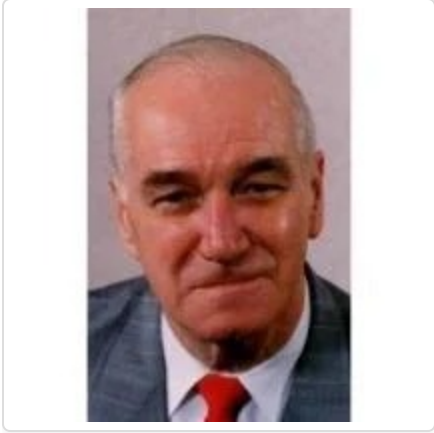




Joseph Patrick Welch

October 6, 1930 - February 13, 2014

Joseph Patrick Welch Joseph Patrick Welch, age 83, of Syracuse, left this physical world on February 13, 2014. His time on this earth changed lives, near and far. Joe was born in Tully in the autumn of 1930 and spent his first 12 years growing up under his father's Irish influence on the south side of Syracuse. There he met his dear friends of the Marble and Milligan families. After Joe's dad died, and some ill-fitting foster care placements, a judge allowed him to go to live with his godmother, the beloved Mrs. Murphy until one day, she passed in her sleep. He went to the Milligan's and said "Mrs. Milligan, I don't know what to do." Madeline Milligan took him home, tended to Mrs. Murphy and they took him back to the Milligan house, headed by her dear husband, Harold, and never looked back. He no longer was alone, for he had two loving parents with sisters and brothers whom loved him dearly. At 15, the Milligan's legally adopted Joe, and he officially gained his by-the-heart siblings; Jimmy and Bobby as his brothers and Mary (Collins) and Carol (Dann) as his sisters. The kindness and love he was given as that young boy shaped who he became: a profoundly generous and innately kind, smiling soul always willing to give and to love, no matter what. He spent his life taking care of others and ensuring that those around him were loved and nourished in all ways. Joe began his employable years working behind the soda fountain at Hurwitz Drug Store. He told the story of a life lesson he learned when he began to speak snidely about a young girl with development delays to an older kid at the counter. The older kid, the young girl's big brother, clocked

Joe. From that day forward, Joe never had a bad word to say about a person. The way he ended the story was to say, "When you say something ill, you never know who is nearby that could be hurt by your words." Joe served in the state National Guard and US Marine Corps. Upon returning home from serving, he was employed as a traveling salesman. As Joe got older, married and had his first of 8 children, he sought work that would allow him to provide for his family and be close to home. He secured a job as a bus driver for the Syracuse Transit Corp., now known as CENTRO. Joe drove bus for CENTRO until he was elected Business Agent for the Amalgamated Transit Union. Joe was a bus driver, dispatcher and dedicated Union member. In 1973, he was elected President of the ATU, Local 580, and then in 1974, was elected Business Agent of that same Local. By that time, the last of his eight children had been born. Joe served as Vice-Chairman of the ATU-NYS Legislative Conference Board beginning in 1978 while retaining his role at L.U. 580. In 1978, he was elected as the Executive Secretary of the Greater Syracuse Labor Council. In 1990, Joe was elected Vice President of the Executive Council of the NYS AFL-CIO under the able leadership of Dennis Hughes as President. In 1986, Joe reached the pinnacle of his career, where he stayed and flourished for 24 years, when he was elected as an International Vice President for the ATU. He proudly served in this position, subsequently re-elected every 3 years, until he decided to finally retire in 2010 at the young age of 80. During this time, he had the honor and privilege of working with his son, Rob, in a professional capacity. During Joe's years of service, he was instrumental in developing and getting NYS Article 19-A NY Vehicle and Traffic Law Special Requirements for Bus Drivers passed in NYS. Joe also served a pivotal role in the creation of true and fair standards for the federal Commercial Driver's License (CDL). Joe's loss from the transit industry's brothers and sisters will be felt in long-lasting ripples across the United States, Canada and beyond to Romania. Joe Welch, and like-minded men and women, fought hard, in solidarity, to secure rights for all workers - not just union members. The safety, dignity, and fair treatment enjoyed at jobs today is

