

Dignity[®]
MEMORIAL

OBITUARY

Joseph John Michael

JANUARY 9, 1968 - JUNE 5, 2026



IN THE CARE OF

McCracken Funeral Home

Joseph John Michael, 58, of Union, New Jersey, entered eternal rest on June 5, 2026. Born in Irvington, New Jersey, on January 9, 1968, he moved to Union in 1980 and made it his lifelong home—one he served with steady devotion, warmth, and a generosity that never sought recognition but always left an imprint.

A graduate of Union High School, Class of 1986, Joseph was a prominent business owner for 33 years at Royal Tailor & Cleaners. Through years of dedicated work and daily connection with neighbors and friends, he became a familiar and trusted presence—regarded by many as a pillar of the community and affectionately known as the “Mayor of Union.” He was also a member of the Union Elks and maintained close relationships with the Union Police, for whom he handled the cleaning of many local officers’ uniforms—quiet, practical service offered with pride and respect.

Joseph’s life was marked by loyalty and an openhearted way of showing up for others. He was widely known as the “one to call” when someone was in need, and he met people with a kind spirit, a ready laugh, and a smile that could brighten any room. An avid softball player and beloved by many family and friends, he also found joy in the simple pleasures that made life rich: cheering for the Oakland Raiders and the NY Yankees, cooking and BBQ, and never missing an episode of *Survivor*—an adventure he truly hoped to experience and WIN.

Joseph is survived by his wife, Margarita Moreno, who regarded him not just as her spouse but as her absolute best friend, and his two sons, Cristian and Tyler Michael, whom he regarded as his greatest achievements. He is the son of the late Diletta and Richard Michael Sr., and brother of Richard Michael, Jr. (Denise Michael). He was uncle to Victoria & Gianna Michael. He is brother-in-law to Beatriz Moreno & Paul Falzarano, and uncle to David & Daniel Falzarano; brother-in-law to Jaime Moreno (Martha Mejia), and uncle to Bianca. He is the son-in-law of Jaime Moreno and Esneda. He is also survived by his “Brother from another mother,” William Helwig, and his wife, Yolanda Helwig, and was godfather and uncle to Allesondra and Ariana Helwig.

Visitation will be held at McCracken Funeral Home, 1500 Morris Ave, Union, NJ 07083, on June 10, 2026, from 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm. A Funeral Service will be held at St. Michael the Archangel Roman Catholic Church, 1212 Kelly St, Union, NJ 07083, on June 11, 2026, at 10:15 am.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, www.stjude.org

Joseph John Michael will be remembered for the strength of his friendships, the steadiness of his care for others, and the enduring way he made people feel seen, helped, and at home.