

## **Joseph Charles Bellone | 1926-2014**

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Joseph Charles Bellone

Joseph Charles Bellone, 88, of Bridgeport, died Thursday, Dec. 4, 2014 after a brief illness.

Services were Dec. 6 in Bridgeport.

Mr. Bellone was a loving, Christian man, a strong and solid father and a devoted and loving husband who will be greatly missed.

He was born in Long Branch, N.J., in 1926 and graduated from Long Branch High School, where he was known as "Joey." In high school, he enjoyed soccer, basketball, track and being a lifeguard at the shore.

At the time of his graduation, World War II was still underway, and Mr. Bellone enlisted in the Civil Air Patrol. He attained the rank of sergeant, flying from training and staffing bases in the U.S. to a base in Cuba, training new pilots to keep the huge B-29s from bouncing off the runways.

After the war, Mr. Bellone attended Monmouth College in New Jersey for two years, then finished his Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration at New York University. He put this degree to good use as an administrator in the Eatontown, N.J., school system.

During this time, he met his bride-to-be, Julia Buckshaw, while roller skating at the Jersey shore. The couple married in 1952 and had one son, Michael, currently of Decatur. The family settled in Long Branch, moving to West Long Branch in the early 1970s.

After retiring from a successful career in sales for corporations such as PPG (wholesale paint division and wholesale glass division), the couple moved to Palmyra, Va., where they spent the next 20 or so years enjoying retirement, gardening, working around the house and going on road trips to Texas to see their grandson, Ryan. In the later years, they also enjoyed their six great-grandchildren.

Mr. Bellone enjoyed woodworking, ice boat racing, singing in his church choir, gardening, road trips and while in New Jersey, cultivating the perfect lawn. He also enjoyed watching the St. Louis Cardinals baseball team, country music and a good dinner at Howard Johnson's.

He is survived by his son, Michael, and his wife, Karin; Michael's son, Ryan, of Melbourne, Fla., Karin's daughter, Jenni, son Jeff, and great-grandchildren Colin, Josh, Daisy, Justin, Teagan and Quinn.

In the twilight of his life, Mr. Bellone battled Parkinson's disease for many years, never losing the will to keep on fighting. Later, he would continuously and fiercely look after Mrs. Bellone when she no longer could look out for herself. And in the last few months, he adopted his daughter-in-law's mom into his "cared for" circle.