



Joe P. Parke

June 13, 2024

Joe P. Parke, 93, passed away on June 13, 2024. Born in Nampa, Idaho to the late Verne Turner Parke and Margaret Delina (Attebury) Bloom, he graduated from Fremont High School, Oakland, California, in 1950.

Joe enlisted in the United States Marine Corps for three years, during the Korean War. Deployed as a Field Radio Operator to Wonsan Harbor, North Korea, he was awarded the Korean Service Medal, in 1953.

Joe separated from the military with an Honorable Discharge, in October 1953, and was the first in his family to pursue and earn a college degree. While employed as a Santa Clara County Deputy Sheriff, in California, he earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Law Enforcement.

Joe Parke set out to build his 30-plus year career, in the early 1960s, as a polygraph examiner and eventually security officer for the Department of Defense, at Fort G. Meade, Maryland. Well-known for adhering to the letter of the law, Joe was notorious for never compromising his principles at work or in his personal life.

Joe was a man of many talents with a passion for working with his hands. The world was his workshop as once he converted a closet into a stained-glass studio. He created several “tiffany” styled hanging lamps out of sea glass collected while traveling in various countries. Joe especially enjoyed home renovation, as he built a two-story log cabin on acreage in Queen Anne’s County, Eastern Shore, Maryland. On occasion, he called on “Charlie” (the tractor) to do the heavy lifting.

His legacy lives on with his 6 children, daughter, Carol Leyland of Seattle, WA; sons Stephen Parke of Mona, UT and Mitchel Parke (Janel) of Cambridge, MD; daughters, Cheryl Kolshak (Edward) of Newport, NC; Jennifer Lombard of Northwood, IA; and Jamie Mingroni (Leonard) of Franktown, CO, along with 13 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren. Joe Parke was predeceased by his three cherished fur babies, J.R., Missy and M.R., whom he loved dearly.

Tribute Wall

CK

“ *Dad's mom, Margaret Parke (Bloom)
Dad's children: Steve, Mitch, Cheryl (Kolshak), Jamie (Mingroni)
and Jennifer Parke (Lombard)*



Cheryl Kolshak - April 25 at 07:27 AM

CK

“ *3 files added to the tribute wall*



Cheryl Kolshak - April 17 at 03:11 AM

CK

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Cheryl Kolshak - March 01 at 10:59 AM

CK

The family at dad's 90th birthday 🎂

Cheryl Kolshak - March 07 at 06:06 AM

CK

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Cheryl Kolshak - March 01 at 08:38 AM

CK

“ 4 files added to the tribute wall



Cheryl Kolshak - January 25 at 08:20 AM

CK

Good times with the family!

Cheryl Kolshak - February 14 at 01:37 PM

CK

“ 9 files added to the tribute wall



Cheryl Kolshak - January 24 at 09:13 PM

CK

Cassie's wedding.
You would be so proud!

Cheryl Kolshak - February 14 at 01:36 PM

CK

“ 4 files added to the tribute wall



Cheryl Kolshak - January 21 at 05:59 AM

CK

*Dad,
Your three daughters: Jamie, Cheryl and Jennifer paying tribute to you during our family get together in Maryland.
We visited the tree farm, where a tree is planted in your honor at Tuckahoe State Park, as well as "the farm" at Cherry Lane.
We placed pennies from heaven upon your grave, with Love.*

Cheryl Kolshak - February 14 at 01:34 PM

CK

“ Dad - I think of you often. I’m so thankful for the time we had together. It’s almost been a year now since your passing. June 13th. I miss your phone calls. It was so much fun to come to Arkansas & visit. You used to enjoy watching old Western Movies & Cop shows on TV. The memories will always be with me Dad.



Carol Kletke - May 29, 2025 at 10:14 AM

CK

“ 13949 Cherry Lane, Queen Anne, MD 21657



Cheryl Kolshak - July 20, 2024 at 12:49 PM

CK

Dad’s “farm” Eastern Shore, MD

Cheryl Kolshak - February 28 at 04:38 PM

CK

“ 1 file added to the album Joe Parke Tributes



Cheryl Kolshak - July 12, 2024 at 09:58 PM

CK

Grandpa asked Dylan to carry on the family tradition of sounding his old Korean War air raid siren.

Cheryl Kolshak - July 13, 2024 at 12:16 PM

JL

What an honor for this family relic to be passed on! The meaning of this for our family will always be special. I am hoping Dylan that you continue to fit pass on this family tradition. That would be very proud!

Jennifer Lombard - June 13, 2025 at 07:38 PM

CK

“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



Cheryl Kolshak - July 12, 2024 at 07:06 PM

CK

“ *Peggy Bednared, Selma Albee, Susan Rose, Kathryn Ly & children, all send condolences.*



Carol Kletke - July 12, 2024 at 11:21 AM

CK

“ *Carol Kletke lit a candle in memory of Joe Parke*



Carol Kletke - July 12, 2024 at 11:18 AM

CK

“ In conversation with Dad, he often used the phrase “ Holy Toledo!”. It made me laugh. I miss his phone calls. He would often touch base & keep everyone “in the loop”. He told stories about his childhood & how his family struggled financially. At times the children would sneak into neighbors vegetable gardens for food. It was a rough time, until his family moved from Idaho to California where there were job opportunities. He vowed never to live that way once he left home, and he kept that promise. He attended college & worked as a police officer at the same time. I remember him telling me that when it was a quiet patrol night, with no action , he and his patrol partner would park the vehicle & take a nap. His determination to be successful had him in school during the day & then working a full shift at night. It had been a grueling schedule, but it paid off, as he moved from sheriff, to FBI, to NSA (National Security Admin). Well Dad, it was a long and bumpy road, as Life will have it, but you lived it well, had many accomplishments, and may you now Rest In Peace. Thank you for sharing your memories.....

With Love

Carol

Carol Kletke - July 12, 2024 at 11:15 AM

CK

Correction to this posting:
He never worked for the FBI nor any government “Administration.”
Please change to Department of Defense.

Cheryl Kolshak - March 19, 2025 at 08:49 AM

CK

Carol, yes, dad worked very hard for his money. That part is correct.

Cheryl Kolshak - April 07, 2025 at 09:17 AM

CK

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Cheryl Kolshak - July 11, 2024 at 03:44 PM

CK

“ 5 files added to the tribute wall



Cheryl Kolshak - July 11, 2024 at 03:42 PM

CK

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Cheryl Kolshak - July 11, 2024 at 12:46 PM

CK

“ Joe Parke’s interment was held on Thursday, June 27, 2024, where he is laid to rest at the Eastern Shore Veterans Cemetery, 6827 East New Market, Ellwood Road, Hurlock, Maryland 21643



Cheryl Kolshak - July 10, 2024 at 05:35 PM

CK

Rest in Peace

Cheryl Kolshak - July 12, 2024 at 10:01 PM