

## Joel D. "Papa" Fortin

June 1, 1922 - June 7, 2020

Joel D. "Papa" Fortin Jr., age 98, of Kankakee passed away Sunday, June 7, 2020 at his home. He was born June 1, 1922 in Hoopeston, the son of Joel D. Sr. & Lucille (Castonia) Fortin. Joel married Beverly Jensen on December 1, 2018 in Kankakee at the X-line Sportman's Club.

Joel owned and operated Fortin's Tavern for 50 years. He was a butcher and made the best hamburgers in Kankakee County. He was a lifetime member of the Aroma Park Legion, where he was also the last surviving WWII veteran. He was also a lifetime member of the X-line Sportman's Club and the 100 Club. Joel graduated high school in Plymouth, IN, where he was a star football player. Joel was an avid Chicago White Sox fan.

He was a veteran of the United States Army, serving during WWII as a tank destroyer.

Surviving are his wife, Beverly Fortin of Kankakee; step-children, Gary & Jean Thompson of FL, Michael & Lynn Thompson of MO, and Scott & Cindy Thompson of Kankakee, Lori Goss of Plainfield, Tina & Terry Hull of L'Erable, James & Judy Jensen of Advance, MO, Robert & Julie Jensen of Evanston, William & Sherry Jensen of Bradley, and Pamela & Matthew Merrill of Bourbonnais; 18 grandchildren; and 14 great-grandchildren; one sister, Fae Halloway of Lowell, IN; and close friends, Tom Fraher and Rich Stadds. Joel is preceded in death by his parents; his first wife, Gail Fortin (Readman); one brother, Ronald Fortin; and five sisters, Irene, Rosemary, Mae, RoseAline, and Mary Louise.

Due to the COVID 19 pandemic, private family services will be held.

Inurnment will be at All Saints Cemetery in Bourbonnais.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Hospice of Kankakee Valley or the Aroma Park Legion.

# Cemetery Details

## All Saints Cemetery

1839 W. Route 102  
Bourbonnais, IL 60914  
(815) 933-2342

# Tribute Wall

GM

“ *As a kid in the neighborhood we would hang out on the front steps. He would give us free sodas. He had the best hamburgers in Kankakee County. He will be missed*

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**Gary Morrival** - June 13, 2020 at 02:30 PM

BJ

“ *Joel lived next door to us and he was a dear neighbor and friend. We will certainly miss his sweet smile and pleasant manner. Our best to his family. Sincerely, Barb & Ken Johnson*

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**Barbara Johnson** - June 11, 2020 at 04:52 PM



“ *Rest in peace Uncle Joel and thanks for all the soda pops.*

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**Mark Fruits** - June 11, 2020 at 03:20 PM

TM

“ *Tom Mallaney lit a candle in memory of Joel D. "Papa" Fortin*



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**Tom Mallaney** - June 10, 2020 at 08:49 AM

KH

“ *Kim Senesac Hazzard lit a candle in memory of Joel D. "Papa" Fortin*



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**Kim Senesac Hazzard** - June 10, 2020 at 12:54 AM

MH

“ *I've known Joel Fortin for as long as I can remember. So many, many fond and joy filled memories of Fortin's on Hwy 17. Joel never wavered on assuring Fortin's was a family friendly venue. Family picnics were anxiously anticipated in the back yard of the gravel parking lot. There never has been a better burger, always a must when returning to town. He was a faithful and devoted man, to his Church, family and friends. My dad and brother treasured his friendship. I treasure the wonderful memories of time spent with him and at Fortin's. My heart is heavy for you all. Hugs, peace, and let his light shine through you!*

*Mary Jane Fraher- Harris*

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**Mary Jane Harris** - June 09, 2020 at 11:44 PM

LP

*I grew up down the street from the tavern and enjoyed many a burger - the best I've ever tasted. The picnics were always wonderful. Was recently thinking of Joel. May he RIP.*

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**Lisa Stankewicz Polk** - June 10, 2020 at 11:07 AM

RS

*Known Joe since I was able to walk. Brought him pop bottles for the refund and spent it with him, delivered his papers for years and he always was their for all the kids and his neighbors. Gave job to my dad when he was laid off or strike don't remember which it was but he always had everyones back. Sorry to lose such a good man may you rest in peace Joel.*

**Randall Stankewicz** - June 10, 2020 at 01:04 PM



*Rest in peace Uncle Joe and thanks for all the soda pops.*

**Mark Fruits** - June 11, 2020 at 03:23 PM

KT

*“ We are so sorry to hear about Joe. So many good memories of Joe and Gail. Our deepest condolences. Jeff and Karen Tedford*

**Karen Tedford** - June 09, 2020 at 03:41 PM

KT

*“ Karen Tedford lit a candle in memory of Joel D. "Papa" Fortin*



**Karen Tedford** - June 09, 2020 at 03:40 PM

JD

*“ Sorry for your loss. He was a great guy and we loved his burgers! Rest in peace.p*

**Jim and Sherri Dupuis** - June 09, 2020 at 05:38 AM

KA

“ *Karenkibbons lit a candle in memory of Joel D. "Papa" Fortin*



**karenkibbons** - June 08, 2020 at 09:15 PM

KA

*Curt and karen Kibbons send our sincere sympathy to the family of Joe.*

**karenkibbons** - June 08, 2020 at 09:18 PM

FF

“ *Family Of Clayton Fortin lit a candle in memory of Joel D. "Papa" Fortin*



**Family of Clayton Fortin** - June 08, 2020 at 07:11 PM

JF

*RIP sir. 🙏❤️*

**Jeff Fortin** - June 08, 2020 at 09:03 PM

JA

“ *Janet lit a candle in memory of Joel D. "Papa" Fortin*



**Janet** - June 08, 2020 at 07:10 PM

NO

“ *NANCY OGLE lit a candle in memory of Joel D. "Papa" Fortin*



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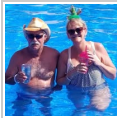
**NANCY OGLE** - June 08, 2020 at 06:19 PM

NO

*Joel is a very special friend to me...we spent many hours together and Gail, too. I treasure the time I spent with both of them. Rest in peace...never gotten. Love ya*

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**NANCY OGLE** - June 08, 2020 at 06:24 PM



*RIP Uncle JOE you were an awesome guy and your burgers were the best and thanks for the recipe  
Love,  
Scot Holloway and family*

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**Scot Holloway** - June 20, 2020 at 06:54 PM