

Joseph Dwight Hess Sr.

December 20, 1927 - September 1, 2024

Joseph Dwight Hess, Sr, peacefully passed at the age of 96, on Sunday, September 1, 2024. He was receiving hospice care at Pleasant View Retirement Community where he resided the past 8 months with his wife Lois. Joseph, the son of David Leaman Hess and Amelia Buckwalter Hess, was born December 20, 1927. He grew up with 8 siblings on a farm in Maytown, PA. He graduated from East Donegal High School in 1945. Joe Hess married Lois Wert of Elizabethtown, PA in December 1949. They bought a farm on RR1, Mount Joy (now Anderson Ferry Rd) from his father. He and Lois raised beef, tobacco, tomatoes and 9 'tomato-picking' children. He was fondly referred to as "unslow Joe." In 1972 the operation became a partnership with Joe Sr. and Joe Jr., changing to dairy and continuing with tomatoes.

Their 9 children are Debbie Kipfer, Elaine Linder(Bob), Joe Jr.(Linda), Rachael Webster (Bruce), L. Sue Kawase (Yutaka), James (Rosemary), Dean (Maryanne), Don (Kathy) and Dan (Gloria). Elaine & Bob Linder and Dan preceded him to heaven. In 1993, Seth Pobee from Ghana found refuge on the Hess farm and became family. His wife is Sherry. Joe and Lois have 36 grandchildren, 65 great grandchildren and 1 great-great grandchild. He has 2 surviving siblings: Andrew Hess (Mt.Joy) and Owen Richard Hess (Goshen, IN).

As a younger man he was driven to succeed. The influence of the charismatic renewal in the Mennonite church had a profound impact on his life, and his inner drive became focused on honoring Christ. Joe and Lois were known for hospitality and opened their home to many guests from around the world. Dad found great purpose in praying for the nations and giving support to missionaries. Dad retired at age 80 when his shoulders kept him from climbing up onto the tractor. He devoted much of this time to delivering free eggs and produce. He spent many hours playing Rook and Rummikub with Mother and anyone who stopped by. He loved telling jokes to any visitors at their home across from the farm.

The memorial service will be held 11 AM Saturday, September 7, 2024 at Mount Joy Mennonite Church, 320 Musser Rd, Mount Joy. A time of refreshments and sharing will follow the service. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions will be collected for missions via checks to Kingdom Life Network of Christian Ministries.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

SEP 7. 11:00 AM (ET)

Mount Joy Mennonite Church
320 Musser Road
Mount Joy, PA 17552

Visitation

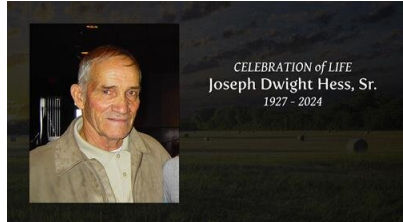
SEP 7. 12:00 PM (ET)

Mount Joy Mennonite Church
320 Musser Road
Mount Joy, PA 17552

Tribute Wall



“ *Sheetz Funeral Home, Inc created a Tribute Video in memory of Joseph Dwight Hess Sr.*



Sheetz Funeral Home, Inc - September 05, 2024 at 04:32 PM

LH

Very well done ❤️ Oh the memories, how they will linger. What a fine man ❤️

Linda Hess - September 05, 2024 at 06:09 PM

JS

Such a wonderful video full of your beautiful family memories. God bless all of you. Jan & Rick Shifferd

Jan Shifferd - September 05, 2024 at 08:01 PM

SH

Such a beautiful tribute full of memories!

sherry - September 05, 2024 at 11:31 PM

CS

A great loss for such a man to be gone from your sight. Now I understand better the kind and true nature of his sons! What a privilege to have a father like Joe. May your hope comfort and sustain you knowing you will see him again.

Colleen Slade - September 06, 2024 at 12:08 PM

LG

Oh the memories. We always loved spending time on the Hess farm with all the cousins. Uncle Joe ran the race well.

