

## Joseph C. Ryan

May 11, 2024

Joe Ryan of Pennington, NJ, affectionately known by many as “Coach” or “Uncle Joe” passed away peacefully on Saturday, May 11, 2024, surrounded by family and friends while under hospice care at Lawrence Rehab and Healthcare.

“Joey” was born in Treton to parents Loretta Archibald Ryan and Joseph J. Ryan and grew up in Hamilton Township. He graduated from Hamilton West, and then enrolled at Trenton State College, where he met his future wife Marge and earned his undergraduate and Masters degrees in education. After a few years elsewhere, he returned to Hamilton West as a physical education teacher and coach, and then finished his career as a guidance counselor. Even after his retirement from teaching at his alma mater, Joe remained active in the Hornets’ athletic program as a scorekeeper, official, volunteer, and “Honored guest” spectator. He was proud of his nearly unblemished streak of attendance at the Hamilton-Steinert Thanksgiving Day rivalry game.

**Joe also was well-known for his love of Maine, where as “Uncle Joe” he worked as a summer counselor at Camp Kennebec for three decades, directing waterfront activities and coaching various sports. His Kennebec family recalls him as a humble, quiet leader amidst the chaos inherent in an adolescent boys’ summer camp. He dedicated his summers, as well as his teaching and coaching careers, to instilling the virtues of fair play, sportsmanship, and humility to his campers, students, and athletes.**

Joe was predeceased by his parents, his sister Peggy Rovello, and two daughters, Deborah Ryan and Barbara Ryan Ivahnenko. He is survived by his wife and loving partner of 64 years, Margaret Harding Ryan, his son and daughter-in-law David and Amy Ryan, and their children, who will miss their Pop Pop immensely.

Joe, Marge, and their family have been long-time members of Pennington Presbyterian Church. Services will be held at Pennington Presbyterian Church on Thursday, May 23, at 11am, along with a memorial viewing on Wednesday May 22, 4pm – 6pm, at Wilson-Apple Funeral Home, 2560 Pennington Road, Pennington, NJ 08534. Condolences are welcome at [www.wilsonapple.com](http://www.wilsonapple.com).

In lieu of flowers, kindly consider donating generously to the Deborah Heart & Lung Hospital Foundation, [www.deborahfoundation.org](http://www.deborahfoundation.org), or a local youth sports organization of your choosing.