the direct result of men like Joe Welch. Joe Welch had the backbone to stand up for what's right. Joe worked with relentless passion in the labor movement's fight for fairness and rights of many, always with a gleam in his eye and smile in his heart. Joseph Welch was the embodiment of Matthew 25:40 (NKJV) "And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.' Joe's pride in the work he accomplished to help other workers paled in comparison to the love and pride he had in his heart for his family. Joe loved his family more than anything in the entire world. He was always there when needed and always just a phone call away. He was his family's Superman, a true American Hero that Heaven needed there. The Milligan family tree which Joe was firmly rooted in, provided him with a canopy of love, comfort and companionship made up of innumerable cousins, nieces, nephews, great-nieces and nephews and many great-great nieces and nephews. He was proud to be God-Father to Patty Ann Dann Redhead and took that role very seriously for the last 53 years. He adored his Arizona family Mary Beth, Ron and their girls, Taylor, Emily and Annie. He is also survived by his sister-of-the-heart, Susan (Robert) Longo and the DBM- Chrissy, Nikki (Pat), Elizabeth (Josh), Sheila (Jason), Cyndi and cupcake Amelia. Joe had two older biological sisters, Mary and Margaret (Peggy). He is survived by his children Dana (Mary Ellen), Bobbie (Jim) Featherstone, Michael (Cindy), Rob (Donna Jean), Stephen (Lisa Solomon), Joe A., Lani (Steve Diederich) and Kathleen (Daniel) Gardiner. Joe loved and enjoyed sharing in the lives and accomplishments of his grandchildren, Paul Richard Abend, Alexandria, Brianna, Dylan and Cailey Welch, Mikey and Matt Welch, Aaron, Sean and Maya Mydlenski and most recently, Grace Ann and Patrick Gardiner. And though they did not get to know him, Randy, Sarah, Kathryn and Benjamin all held a place in Joe's grandpa heart. He also held 8 great-grandchildren in his grandpa's heart, Emmett, Brigg and Dalton Welch, Cameron and Michelle Cerio, Ella Welch and Aiden and Nate Mott. The loss of Joseph Patrick from

this world is felt most greatly by his “Snow White” of 50 years, his wife, Karin Kremin Welch. Together, they were a dynamic duo. Together, they changed lives. Where there was one, there were two, side by side, heart to heart. She was his life, he was hers, always and in ALL ways. Calling hours for Joe will be Friday, February 21 at Ballweg & Lunsford Funeral Home, 2584 Field Lane, LaFayette (at Rte 20, Cardiff) from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. Funeral Services will be held at 10 a.m. on Saturday, February 22, at United Christian Church of Marietta. Interment will be at Onondaga Valley Cemetery immediately following. A gathering of those who loved Joe will follow at United Christian Church of Marietta. The family invites friends and family to bring shaving cream, razors, combs, toothbrushes, toothpaste or deodorant to support the local vets at the Syracuse VA. Monetary donations may be made to The Joseph P. Welch Scholarship Fund or Clear Path for Veterans “Dogs2Vets” program. Joseph Patrick Flannigan Welch will be missed so much and so often by so very many. He leaves a legacy of generosity, kindness and humor. He was not perfect, but he always strived to be the best he knew how to be. He loved EVERYONE dearly. The world would be a much better place if more people aspired to be like Joe Welch. Give it a try. Well done, good and faithful servant, well done.

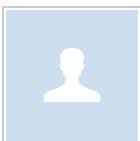
Tribute Wall



“ *Ballweg & Lunsford Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Joseph Patrick Welch*

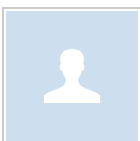


Ballweg & Lunsford Funeral Home - February 13, 2014 at 12:00 AM



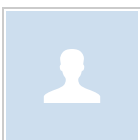
“ *My heart goes out to the Welch family. May you find peace sharing memories, laughs and teachings. He was a good man with a lot of character. An honorable person once said \"The best way to honor those we have loved and lost is to live fully in place of them.*

February 23, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ *We want to express our sincere sympathy to Aunt Karin and all our cousins for their loss. Uncle Joe was a generous, kind, soul and had to smell good doing it. He will always be part of my heart. We will miss him dearly but he will not be forgotten. God Bless.*

