

My brother Joe was #7 in our family of 9 boys. But since he was 6 years older than me, I don't have many memories of our younger years together. We lived separate paths until later in life when we reconnected and got to know each other as adults.

Then we had many good times together for many years. Joe was the best man in our wedding. He would come visit us in California and Florida. From about 1985 until just a few years ago, Joe would come to our condo in Cocoa Beach Florida when we were there. He enjoyed sitting on the condo balcony listening to the ocean waves breaking. He would always laugh at Jerry's remark that 'it looked just like Park Point'. Many of you may have gotten postcards from him – perhaps the same one each year!

He gave me ski lessons up at our cabin in Big Bear. That was the only time I ever skied with him in my life. Of course, I was not about to follow him jumping off a 90 meter ski hill either. But in recent years his health had declined. Last week he joined our mother and dad and our five older brothers in a better place.

It was just after he left his military tour that he left a good job at IBM to go back to school and begin his teaching career. Many people told him that was a rather foolish step. But he had no regrets. He thought he was quite lucky to get a teaching job right away in Cloquet along with being the ski coach. What could be a better choice? He enjoyed working with young people and pushing them to successful accomplishments.

Joe had a good life enjoying all that he liked, hunting, fishing, and skiing. He shared his love of the great outdoors with many, including his nieces and nephews. He taught them how to water ski, fish, sail, shoot a gun and ride a motorcycle.

Along the way he was instrumental in getting the Pine Valley ski area developed. He was proud to get the ski jump built and named after him. This helped the school win the state skiing championships for 13 years. It also got him into the Minnesota hall of fame for coaches. Joe told me one lad said "how could we loose with that pep talk you gave us." That attitude kept the winning tradition alive. Cloquet must be proud to have a great ski area for their young athletes and have a clean and healthy play area. Joe was quite happy to be a part of that legacy.

He had a life well lived. Rest in Peace Joe.