

# Rest In Peace

Joseph (Joe) Procopio



Presidents' Day  
February 19, 2024

Joseph Guydon Procopio, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph A. Procopio, passed away on December 22, 2023, at the age of 83. Joe Pro, as he was known, grew up in Singac New Jersey, graduating from Passaic Valley High School in 1958. He was a student athlete competing and lettering in many sports, a staple in the theater program, and active in student government and class president his senior year. Joe was also active in the community and a member of the Boy Scouts. As an Eagle Scout, he earned the Silver Award, the highest award in Explorer Scouting. Joe recently attended his 65th high school reunion.

In 1958 he received an appointment to the US Naval Academy. While at the Academy he was involved with the Naval Academy Foreign Affairs Conference, served on the Brigade Activities and Hospitality Committees, and participated in intramural sports, including battalion football. The Academy is also where his love of lacrosse began. Upon graduation he was appointed an Ensign in the United States Navy.

Joe was a proud veteran having served 3 combat tours in Southeast Asia, the last as an advisor to the Vietnamese and Cambodian Joint General Staffs. Joe continued his service to the Cambodian people throughout his life.

As a surface warfare officer, he served in Destroyers and as XO of the Minesweeper USS Conflict, taking it from 15th to 1st in his first year, placing 2nd in the Burke Award (most improved ship in the Pacific), winning the Ney Award (Best Culinary Service), and having the highest reenlistment rate in the Pacific. He also served as XO of USS Barney (DDG-6), representing the USN in the NATO squadron.

He spent 52 months in Office of the Chief of Naval Operations (in OP 96, the so-called “Navy Whiz Kids”), managing the CNO study program and regularly briefing the CNO. During his last assignment he accompanied Adm Hays to CincUSNavEur in London where he established a strategy group, working directly for the Admiral.

His military awards included the Bronze Star, the Meritorious Service medal, three awards of the Joint Service Commendation medal, Navy Achievement medal, Combat Action Ribbon, Cambodian Croix d’ Guerre, Vietnam Honor medal first class, and the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm.

In 1983 he retired from the Navy and served as Senior Scientist, General Counsel, and Secretary of Presearch Inc. Later he was Corporate Vice President of ERC International, working directly for both the Chairman/CEO and the President/COO.

In 1998, Joe Pro moved to Castle Rock, Colorado, where he passed his love of learning onto a younger generation by substitute teaching in the Douglas County school system, and regularly giving presentations on a wide variety of topics as a classroom guest speaker.

Joe Pro was a founding member of the lacrosse program at Castle View High School in 2006. He coached high school and youth lacrosse for years in the community. Joe continued to be a presence on the sidelines as recently as last spring. His love of the game was instrumental in propelling two of his grandsons on to college lacrosse. On January 10th of this year, Castle View lacrosse program announced that two of their lacrosse fields will now be known as “Joe Pro Memorial Fields.”

Continuing his legacy of service, Joe was active in the town of Castle Rock serving on the town council and as Mayor Pro Tem from 2012 to 2014. He also served Douglas County on the county Planning Commission, the Public Works Commission, Denver Regional Governments Commission, the Public Safety Commission, the Veteran’s Memorial Working Group and as a member of the board of the Douglas County Fairgrounds. Joe was instrumental in bringing Castle Rock Adventist Hospital, Arapahoe Community College, and other businesses to town. In 2015 he was named Douglas County Citizen of the Year.

He is survived by his daughter, Jennifer Tyler Lahey and her husband Matthew David Lahey. His son, Joseph Christian Procopio and his wife Kelly Cathleen. Six grandchildren: Tyler Jamison Lahey, Emmerson Albright Lahey, Brayden Graeson Lahey, Leah Ann Procopio, Nicole Ann Procopio, and Allysa Ann Procopio. As well as his step-children Julie Levy and Tim Schmeider. He was predeceased by brothers Russell, West Point ‘71 and William, a Navy Sonar Technician.

## SERVING TODAY

Deacon Erin Cook

Fr. Theron Walker

Music: Cheryl Maloney, Kari Elwell, Jonathon Steen

Bagpipes: Eric Morgenthaler

of

Castle Rock Fire Department Pipes and Drum

Acolyte: Caroline Cooley

Reception: Emmaus Anglican Church

Ushers: Castlevue Lacross Team

Eulogy: Art Suro

Special Thanks to the Dedicated team of the Douglas County Fairgrounds who came in on a holiday to make this special event happen.

