



## Joseph Ledenko

March 7, 1936 - September 16, 2016

Joe Ledenko was born March 7, 1936 in Vuksic, Croatia to Tanka and Nickola Ledenko, and died Thursday Sept 15, 2016 at home in Chelan.

His village and family suffered during WWII, but Joe attended the village school a few years before going to trade school to learn construction fundamentals. Life was hard in all of Communist Yugoslavia, but American movies showed Joe another kind of life and he made plans to escape. He made it across the border into Austria on the third attempt, in spite of being hit several times by border guard gunfire. Austrian guards rescued Joe.

Canada was accepting refugees after WWII, and Joe was sent to Edmonton, Alberta. Joe became a Canadian citizen in July of 1962, and married Doris Medwed of Edmonton one month later. They celebrated their 54th wedding anniversary on August 6th.

Son Robert Vincent was born in 1963. Daughter Linda Lori was born in 1967. Anthony Joseph joined the family in 1976. Meanwhile the couple sought better employment and living conditions first in Oakland, California and then Chelan where Joe worked on the Wapato Point development project. Later Joe contracted jobs throughout NCW as a cement mason and skilled stone and brick artist.

Joe loved to spend his winters after retirement in California, and he loved to dance and entertain. He was famous for his barbecues for fruit growers, the Chelan High School FFA, the Eagles club, his church and the Tlingit Native American fishermen in Yakutat, Alaska.

Joe was predeceased by his parents and two siblings in Croatia; and his son Tony. He is survived by his sister Slavka in Canada; his wife Doris; his son Robbie (Tami) and grand-daughter Morgan; his daughter Linda (John) Lemire and grand-daughters Rachel and Raina; his daughter-in-law Ayme and grandchildren Hailey and Kevin.

When Joe was sworn in as a U.S. citizen in Yakima on a hot summer day, the dream he had chased and worked for most of his life became a reality. He was a proud American at last.

# Cemetery Details

## Chelan Riverview Cemetery

401 Riverview Road  
Chelan, WA

# Previous Events

## Service

SEP 21. 10:00 AM (PT)

St. Francis de Sales Catholic Church  
210 W. Allen Avenue  
Chelan, WA 98816  
(509) 682-2433  
stfrancischurch@nwi.net  
<http://www.saintfrancischelan.com/>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Joseph Ledenko*

January 29, 2023 at 08:49 AM



“ *I'm shocked and sadend to hear about Joe's passing,, I met him in 1998, he was having a bb cue out of his modified trailer,, good food,, He did my rock masonary on my house in 2000,, we had crossed paths here and there over the years,, I was just behind his little flatbed truck the other day and wanted to see if he would be interested in doing a small rock veneer job for me,,I couldn't catch up to him,,you Know Joe,,zoom, zoom,,lol..what a great guy,,rest in peace Joe. John Olsen, Clear Water Construction*

john olsen - September 23, 2016 at 12:58 AM



“ *Joe loved coming into the Apple Cup every morning and drinking coffee and visiting with all his friends and teasing us waitress ! He was a funny man and every year when he came back from California he always brought me lemons or grapefruit and one year big beautiful artichoke blooms from his plant !! Have fun in heaven buddy me and tony will be thinking of you and are thoughts and prayers go out to your family*



Tina Moro - September 21, 2016 at 12:29 PM

JN

“ When working at the "Lake Chelan Mirror," I did a story on Joe at the time Croatia was breaking away from Yugoslavia ... I remember Joe's great pride in his heritage and knowledge of Croatia's history. Even more, I remember how outgoing and larger than life Joe was, in the parish and in the community. It has been 25 years since I wrote that story and saw Joe, but he still stands out as an inspirational and great man. My condolences to his family.

*Jon Nuxoll  
Eugene, Oregon*

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**Jon Nuxoll** - September 20, 2016 at 08:52 PM

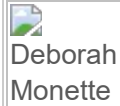
BT

“ I have fond memories of Joe from many years ago. Joe worked for my father at Far West Mechanical and also did all the bbq for the company pick-nicks. There was a lot good times shared and the laughs seemed to never stop. My father shared with me many of Joe's life stories through the years. I admired his desire and dedication to provide a better life for himself and family. One of my dads favorite memories of Joe was when he stopped by the office on his way to Yakima for his US citizenship ceremony. According to my dad he was so proud, he was dressed in a blue suit, driving a red convertible/ white interior Cadillac. He was a great man and will be missed. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the Ledenko Family.

*Sincerely, Brett Telford and Family*

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**Brett Telford** - September 20, 2016 at 05:04 PM



Deborah Monette

“ *He was a great man, and I can still taste his bbq ♡ Love and condolences to his family, and our community-he will always be remembered.*



Deborah Monette - September 20, 2016 at 02:51 PM

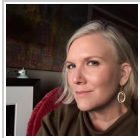


KG

“ *Kristjan Gavin lit a candle in memory of Joseph Ledenko*



Kristjan Gavin - September 20, 2016 at 02:19 PM



“ *Rob and Linda, so sorry to hear about your dad. Both my sister and I know all too well how strange and surreal it is to lose your daddy. I can reassure you that there will be a time very soon that the memories bring nothing but joy and smiles, and not tears. You'll think of him and smile and laugh and remember what a funny great guy he was. He made so many smile himself with his antics and his generosity! I'm smiling now as I type this. Rest in peace, Joe Ledenko!*

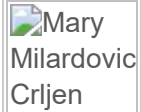


Linda Cannon-McFail - September 20, 2016 at 12:53 PM



“ *Dear Aunt Doris, Rob and family, Linda and family and Ayme and family, our heartfelt sorrow and sympathies to all of you at this very difficult time.*

Ika Verunica - September 20, 2016 at 02:22 AM



“ *Dear Aunt Doris, Rob and family, Linda and family and Ayme and family, our heartfelt sorrow and sympathies to all of you at this very difficult time.*

*May God give you the peace that you seek.*

*Niece Mary Milardovic Crljen and family, (Oakville, ON Canada)*

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**Mary Milardovic Crljen** - September 19, 2016 at 03:48 PM