February 21, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ *TO the welch Sorry for your lost. He is looking down on you now. If there is anything we can do just ask or call us*

February 21, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ DEAR KARIN AND FAMILY, SO VERY SORRY TO HEAR ABOUT JOE. WHAT A WONDERFUL MAN HE WAS. THE WRITE UP IN THE PAPER AND ON THE WEB-SITE WAS BEAUTIFUL. YOU COULD JUST FEEL THE LOVE THREW OUT BOTH ARTICLES. I HONESTLY I FEEL JOE IS WITH SOME GOOD COMPANY, BUT WILL BE VERY MISSED ON THIS EARTH. MY DEEPEST REGRETS. NIKKI--CHRYSLER TREASURE AUTO

February 20, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Welch Family, I would like to extend my deepest condolences to all of you during this trying time. Joe was such a well respected man of honor and integrity and he truly touched so many lives in such a delightful and positive way. You'll always have the wonderful memories of his caring heart and soul and he'll forever watching over each and every one of you. Take care of each other knowing his spirit surrounds you all with love and kindness. My prayers are for all of you.

February 20, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Karin & family, So sorry to hear of Joe's passing. We sure spent many, many hours together pounding out Centro's contracts! Joe was the ATU! Joe was also a great friend. He was missed at Centro as his career took off. Still, he was always available for everyone. Karin - I remember you dragging me away and we'd have a good time away from all the union 'stuff'! Joe was not only a good friend but mentor and will be missed by all! RIP my Friend! Linda Burt

February 20, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ *I pray that God sends us more amazing men like Joe.*

February 19, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ *Joe, I've met a lot of people doing this job, some good, some not so good. When I met you I knew you were someone I could give grief to and it would be alright. I remember all the many hours we spent during negotiations and the talks we had. Your family meant the most to you and you welcomed me into that family as I did you into mine. I know I will be looking for you at conventions and other events because old habits die hard. I'm sorry we never went whale watching liked we planned. Having you and Karin in my life has been a blessing. Don't worry we'll watch over her for you and I know you will be watching over us. You were a great labor leader and a better friend. God Bless.*

February 19, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ *Dear Karin & Family It was with a heavy heart when I became aware of Joe's passing. I worked with Joe on many assignments and was always amazed at his ability, caring, and knowledge. Our sincere condolences to you and the family. No words can soften the passing, but know that our thoughts and prayers are with you. Our memories will always be with us. Tommy & SuzAnne*

February 19, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ I will certainly miss the voice of Joe Welch, I served as Receptionist for the ATU for many years. This will always lay dear to my heart. Joe called the office, while, I was on maternity leave and they told him that, I had been married and had a baby. He and his wife Karen sent a care package through the postal service for my one and only son. The clothes was very expensive and looked as if, they came from a boutique. I will always remember this about Joe Welch. At that time, he was an IVP for ATU. Joe and his wife Karen was mindful of a little black girl sitting at the desk of ATU and bought my son, who they have never met brand new baby clothes. This touched my heart. Rest In Peach Joe, Tina T. Evans, ATU

February 19, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ While reading the obituaries in this morning's Post Standard, I was drawn to the life story of Mr. Welch. What a man who had learned the ART OF LIVING and inspired so many others by that life. May those of you who are a part of Mr. Welch's family, be inspired to carry on the mantle he has left behind. I only wish I could say "I knew him." Baldwinsville

February 18, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ I read Mr. Welch's obituary because the last name rang a bell, but I did not know him. However, having read the obituary, the world could use more good men like him. We need more caring leaders in our world, and especially now in labor. To those of you who knew and loved him, you were lucky. But even those of us who did not know him, we are lucky that he was on this planet taking care of us when we didn't even know it. My deepest sympathies to all of you who loved him. To whomever took the time to write that obituary, it was beautiful and you did him justice. I would not have known of his work without your dedication to him. Thank you.

