



Joseph Michael "Joe" D'Agostino

July 7, 1942 - July 2, 2025

Joseph "Joe" D'Agostino, a longtime resident of Rising Fawn, Georgia, passed away on July 2, 2025, at 11:10 p.m. after a short illness. He was born on July 7, 1942, in Yonkers, New York, to the late Marion (Contarino) and Nicholas D'Agostino.

Joe spent his early years in Yonkers, where he attended Sacred Heart High School. He later pursued his passion for horticulture at Farmingdale State College in Nassau County, New York. In 1975, Joe relocated to Bradenton, Florida with his family. There, he established a plant nursery on twenty-five acres and worked at the family business, Green Fountain Garden Centers. On September 8, 1990, Joe married Connie Socie at The Methodist Church of Palma Sola. In 2010, they moved to Rising Fawn, Georgia, where they made their home for the past twenty years.

Even after retiring from full-time work, Joe remained deeply connected to his love of plants. He built a greenhouse and continued growing and selling plants at the Chattanooga Market. His enthusiasm for nature extended beyond horticulture he volunteered at the Tennessee Aquarium beginning in 2011 and was an active member of both the Barnard Astronomical Society of Chattanooga and New Salem Methodist Church on Lookout Mountain.

Joe is survived by his wife, Connie Socie of Rising Fawn; his son Mike D'Agostino and wife Tracy; his daughter Nicole D'Agostino and husband Paul Newhart; grandchildren Ashley Cole (Rob), Krissy Taylor (Ruble), Brittany Erwert (Chase), and Breanna Newhart; great-grandchildren Sawyer and

Waylon Erwert; and his brother Brian D'Agostino (Connie). He was preceded in death by his sister Theresa La Rocca. Joe also leaves behind many cousins, nieces, and nephews.

A Celebration of Life will be held at New Salem Methodist Church on Friday, July 18th, 2025, at 1:00 PM, located at 12250 GA-136, Rising Fawn, GA 30738.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Tri State Humane Society of Trenton, PO Box 715, Trenton, Georgia 30752. Online condolences may be shared at ryanfuneralhome.net.

Joe brought joy to those around him with his humor and warmth. May his memory bring comfort to all who knew him.

Arrangements are by Ryan Funeral Home & Crematory, Trenton, GA.

Previous Events

A Celebration of Life

JUL 18. 1:00 PM (ET)

New Salem Methodist Church
12250 Highway 136
Rising Fawn, GA 30738

Tribute Wall

SW

“ Joe was such a blessing to me and I so enjoyed it when he and his family would come and stay at Hidden Hollow. He so loved his family and looked forward to those times they could be together. May God bring all the family comfort. Sally

Sally Worland - July 18, 2025 at 09:46 AM

ES

“ Elyssa and Sharla purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Joseph Michael "Joe" D'Agostino.



Elyssa and Sharla - July 16, 2025 at 12:03 PM

ES

“ Elyssa and Sharla planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Joseph Michael "Joe" D'Agostino.

Elyssa and Sharla - July 16, 2025 at 12:03 PM

“ REMEMBERING MY BROTHER
by Brian D’Agostino

My earliest memories of my brother Joseph are from the late 1950s, before I was in kindergarten and when he was in high school. We lived in Yonkers, New York, in a house overlooking the Hudson River and the Palisades. Joe and his high school buddies would build model rockets and launch them in our back yard. He had a telescope and showed me closeups of celestial objects. After the Russians launched Sputnik, Joe was eager to study engineering and was admitted to Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI), one of our country’s top STEM colleges. Later, when I was in elementary school, I dedicated a science project “To my brother Joe, who inspired my interest in science.” This became a life-long inspiration for me; now that I’m retired, I spend my free time studying physics and cosmology.

Joe became a horticulturist and earned his living growing ornamental plants. In the 1970s, he and our family moved to the Tampa Bay area, while I attended college in New York City. Since then, I’ve lived in New York and would only see him when I visited Florida. But after he retired, the two of us would talk by phone from time to time. We had heated political discussions but always agreed to disagree and stayed on good terms as brothers. We would share memories, especially stories about our father, Nick. I once visited Joe and his wife Connie at their home near Lookout Mountain, in Georgia. We visited a historic Civil War site.

The last time I saw Joe in person was when he visited New York in 2024 for a medical consultation. We stayed together in a motel for a couple of days and our cousin Roseann drove us to see some of the places where we grew up. The three of us and my wife Connie shared memories over dinner. Then, earlier this year, we would talk by phone while he was still able.

Joe made others laugh with his offbeat jokes, which I remember

even as a young kid. The two of us lived through a remarkable time in history—from the Cold War to the Trump era—and we fiercely debated the meaning of public events. Joe had a love of nature, from his plants to distant galaxies in the night sky. We loved each other, and he will always be in my heart.

Brian D'Agostino - July 16, 2025 at 11:06 AM

MT

“ *Always looked forward to a visit from Joe. He always had a new joke to tell me every time he visited my office. Enjoyed his company.*

Mike Tate - July 14, 2025 at 03:53 PM

JB

“ *I always loved talking to Joe, he was a good man.*

John Bradford - July 14, 2025 at 12:10 PM

KT

“ *I will always cherish the time and talks Grandpa Joe and I had. One of my best memories is selling plants with him and Ashley at the market. We nearly sold all the plants and it was a fun time. We will all miss you and your jokes.*



Krissy Taylor(D'Agostino) - July 09, 2025 at 02:38 PM

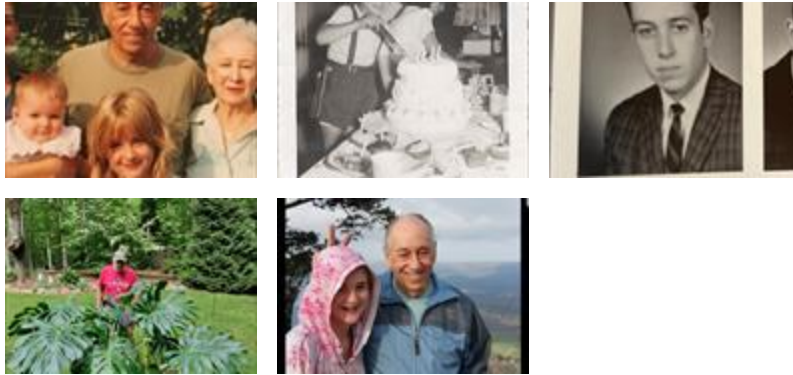
DM

“ Joe was always easy going and would always come to Ingles with a joke for me. It always brightened my day talking to him.

Dewayne Moon - July 08, 2025 at 09:34 PM

NN

“ 12 files added to the tribute wall



N Newhart - July 08, 2025 at 07:50 PM

NN

“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



N Newhart - July 08, 2025 at 07:43 PM

LD

“ His latest true story always had a punch line and a lopsided grin. He will be remembered and missed. I hit a trifecta from Joe if he caught me three times while at Ingles or BAS. Lynne Dorsey-Smith

Lynne Dorsey-Smith - July 08, 2025 at 06:49 PM

LD

“ I had the good fortune to have been touched by Joe and his sense of humor. Nothing like a BAS star party at Cloudland Canyon to bring out the half smile and perfectly timed jokes.

Lynne M. A. Dorsey - July 08, 2025 at 03:33 PM

BS

“ I knew Joe through Bank of Dade where i worked for 16 yrs. He was one of my favotite customers..always had a smile and a love for life. He would always remind me of the star gazing date at Cloudland Canyon. My deepest sympathies, Brenda Steele

Brenda Steele - July 08, 2025 at 10:36 AM