## REGARDING CHRISTIAN DEATH AND BURIAL

The burial of a Christian is an occasion of both sorrow and joy—our sorrow in the face of death, and our joy in Jesus’ promise of the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. As the burial liturgy proclaims, “life is changed, not ended; and when our mortal body lies in death, there is prepared for us a dwelling place eternal in the heavens.”

The Christian burial liturgy looks forward to eternal life rather than backward to past events. It does not primarily focus on the achievements or failures of the deceased; rather, it calls us to proclaim the Good News of Jesus and his triumph over death, even as we celebrate the life and witness of the deceased.

The readings should always be drawn from the Bible, and the prayers and music from the Christian tradition. A wake preceding the service

and a reception following the service are appropriate places for personal remembrances. Where possible, the burial liturgy is conducted in a church, and it is often celebrated within the context of the Eucharist.

The *Book of Common Prayer* has always admonished Christians to be mindful of their mortality. It is therefore the duty of all Christians, as faithful stewards, to draw up a Last Will and Testament, making provision for the well-being of their families and not neglecting to leave bequests for the mission of the Church. In addition, it is important while in health to provide direction for one's own funeral arrangements, place of burial, and the Scripture readings and hymns of the burial liturgy, and to make them known to the Priest.

*The people stand for the procession*

*Piper: The Dawning of the Day*

*Pall Bearer: Tyler Jamison Lahey*

*The Celebrant says*

I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord; he that believes in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live; and whosoever lives and believes in me shall never die.

I know that my Redeemer lives, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth; and though this body be destroyed, yet shall I see God; whom I shall see for myself and my eyes shall behold, and not as a stranger.

Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord; even so says the Spirit, for they rest from their labors.

## The Navy Hymn

1 E - ter - nal Fa - ther, strong to save, whose arm hath bound the  
 2 O Christ, whose voice the wa - ters heard and hushed their ra - ging  
 3 Most Ho - ly Spi - rit, who didst brood up - on the cha - os  
 4 O Trin - i - ty of love and power, thy chil - dren shield in

rest - less wave, who bidd'st the might - y o - cean deep its  
 at thy word, who walk - edst on the foam - ing deep, and  
 dark and rude, and bid its an - gry tu - mult cease, and  
 dan - ger's hour; from rock and tem - pest, fire and foe, pro -

own ap - point - ed lim - its keep: O hear us when we  
 calm a - mid its rage didst sleep: O hear us when we  
 give, for wild con - fu - sion, peace; O hear us when we  
 tect them where - so - e'er they go; thus ev - er - more shall

cry to thee for those in per - il on the sea.  
 cry to thee for those in per - il on the sea.  
 cry to thee for those in per - il on the sea.  
 rise to thee glad hymns of praise from land and sea.

Words: William Whiting (1825-1878), alt. Music: *Melita*, John Bacchus Dykes (1823-1876).

The Lord be with you.  
*People*           **And with your spirit.**  
*Celebrant*       Let us pray.

O God, whose mercies cannot be numbered: Accept our prayers on behalf of your servant *Joe*, and grant him an entrance into the land of light and joy, in the fellowship of your saints; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Most merciful God, whose wisdom is beyond our understanding: deal graciously with those who mourn. Surround them with your love, that they may not be overwhelmed by their loss, but have confidence in your goodness, and strength to meet the days to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

### The Word of the Lord

*Reader:* Matthew Lahey

Lamentations 3:22-26, 31-33

The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. “The LORD is my portion,” says my soul, “therefore I will hope in him.” The LORD is good to those who wait for him, to the soul who seeks him. It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD. For the Lord will not cast off forever, but, though he cause grief, he will have compassion according to the abundance of his steadfast love; for he does not afflict from his heart or grieve the children of men. (ESV)

*Reader:* The Word of the Lord.   *People:* **Thanks be to God.**

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.  
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:  
he leadeth me beside the still waters.  
He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of  
righteousness for his name's sake.  
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of  
death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me;  
thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.  
Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine  
enemies:  
thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.  
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of  
my life:  
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.  
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Spirit; \*  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen.



## The Holy Gospel

*Deacon:* The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ, according to St. John. [1:1-14 ESV]

*People*     **Glory to you, Lord Christ**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

*Deacon:* The Gospel of the Lord.