February 17, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ Weather the news was good or bad... I always called Joe first... He was more than a Union Rep... He was a trusted friend... When you arrive Joe, you won't have to give St. Peter your business card... He knows who you are and is expecting your arrival... But...If you could negotiate a back door arrival/entrance for me it would be well appreciated... Jerry Fancher ATU 1056

February 17, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Karin Both Wilma and my self feel so bad because of our dear friendship with Joe and yourself. I could not have hoped to ever have a co-worker that I enjoyed more than Joe. He always made you feel like you belonged and was such a conscientious worker and true to the ATU. when I first became a IVP and at the first meeting because I did not have a brief case at the meeting , he gave me one which I still have. Although I only seen Joe a few times a year because of where we live, he was always the one I seen first before our meetings started. Good all around guy and the kind of a friend I'll not have again. All of our love to you and your family, be well til we see each other again.

February 17, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Karin: So sorry to hear of Joe's passing. Our condolences are with you and your family at this time. So glad to have met him at our last high school reunion. Our prayers are with you.

February 17, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ Joe, you were genuine and truly One Of A Kind!!! You touched a lot of lives and made a difference wherever you went!! Joe, I admired you because you were sold out to your passion and in solidarity, worked relentlessly in the Labor Movement's fight for fairness and rights of many; and sacrificed so very much along the way! Thank you for your love and kindness toward me. I'll never forget you, what you've done for our Union and all the good times we shared!!! I will miss you!! RIP my friend!! My prayers are with Karin and your family!

February 16, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ Karin I am sorry for your loss. I had the pleasure of running into you and Joe in Solvay a few months ago. I had not seen Joe in many years. When I worked at Centro Joe helped me to secure my ten years of service when I decided to move on. I never forgot that. Joe was always willing to help anyone who needed it. When I ran into you that day the first thing Joe said to me, was there anything he could do for me and handed me his business card. That was Joe. You guys made my day and I will never forget it. Although I am out of state and will not be able to attend the service I will be thinking about you and the family. Sincerely Tony Farella

February 16, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ Being neighbors of Joe was always a pleasure. He made everything better, by just being there. Love to all the Welches! Heather

February 16, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ Deepest sympathy to Joe\'s family and friends from the staff and members of ATU local 168

February 16, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ Joe; what a great leader! The labor movement and New York has lost a man who fought for equality for himself and all transportation workers in the US and Canada. RIP I know you will be watching over us and the ATU. Job well done... Thank you Joe!

February 16, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ To the Welch family,I had the pleasure working with Joe during his tenure as president of the labor council.He was a guardian of workers rights for all the people in the labor movement,and will be truly missed.My sympathy and prayers to your all.Sincerely, Dan Bova past president and business manager local 43 IBEW

February 16, 2014 at 12:00 AM



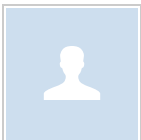
“ Our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Mr Welch. May he rest in peace.. Sincerely, Sharon and Brian.

February 16, 2014 at 12:00 AM



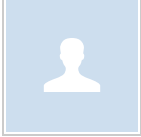
“ Dear Family of our Uncle Joe, We can barely find the words to express our sympathy to you all. Uncle Joe has been so much a part of all our lives and his loss will be felt far and wide and by so many. While our hearts ache at the thought of your pain and from our own, we also rejoice in the fact that we are blessed with so many happy memories. We can only hope those memories are enough to sustain us in the days and weeks to come. We love you all and we will be here for whatever you need in the days ahead, as we have been in the days gone by. Our sincere sympathies, Tommy & Brenda Dann

February 15, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ You are so loved and will be missed dearly Uncle Joe. I remember hearing you tell stories at the family gatherings. You could always make me smile just by looking at u. Love you Uncle Joe.

February 15, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ To the Family and Friends of Joseph Patrick Welch: I join in extending sincere heartfelt sympathy to you and your family during this most difficult time. May happier memories help to sustain you and bring you comfort through this period of sorrow. I had the honor and privilege of knowing Joe for over 30 years. He was ALWAYS a kind and gentle soul, who fought passionately for those he represented, both his ATU members and the labor movement as a whole. His honesty and integrity were never questioned, and his calm demeanor paved the way for numerous resolutions. I will miss his ever present smile and the consolation of knowing that once you were a friend of Joe's, you had a friend and supporter for life. He was the best of the best. RIP

February 15, 2014 at 12:00 AM