



*The Lord God lives in his holy temple yet abides in our midst.  
 Since in Baptism, Joe became God's temple, and the Spirit of God  
 lived within him, now with reverence we bless and Inter his mortal Remains.*

**Rite of Committal**

Perhaps the simplest and most meaningful part of the Rite of Christian Burial is the Rite of Committal, that ceremony at the graveside is where Joe is laid to rest. The family and friends of Joe gather to take their final leave, and his Ashes are committed to the ground and to the hope of the resurrection. Here, the fundamental reality of death and the most basic truth of faith take their place side by side.

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**United States Navy Honor Guard**

**This ceremony honors Joe's service in the United States Navy**

*Lord God, Almighty Father, creator of humankind and author of peace, as we are ever mindful of the cost paid for the liberty we possess, we ask you to bless the members of our armed forces. Give them courage, hope and strength. May they ever experience your firm support, gentle love and compassionate healing. Be their power and protector, leading them from darkness to light.*

**The Playing of Taps**

The folding and presenting of the American Flag to Joe's Family

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**Blessing of the Grave**

The grave is a powerful sign of loss, but it is also sacred, consecrated by Christ, who himself lay in a tomb. The Christian grave is holy ground – ground blessed so that it might hold a precious relic – the Ashes of a Christian made holy through baptism, nourished with the sacraments, and, we pray, awaiting the resurrection to life on the day of Christ's return.

**The Committal**

Once the grave has been blessed, and so made a sacred place where the Ashes of Joe may lie in peace, the rite of committal takes place. The priest offers a prayer, entrusting the Ashes of Joe who has died to the earth, and his soul to God.

**Blessing**

May you go from this place knowing that the person you loved is at peace.  
 May you trust that the One who sustains us all, will hold you and keep you during the darkest of days.  
 And may you reenter your lives, infused with the desire and power to bless everyone and everything you touch.



**Rev. Nicholas C. Ciccone, Jr., Ph. D.**  
*Chaplain*  
**Ascend Hospice of Massachusetts**  
[www.ascendhospice.com](http://www.ascendhospice.com)



*Joseph C. Bouchard*

*August 3, 1942 ~ October 22, 2019*



Compassionate and loving God,  
 yours is the beauty of childhood and yours is the fullness of years.  
 Comfort us in our sorrow, strengthen us with hope,  
 and breathe peace into our troubled hearts.

Assure us that the love we had for Joe  
 was not in vain—indeed make it a part of the store of goodness  
 you are even now pouring out upon him in your eternal kingdom.

Guide us through this time of sadness  
 with the light of your love and the strength of your compassion  
 Give all of us the strength and courage to face each new day.

**October 27, 2019**  
 5:00 pm



**Acton Funeral Home**  
[actonfuneralhome.com](http://actonfuneralhome.com)  
 470 Massachusetts Avenue  
 Acton, Massachusetts 01720



## Joseph C. Bouchard

"Joe"

August 3, 1942 ~ October 22, 2019  
Maynard, Massachusetts | Age 77

He was the beloved husband of 49 years  
to Cheryl S. (Szwarc) Bouchard.

Joseph died peacefully at the Edith Nourse Rogers  
Memorial Veterans Hospital in Bedford.

Joseph was born in Machias, Maine to the late  
Claude J. and Phyllis P. (Donaghy) Bouchard and he  
was raised in his beloved hometown of Eastport, Maine.

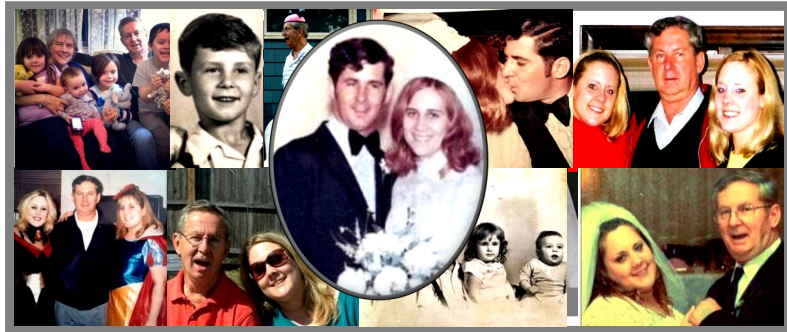
Joseph was an electrical engineer who worked 20 years  
for Digital and then for White Electronics.

