



# Joseph Harold Utschig

NOV 17, 1954 - OCT 9, 2025



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## J osep h Harold Utschig, 1954-2025

Joseph Harold Utschig passed away from a sudden cardiac arrest on October 9th, 2025. Joe was preceded in death by his father Robert Harold Utschig (1995), mother Elizabeth Smith Utschig (2023) and brother-in-law John Eadeh (2001).

Surviving family members include his wife Patty, daughter Kathleen (Rob) Rios and their children Alina and Robby, son Nick (Ellie) Elmschig and their daughters Quinn and Julia, daughter Emily (Casey) Simon and their daughters Lucy and Junie as well as a grandson expected in January, brother Tom (Pat) Utschig, sisters Meg Eadeh, Katie (Lex) Williman, Ellen Utschig, Nancy (Mark) Drake and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

Joe was born in San Diego, CA, to parents Robert “Bob” Utschig and Elizabeth “Betty” Utschig, as the fourth of six children.

He graduated from Stella Maris Academy in 1968, St. Augustine High School in 1972, UCSD in 1977 where he earned a BA in Economics.

Joe began his career at Price Club in 1977 where he met his future wife, Patricia Jayne Flower. Their friendship grew into love. They married on January 2, 1982, at Mary Star of the Sea in La Jolla, CA.

They welcomed their first child, Kathleen, in 1985, followed by Nick in 1987, and Emily in 1988.

Joe loved being a family man and created many opportunities for memories: ice cream at Mr. Frostie in PB, bike rides around the bay, Saturday evening Mass at St. Mary Magdalene followed by In-N-Out and Gulls hockey games, Yosemite and Hawaii vacations, and pool time at their



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cherished home. Joe recognized his great fortune in life and would often say he was a lucky guy. He showed his children how to be generous and appreciate that good things are earned, not given.

Joe retired as a Warehouse Manager with Costco Wholesale. His 35-year career started at the original Price Club on Morena Blvd in the Accounting Department. He rose through leadership to become manager over the years at many of the San Diego area warehouses. He took great pride in his work, and in the successes of coworkers, with many colleagues becoming his closest friends.

He had a long-standing goal to enjoy an early retirement, and he achieved that in 2013 at age 58.

After retiring, he devoted his time to the things that brought him joy and purpose. He was thankful for the time he was able to spend with his mother Betty before she passed away. Joe loved getting together with his five siblings, their families, and his many lifelong friends. He gave back to his community through the Kiwanis Club of Pacific Beach where he served as Treasurer and volunteered at the San Diego Model Railroad Museum alongside his brother Tom.

He had a natural interest in technology, challenging himself to keep up with the latest innovations. Joe had a genuine joy of understanding how things worked and passed that curiosity onto his children and grandchildren.

Most of all, he cherished the traveling adventures with his better half, Patty. They cruised all over the world: from Alaska to the Danube River, Australia and New Zealand to Canada. They also enjoyed all that downtown had to offer, from Seaport Village to ball games and parks with their grandkids. Joe would often say, 'We're so lucky to live in San Diego!' He loved watching the world with Patty. He was immensely proud of the family they raised together, and nothing brought him more joy than being Grandpa Utschig to his six grandchildren.

His loved ones will remember him for his generosity, guidance, work ethic, hearty laugh, and optimistic spirit.

Joe, you were a beloved husband, dad, grandpa, brother, brother-in-law, uncle, cousin, and friend. You will be forever cherished in our memories.



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A memorial Mass will be held at St. Mary Magdalene Church in San Diego on Wednesday, October 29th at 10:00am. Reception to be held afterward in the hall.


In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to a charity of your choice.




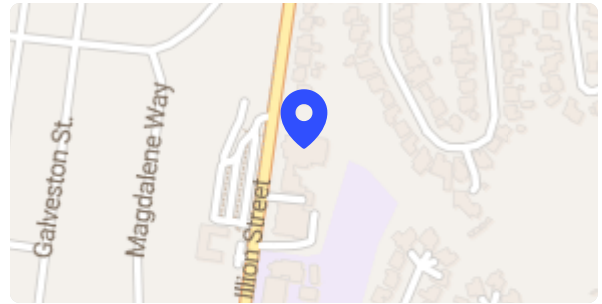
### Memorial Mass

 **Wednesday**, October 29, 2025

 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM PT

 **St. Mary Magdalene Church**  
1945 Illion Street, San Diego CA 92110

 10am Memorial Mass. Reception to follow in Church Hall.





## Tribute Wall

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**John Fritzenkotter** posted:

Joe and I were friends for, over 50 years. We both went to Stella Maris but didn't really connect until our college years through a mutual friend. Many trips to Mexico and Borrego in his VW bus. We were roommates on Magnolia St ( PB) and later on Huerfano St (Bay Ho) aka Snake Ranch. Oh the capers we pulled. I remember when he first went to work for Price Club. He kept talking about this girl Patty — so pretty, smart, and funny. Convinced he would marry her someday. The rest is history. We had remained close and had lunch a couple weeks before he passed. He remained very frugal and put into play all the lessons he learned from Harry Rudolf ( Harry's Coffee Shop) where he worked in High School. Even though it didn't matter anymore he stayed true to his values. He'd tell me which Costco had the best gas pricing that week and how he was gonna leverage all his CC points towards the next cruise. I'd give him a hard time but he took it in stride. That's what friends do. I'm really gonna miss Joey. He was a great friend.

October 23 at 8:03 PM



**Nicolas N.** planted a grove of 3 Memorial Trees in honor of Joseph.



October 16 at 7:11 AM



**Cassandra Shepherd** shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

Joe was an inspiration in many ways to this sheltered young girl who started her career at Price Club in 1984. (See photo attached of opening day at our Price Club in 1984 with Joe on far right.). He saw the way of the future in technology and shared his knowledge with the new Microsoft systems and sent us to classes to learn it. He, also, gave us advice to invest in 401k while we were young (then early twenties) even if it was a tiny percentage. Just those two things were inspirational, but I also remember his smile that went into his eyes and how he was a bit of a trickster. He liked to sneak up behind us in our office and kick our chairs, startling us. His love for technology was something I was also interested in. I will forever remember looking down into his hand at some electrical contraption before the age of cell phones. It was his palm pilot. I soon bought something similar! The business Joe was something to be respected, but the fun goofy side of Joe was there too. For instance, at the Padre games. Somehow, my baseball cap kept coming off my head and being tossed about. Oh! Because it wasn't a Padre hat! Joe was definitely a family man and a good man. He gave me extra time to take off after the birth of my own children and worked with my schedule in those early years with my own family. He knew how to run a business, yet he was good and kind always. Joe will forever be remembered by myself and my husband.



October 15 at 5:25 PM



## Tribute Wall

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**Nick Elmschig** posted:

First post, Dad.

October 15 at 5:25 PM



## Media

**Joseph Harold Utschig**

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Cassandra Shepherd shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

October 16 at 5:07 AM





# Memories only last if you share them

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



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