



# Joseph J. Zaluski

JUL 28, 1952 - FEB 16, 2025



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# Table of Contents

<b>Obituary</b> .....	Page 3
<b>Tribute Wall</b> .....	Page 5



## **Joseph J. Zaluski**

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**J**oseph J. Zaluski, 72, passed away on February 16, 2025, peacefully at home. He was born on July 28, 1952, in Jersey City, New Jersey to Joseph W. Zaluski and Mary C. (Just) Zaluski. He was raised in Secaucus, New Jersey along with his surviving sisters Carol (Ed) Barnum and Susan Impreveduto. He is also survived by his wife of 45 years, Sally, his daughter Katelin (Tim Freshour) and his son Zachary (Molly) and their daughters Alice and Bridget. He leaves behind many nieces and nephews, extended family members and many friends.

Joe graduated from the University of Dayton, M.Ed., beginning his career as a 6th grade teacher and soccer coach at The Miami Valley School in Dayton, Ohio, and advancing to an administrative position as the Lower School Head a few years later. He was the Head of Lower School and Assistant Head of School at Sewickley Academy in Sewickley, Pennsylvania, and the Head of School at Gulf Stream School, Gulf Stream, Florida, retiring in 2019. He was honored to sit on 6 Boards at various schools.

A dedicated educator for 43 years, Joe enjoyed guiding and advising teachers, students and their parents. He was an unwavering advocate for the personal and professional growth of the faculty. An inspiration to everyone to achieve their full potential, he was always available to listen and respected opinions as an administrator and a friend. Known as "Mr. Z" to students, he encouraged a kind and positive environment for learning and growth for children and that setting an example with compassion for others was a stepping stone for building confidence.

Whether starting his day with a big smile and a handshake as he welcomed students, reading with a class of 1st graders in his office, bringing wisdom and commitment to meetings, running laps with his soccer team, or wearing a costume in the Halloween parade, Joe expressed his love of life and learning with students with joy!



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There was always time for his family and playing with his young granddaughters was very special to Joe. He looked forward to baking, biking, golfing and attending sporting events, whether to participate, watch his family play school sports or to enjoy college and professional teams like the Pittsburgh Steelers and the Columbus Crew. He traveled to five countries in Europe, Russia, and South Africa where he visited schools. Living life to its fullest included simply reading a book at the beach!

Joe endured a rare heart disease and his courage was supported by his family, hospice and many friends along the way during his illness. So many heartfelt wishes, healing prayers and an abundance of love were appreciated during that time and his family is grateful for this offering of strength for them. Joe will be remembered by all who had the privilege of knowing him.

A family celebration of his life will be held this summer in New Jersey.

Consider a donation in Joe's memory to Glen Helen's Outdoor Education Center in Yellow Springs, Ohio, at [Glenhelen.org](http://Glenhelen.org).



## Tribute Wall

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**Jayne Parker** posted:

Joe was an amazing leader and friend. There were so many ways he guided and supported his faculty. Joe coordinated an Angel flight for me, hired me on Mother's Day, and was a blast to golf with. Joe was a positive influence on my career and in my life. My heart goes out to Sally and his wonderful children who he always spoke of with love. You all are in my thoughts. He will be greatly missed. Love, Jayne Parker

March 27 at 5:31 AM



**Kelly Kostakis-Gary** March 28 at 9:35 AM

Joe was a wonderful human being who many had the opportunity to call a friend, mentor, colleague and boss. Joe Zaluski was an amazing human being. He supported his faculty and challenged them to be the best we could be. He enjoyed attending conferences with us and getting to know his faculty. The lower school was such a happy community of teachers, parents and most of all, children. He supported us and when we did make mistakes, he would let us know but always had our backs. As a young, inexperienced teacher, he helped me grow into a confident one. I'll never forget when I first started and wrote an email that I should have waited to send. He told me not to reply. But... well... "You didn't handle that very well, Kelly... But let's fix it." We continued to stay in contact all these years later, especially during Browns and Steelers game. I, along with so many others, were blessed to know him and work at SA under his leadership. He created an amazing SA community when he was there. I will cherish all those memories. I can go on and on about him... "Leaders instill in their people a hope for success and a belief in themselves. Positive leaders empower people to accomplish their goals." "Leadership is about making others better as a result of your presence and making sure that impact lasts in your absence." I'm sending prayers to Sally, his children, and all his family. Thank you for sharing him with so many people. I will truly miss him. Kelly Gary



# Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Joseph by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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