

Brooks Funeral Home

Joseph E. Lecaroz Jr.

(October 02, 1936 - February 19, 2022)

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**October 2, 1936 ~ February 19,
2022**

New Windsor, NY



Joseph "Joe" E. Lecaroz, 85, of Newburgh, entered into rest on Saturday, February 19, 2022, at the Park Manor Rehabilitation Center in Middletown, NY. The son of the late Joseph and Anne (Sullivan) Lecaroz, he was born October 2, 1936, at his parents' home in Everett, Massachusetts. He was predeceased in death by his loving wife of 44 years, Patricia (Lerner) Lecaroz, and his brother Robert "Jack" F. Lecaroz.

Joe was a 1954 graduate of Malden Vocational High School in Malden, Massachusetts. He proudly served his country in the US Air Force and was stationed at Wright Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio and Stewart Air Force Base in New York. In 1957, after his honorable discharge from the Air Force, Joe and Patricia decided to settle down in Newburgh, NY.

Joe attended SUNY New Paltz, where he received a Bachelors Degree in Elementary Education in 1964, and a Master of Science in Education in 1970. In 1964, he was hired by the Newburgh Enlarged City School District as a teacher at Fostertown Elementary School, where he would remain for 35 years until his retirement in 1999. He truly cherished his time as an educator at Fostertown, where he was fortunate to work with many wonderful students and colleagues who meant the world to him. He often said, "If you love your work, you will never really work." After his retirement, he enjoyed hearing from many former students who would seek him out to let him know how much of a positive influence he had been in their lives.

Throughout his life, Joe was an active member of numerous organizations: Optimist International, the New Windsor Youth and Recreation Commission, the New Windsor Zoning Board of Appeals and Capital Improvements Committee, the Town of Newburgh Board of Assessment Review, the Orange County Republican Committee, and the Newburgh Teachers Association, where he served as a delegate and vice president. Joe was an avid fan of scale model railroading and was a long-time member of the National Model Railroad Association (NMRA). He traveled throughout North America to attend numerous NMRA conventions and enjoyed endless hours tinkering around his huge self-made model train layout in his basement.

He is survived by his cherished wife, Doreen (Hall-LaPoint) Lecaroz of Newburgh, NY; children, Virginia "Ginny" Lecaroz-Schneider and her husband Quinn Schneider of Newburgh, NY, Jennifer (LaPoint) Messer and her husband Albert Messer of Windham, New Hampshire, and Brian LaPoint of Rochester, New Hampshire; grandchildren, Georgia (Schneider) Anderson and her husband Jon Anderson of Germantown, MD, Noah Schneider and his wife Iris Schneider of Newburgh, NY, and Ava and Olivia Messer of Windham, NH; great-grandsons Owen and Holden Anderson of Germantown, MD; and a beloved extended family.

Visitation will be held from 4-7 p.m. on Thursday, February 24 at Brooks Funeral Home, 481 Gidney Ave., Newburgh. A service for Joseph will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday at the funeral home, with burial following in Woodlawn Cemetery, New Windsor.

Should friends desire, memorial contributions may be made to WAMC Northeast Public Radio at WAMC, 318 Central Avenue, Albany, NY 12206.