
Joseph Lawrence Panella(1940 - 2015)

Joseph Lawrence Panella
Oct. 2, 1940 - Oct. 21, 2015
Resident of Fresno

"Coach Panella" as he is known to most, was born in Oakland, CA on October 2, 1940. He was the oldest child of Basil and Marie Panella. He passed away on Wednesday, October 21, 2015 at the age of 75. He is survived by his wife of 18 years, Debbie, and her son, Chris, his three children, Kelley, Kristine, Todd, brother Dr. Arthur Panella, sister Ann Marie Baatz, and numerous nieces, nephews and grandchildren.

Joe graduated from St. Elizabeth High School in 1958. He was a Professional Baseball Player for the Houston Astros (then the Houston Colt 45's) for 5 years. He began his teaching career at Havenscourt Jr. High in Oakland in 1968, moving on to Skyline High School in 1976 where he served as baseball coach and Athletic Director for 20 years. In 1999 he moved to Clovis to open up Clovis East High School and remained as Athletic Director for 10 years before retiring in 2009. In April of 2013, Joe was inducted into the San Francisco State Athletic Hall of Fame where he was recognized for his achievements in baseball from 1961-1962.

Joe was loved by all and influenced many young lives along the way. His quality coaching, strong fundamentals and humility created positive experiences for all who played under him. His legacy will live on in the hearts of those who knew and loved him.

A Celebration of Joe's Life will be held at St. Isidore Catholic Church, 440 La Gonda Way, Danville, CA on Tuesday, November 3, 2015, viewing at 9:30 am; Mass at 10:30 am, reception 11:30 am to 2:00 pm.

In lieu of flowers, we ask that donations be made in his memory to the St. Elizabeth's High School Athletic Department, 1530 34th Avenue, Oakland, CA 94601

Holy Angels Queen of Heaven,
Lafayette, CA
(925) 932-0900

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