He is a proud veteran of the Vietnam Era having served in the  
U.S. Navy from 1964 through his honorable discharge in 1968.

He is a life member of the DAV, as well as a member  
of the American Legion Post #235,

Maynard Rod & Gun Club and the Maynard Eagles Club

In addition to his beloved wife Cheryl, Joe is also survived by  
twin daughters, Nicole Brown and husband George of Billerica,  
Claudine Underwood and husband James of Boylston;  
twin daughters, Sarah Meade of Hopedale,  
Anne Bouchard and partner Sean Mahoney of Boylston.



Joe also leaves a sister, Maureen Cushing and husband Martin of Glenburn, Maine,  
a brother, William Bouchard and wife Paula of Eastport, Maine,  
a sister-in-law, Carole Szwarc of Murraysville, Pennsylvania;

five grandchildren, Natalie and Jordan Underwood,  
Joseph, Charlotte and Amelia Meade; as well as  
many nieces, nephews and their families.

He was predeceased by his parents; three siblings, Annette Galen,  
Thomas Bouchard, Ronald Bouchard and a brother-in-law, Howard Galen.



## Greeting and Welcome

The family of Joe welcome you to this service of remembrance  
We gather here, at this place and this time, to mourn the passing of Joe, certainly,  
but we're also here to honor and celebrate his life, and to express our gratitude for the  
time that we had with him. By gathering together like this, we not only have the chance  
to share our grief and help carry each other's burdens, but we also help keep the spirit of  
Joe alive. Whatever your connection to Joe, you are here because  
he touched your life in some way. As we enter into this time of remembrance,  
let's be thankful for his life and for all that he gave us.

## A reading from the book of Ecclesiastes

3:1-11

There is a time for everything under heaven. There is an appointed time for everything,  
and a time for every affair under the heavens. A time to be born,  
and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to uproot the plant.  
A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to tear down, and a time to build.  
A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance.  
A time to scatter stones, and a time to gather them;  
a time to embrace, and a time to be far from embraces.  
A time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away.  
A time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to be silent, and a time to speak.  
A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace.  
God has made everything appropriate to its time,  
and has put the timeless into their hearts, without us ever discovering,  
from beginning to end, the work which God has done.

## Family Reflections

## +A reading from the holy gospel according to John

John 11:32-45

When Mary the sister of Lazarus came to the place where Jesus was, seeing him,  
she fell at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here my brother  
would never have died." When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jewish folk  
who had accompanied her also weeping, he was troubled in spirit, moved  
by the deepest emotions. "Where have you laid him?" he asked.  
"Lord, come and see," they said. Jesus began to weep, which caused  
the Jews to remark, "See how much he loved him!" But some said,  
"He opened the eyes of that blind man. Why could he not have done something to stop  
this man from dying?" Once again troubled in spirit, Jesus approached the tomb.  
It was a cave with a stone laid across it. "Take away the stone," Jesus directed.  
Martha, the dead man's sister, said to him, "Lord, it has been four days now!"  
Jesus replied, "Did I not assure you that if you believed you would see the  
glory of God?" They then took away the stone and Jesus looked upward and said:  
"Father, I thank you for having heard me. I know that you always hear me  
but I have said this for the sake of the crowd, that they may believe that you  
sent me." Having said this, he called loudly, "Lazarus, come out!"  
The dead man came out, bound hand and foot with linen strips,  
his face wrapped in a cloth. "Untie him," Jesus told them, "and let him go free."