 at 10:47 AM

SP

“ Mrs. Malak, Laura, Steve and Girls. You are in our thoughts and prayers. May you feel God's comfort and peace. He was the truly the happiest man I ever met. I don't think I ever saw him without a smile on his face and a kind word to say.

Stephanie Pitts - September 10, 2009 at 09:54 AM

LS

“ Dearest Clara, Laura and Family,
So VERY SORRY about Joe. He was loved by so many people.
Joe was one of a kind. There will be no one that can walk in his shoes. I am proud to say Joe was my cousin.
Clara, take of yourself. You were the best wife. You two matched each other in every field.
LOVE YOU!!!
Linda Slott

Linda Slott - September 10, 2009 at 09:32 AM

GG

“ Joe was a treasure that will be sorely missed in Walker County. We could always count on him greeting us with a smile. God bless you in the days ahead as you say goodby.

Greg and Dani Gathright - September 09, 2009 at 07:21 PM

SB

“ Clara, Laura, Steve and the granddaughters, my heart goes out to you at this sad time of your life. The happy thoughts that we can have are the memories he left behind in the minds and hearts of so many people; that famous smile that he bestowed on so many; the good things he accomplished, not just for and in his family life, but throughout the community and this area of southeast Texas. I remember how at our high school reunions Joe was always there to represent his class of '54, sometimes standing alone. But that was Joe....he could and did stand alone at times for things he believed to be right. In those dark days ahead when you realize we will not see Joe on this earth again, remember that the Lord used him for God's glory. Joe's job is complete here so you must turn to the Heavenly Father for comfort and turn to us as your friends for the support you will need. As Lisa stated, call on us if there is anything we can do to help. It goes without saying, this family will be in the prayers of many people. May the Lord's perfect will be done in all things. In Christian love, Sara Bartee

Sara Bartee - September 09, 2009 at 05:52 PM

JH

“ Our hearts go out to the family and friends. We will continue to pray for you through this much difficult time. He was such a wonderful man, and was looked up by many. We will truly miss him, the magic that he put in the chili was amazing at the fire department. He is looking down on us with a smile.

Jacob Slott & Holly Hudler - September 09, 2009 at 04:18 PM

JS

“ Clara, Please know that you are in our hearts and prayers. We have lost a great man.
With love, Jenny & John Schwetman

Jenny schwetman - September 09, 2009 at 02:51 PM

CM

“ Mrs. Malak, Laura & family: Our deepest sympathy to you all. To Brittany, Sarah and Rachel: the love from your Grandpa was one of a kind. I would watch him smile when you was near the 3 of you !! May he rest in peace with no more pain. Our love to you all. Sincerely, Carolyn, Gary, Brittany, Spencer, Annie Mae & Robert Snoe

Carolyn McClure - September 09, 2009 at 02:39 PM

JH

“ Clara, Laura, Steve and family, Please know that you are all in our prayers during this difficult time. Joe loved his family and community and always had a big smile on his face. He will be missed very much. We love all of you.

Joe & Sue Hardy - September 09, 2009 at 01:33 PM

JT

“ Clara, Laura, Steve and Grandpa's pride and joy's - Brittany, Sarah and Rachel, I wish your hearts the peace and joy that your wonderful husband, dad, grandpa now has. What a wonderful legacy he has left you all. You are in the prayers of everyone who knew, loved and will too miss this Godly man so deeply. God bless you.

Janet Thomason - September 09, 2009 at 01:22 PM

JN

“ OUR DEEPEST CONDOLENCES TO YOU CLARA AND YOUR ENTIRE FAMILY IN THIS TIME OF LOSS. JOE WAS GOOD GOD SERVING MAN AND WE HAVE A LOT OF GOOD MEMORIES WITH HIM. YOU ARE IN OUR PRAYERS AND MAY GOD BLESS YOU ! JAMES & YVONNE NOVARK

JAMES & YVONNE NOVARK - September 09, 2009 at 12:29 PM

D(

“ Mrs. Malak, Laura, Steve, and family... Please know that you are all in our prayers during this difficult time. I have many memories from all of our Beta Club trips that "Daddy Joe" drove us to and all of the chili suppers and bazaars he cooked for. He was always such a sweet and caring man who cared deeply for his family and his community. He will be missed greatly.
God Bless, Tim & Debbie Szymczak & Clara Novark

Debbie Szymczak (Novark) - September 09, 2009 at 10:50 AM

PB

“ Aunt Clara, Laura, Steve, Brittany, Sarah & Rachel, My heart goes out to all of you. Uncle Joe was so precious to me and I'll forever miss him. He was such an extraordinary man who I always admired. I'm proud to be his niece by choice. I love you all dearly. I know he touched so many lives and our world was such a brighter place because of him.

Patricia Bilbo - September 09, 2009 at 10:15 AM

LH

“ My deepest sympathy to Mrs. Malak, Laura, Steve, Brittany, Sarah, & Rachel ... New Waverly has lost a true ICON to the community. I will forever remember him being our "driver" on so many trips. He loved his family and his community and always had a smile on his face and a willing heart. We will continue to pray for peace and ask that God hold you in the palm of his hand during this most difficult time. We are definately here for anything you may need. We love all of you and will miss Mr. Malak very much.

Lisa Hayman - September 09, 2009 at 08:59 AM