*People:* **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Eulogy: Art Suro

Sermon: Fr. Theron Walker, Emmaus Anglican Church

Song: “You Raise Me Up”

*Cheryl Maloney, Kari Elwell, Jonathon Steen*

## THE APOSTLES’ CREED

*The Officiant invites the people to stand and says*

Let us confess the Faith in the words of the Apostles’ Creed:

*Officiant and People*

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the Holy Spirit  
and born of the Virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again.**

**He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

And now as our savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray:

*Officiant and People*

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy Name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us.  
And † lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

## THE PRAYERS

*The people agree in prayer by saying **Amen** at the end of each prayer.*

*The Deacon says*

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Almighty God, who has knit together your elect in one communion and fellowship, in the mystical body of your Son Christ our Lord: Grant, we beseech you, to your whole Church in paradise and on earth, your light and your peace. **Amen.**

Grant that all who have been baptized into Christ's death and resurrection may die to sin and rise to newness of life, and that through the grave and gate of death we may pass with him to our joyful resurrection. **Amen.**

Grant to us who are still in our pilgrimage, and who walk as yet by faith, that your Holy Spirit may lead us in holiness and righteousness all our days. **Amen.**

Grant to your faithful people pardon and peace, that we may be cleansed from all our sins, and serve you with a quiet mind. **Amen.**

Grant to all who mourn a sure confidence in your fatherly care, that, casting all their grief on you, they may know the consolation of your love. **Amen.**

Give courage and faith to those who are bereaved, that they may have strength to meet the days ahead in the comfort of a reasonable and holy hope, in the joyful expectation of eternal life with those they love. **Amen.**

Help us, we pray, in the midst of things we cannot understand, to believe and trust in the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, and the resurrection to life everlasting. **Amen.**

Grant us grace to entrust *Joe* to your never-failing love; receive *him* into the arms of your mercy, and remember *him* according to the favor which you bear unto your people. **Amen.**

Grant that, increasing in knowledge and love of you, *he* may go from strength to strength in the life of perfect service in your heavenly kingdom. **Amen.**

Grant us, with all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, to have our consummation and bliss in your eternal and everlasting glory, and, with all your saints, to receive the crown of life which you do promise to all who share in the victory of your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

1. O Lord my God, when I in awe - some won - der Con - sid - er  
 2. When through the woods and for - est glades I wan - der And hear the  
 3. And when I think that God, his Son not spar - ing, Sent him to  
 4. When Christ shall come with shout of ac - cla - ma - tion And take me

1. all the worlds\* thy hands have made, — I see the stars I hear the roll - ing\*  
 2. birds sing sweet - ly in the trees, — When I look down from loft - y moun - tain  
 3. die, I scarce can take it in, — That on the cross, my bur - den glad - ly  
 4. home, what joy shall fill my heart! — Then I shall bow in hum - ble ad - o -

1. thun - der, Thy pow'r through - out the u - ni - verse dis - played. —  
 2. gran - deur, And hear the brook and feel the gen - tle breeze. —  
 3. bear - ing, He bled and died to take a - way my sin. —  
 4. ra - tion, And there pro - claim, my God how great thou art. —

Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior, God, to Thee: — How great Thou

\* The translator's original words are "works" and "mighty."

art, how great Thou art! Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior, God, to  
Thee: How great Thou art, how great Thou art!

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## THE COMMENDATION

*The Officiant and other ministers take their places at the body.*

*Silence, followed by Amazing Grace*

*Officiant* Give rest, O Christ, to your servant with your saints,  
*All* **Where sorrow and pain are no more, neither sighing,  
but life everlasting.**

*Officiant* You only are immortal, the creator and maker of  
mankind; and we are mortal, formed of the earth, and to  
earth shall we return. For so did you decree, saying, “You  
are dust, and to dust you shall return.” All of us go down  
to the dust; yet even at the grave we make our song:  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

*All* **Give rest, O Christ, to your servant with your saints,  
where sorrow and pain are no more, neither sighing,  
but life everlasting.**

*The Officiant, facing the body, says*

Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant *Joe*. Acknowledge, we humbly beseech you, a sheep of your own fold, a lamb of your own flock, a sinner of your own redeeming. Receive *him* into the arms of your mercy, into the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and into the glorious company of the saints in light. **Amen.**

## THE BLESSING

*A Priest may bless the people saying,*

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great Shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

*Deacon* Alleluia, Alleluia, Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

*People* **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

*The procession is led by the Cross, the clergy, then the urn, followed by the family.*

*Recessional: Going Home*

***All are invited to the reception. Please get something to eat and drink, rejoin us in this room for a slide show, and to share memories.***