Lou Ann Gehman - September 06, 2024 at 03:51 PM

CL

Such an amazing appropriate tribute to a true man of God. For the short period of time that we shared together he shared a lot of wisdom and laughter. Fair well Captain. You worked hard and labored long in the vineyard. A life worth hearing the Savior say Well done thou good and faithful servant. You are at home with the Master reaping your heavenly record. ❤️🙏

Christina Ladson - September 06, 2024 at 08:50 PM

PW

Beautiful tribute. The Edward Reeves Family will always cherish our memories of love from our friends Joe and Lois Hess Family.

Pamela Reeves Washington - September 07, 2024 at 08:39 AM

SH

What a wonderful tribute for a Godly man. Condolences to the family.

Sharon Hines - September 07, 2024 at 04:52 PM

NB

Absolutely beautiful! What a tribute to a lovely man

Nancy Barton - September 08, 2024 at 03:28 PM

MG

“*So sorry to Joe's family and friends following his loss. You are in my thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.*”

Mark Gales - September 09, 2024 at 11:07 AM

SW

“ Samuel walters father of Ricardo walters remember his care and love to my son who lived with the family while attending lancaster Mennonite high school
I have always thanked the family for what they taught him welcomed him in their home and farm
My sincere condolences to the family and eternal gratitude
Sam

Samuel walters - September 04, 2024 at 03:26 PM

KS

“ I am lamenting your earthly loss with all of you, but "what a glorious day it will be when we all see Jesus "as Mr. Hess is in His presence at this very moment!!
I had the very sweet & honorable pleasure of first meeting Mr. & Mrs. Hess in NY at their granddaughter Gretchen's wedding rehearsal dinner, then followed by several trips and overnight stays at the farm, in Mt Joy ,when traveling with one of the Kipfers (Deb or Abbey) to Alabama or NC.
"Life on the Farm was laid back", from my perspective, but no teachable moment was lost. "Mr. Joe" was very patient and kind... showing us the attributes of Jesus's Love toward us, He showed this to my 2 youngest children, by sharing with them farm life ...milking &feeding cattle & riding tractors to plow the fields. He was even more patient with me (a little girl who never liked to play games) in teaching me to play Rummikub and a love for the game!!
These are very fond memories that I will cherish!!
May the arms of love & peace wrap around each of you and keep you & bless you during this season of loss.
Remembering "Mr. Joe " with the greatest of respect.
Karen Saunders

Karen Saunders - September 04, 2024 at 09:53 AM

WS

“ Joe and family, please accept my sincerest condolences. I pray for your strength and comfort.

Wayne Spies - September 04, 2024 at 09:10 AM

RS

“ Dear Hess family, we were blessed to meet your daughter Sue during our journey with YWAM Switzerland 1976. Sue and I shared cooking adventures on our field trip and came back to the states and were blessed to stay in your peaceful home. We met Joe and Linda during our time in Mt. Joy and were blessed.....losing a parent is sadbut knowing he is with Jesus gives hope and peace that you will meet again. God hold you close and know Rick & I will keep you in our prayers.

*The Shifferd's
Rick & Jan*

Rick and Jan Shifferd - September 03, 2024 at 09:21 PM

SS

“ Dear Lois and family, my husband Joe and I met Joe & Lois at Living Hope community Church! We spent many years talking to them. They were such wonderful people both of them, but my Joe and your Joe seem to have a good connection. They went to Lifegroup together and did a lot of talking. both Joe and Lois, wonderful wonderful people. So kind and patient! But they always said they were ready when the Lord was ready for them, They had a good life. We love you both. We will all miss you! many blessings to you and your family.

Shelva Shives - September 03, 2024 at 10:20 AM

CW

“ *Rest in peace Grampy, well done good and faithful servant. So many memories to share on the farm, thank you for them all and for a life of service who reached so many, sharing the good word to all. Prayers for the entire Hess family. Love Christopher Wilson and Family*

Christopher Wilson - September 03, 2024 at 03:33 AM