



## Joel Cortina Sr

March 4, 1942 - September 3, 2017

Joel L. Cortina, Sr., 75, of Crown Point, Indiana entered eternal life on Sunday, September 3, 2017 at 1:10 a.m. in the VNA Hospice Homecare, Chicagoland Christian Village, Crown Point, Indiana.

He was born as an only child to the late Victoria L. and Servando G. Cortina on March 4, 1942 in Weslaco, Texas. The family moved to Alsip, Illinois in 1954 and Joel attended school in Blue Island, Illinois. He was employed for 42 years in the railroad industry. Joel and Virginia were married July, 27, 1963 in Harvey, Illinois. He was a 30 year resident of Richton Park, Illinois and a member of Saint Lawrence O'Toole in Matteson, Illinois. In 2001, he moved to Crown Point, Indiana, Lake of the Four Seasons, and was a member of Holy Spirit Church.

Joel was a talented illustrator and a very creative individual. His skills as an awesome handyman, gardener and cook in the kitchen kept him busy. Action packed movies were his favorite genre, and with his child-like nature he was a great friend to many.

He is survived by his loving wife of 54 years, Virginia L. (nee Swick) Cortina; his children: Joel Cortina, Jr. of Scottsboro, Alabama, Victoria Ann (Terry) Jankowski of Valparaiso, Anthony Alan Cortina of Crown Point and Cynthia Lorraine (Larry) Bean of Crown Point. He was a loving grandfather to 12

grandchildren and 8 great grandchildren. He is fondly remembered by many aunts, uncles and cousins who reside in Chicago and Texas.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be sent to the Alzheimer's Association at <http://www.alz.org/>

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, September 16, 2017 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Memory Lane Funeral Home, 6305 W. Lincoln Highway (US 30), Crown Point, Indiana. You may leave a condolence and order flowers on the website: [www.memorylanepark.com](http://www.memorylanepark.com) Please call the funeral home office for further details (219) 322-2050.

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

SEP **16.** 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (CT)

Memory Lane Funeral Home  
6305 W. Lincoln Highway  
Crown Point, IN 46307  
(219) 322-2050  
info.memorylanepark@gmail.com  
<https://memorylanepark.com/>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Joel Cortina Sr.*



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September 16, 2017 at 08:55 AM



“ *I only have vivid memories of Uncle Joe from when I was young. He was always smiling. He asked questions about football and got very excited when I told him how hard I hit someone, or what it was like to score a TD. He was like my Dad in so many ways. I am sad that I did not ask him questions about his life, his upbringing, or his story. That is a loss that can never be regained. His smile was infectious. I always felt comfortable with him. I am sorry I did not make a better effort to see him. I know he is with my Dad, Dorothy, and Gina right now. Aunt D is saying something loud and obnoxious, Dad is trying to reign her in, Joe is laughing (with the greatest laugh and smile ever), and Gina is rolling her eyes. I miss them all. I love them all. One day we will all be together again. That is the light at the end of the tunnel.*

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**Gary Swick** - September 15, 2017 at 10:13 PM



*Fond memories and spending summers in Alsip...we had fun helping out at the florist shop owned by his parents..I was around 9 and he was a teenager.He had the sweetest disposition and a beautiful smile.  
RIP cousin Joel.  
Will always be in my heart 💕*

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**Sylvia Roman-Cunningham** - September 16, 2017 at 08:49 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of Joel Cortina Sr.



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September 15, 2017 at 10:01 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet* was purchased for the family of Joel Cortina Sr.



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September 15, 2017 at 12:46 PM

EL

“ I remember going to school together in South Texas and playing baseball on the school playground. All the kids wanted Joel on their team because he could always hit homeruns. On weekends, we would go to the Rialto theater and see a double feature, a serial episode and a cartoon, twice. At that time, our allowance was fifty cents, so with that money, we would pay our admission, buy an ice cream, a coke and a bag of pop corn.

At night, we would be picked up and would ride the bus to the rural area where we lived and, after being dropped off, we walked at least three miles to our house in total darkness. All along, we helped carry the groceries that would last us a week. This was before Servando had his first car. To make things interesting, Servando would tell us ghost stories so we couldn't wait to get home.

At other times we have target practice with Joel's BB gun or we would shoot lizards. We never came across any snakes but I'm sure there were some around. Those were great days before Joel and his family moved to Chicago. Once he moved to Chicago, he felt embarrassed to say I was his uncle because we were the same age, so told his friends I was his cousin.

*I miss those days and I will always miss Joel. Rest In Peace Joel!*

*Ed Loera*

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**Ed Loera** - September 14, 2017 at 02:06 PM



Uncle Eddie, I can listen for hours about these stories you have shared with us. It seems your description of my father's antics haven't changed much as the father I knew. Although my dad really didn't follow sports, I have many memories of my dad pitching a ball to me in our back yard and riding bikes. He was always a kid at heart! We were always watching sci-fi, action movies galore. I have always treasured our time together. Rest In Peace Dad! Love You Eternally!.

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**Victoria Jankowski** - September 15, 2017 at 11:11 AM



Candy Cortina

*I loved hearing about grandpa being a kid!!! I never heard to many kid stories of him probably because we would always be playing PlayStation or drawing or something! Haha oh man, my grandpa you truly was a good man, good heart, good spirit! Saying goodbye tomorrow is gonna be one sad sad sadd day. Love u grandpa!!!!*

**Candy Cortina** - September 15, 2017 at 12:28 PM



“ *Uncle Joe was a great uncle the uncle I had the most interaction with throughout my life he always made you feel welcomed around him I remember his talent of painting marvel characters and Disney characters on his kids walls free style I remember uncle Joe loving my chicken wings and could not eat enough of them he asked if he could take some home of course I said yes hexwasalways nice to my husbands and companions and was very loving to my children and myself I'm so glad in 2015 I got to visit with him at the nursing home and he remembered me !love you uncle Joe you will be missed thankful for the great memories I get to keep close to my heart* 🍷🍷🍷

**Deanne Pinkul** - September 07, 2017 at 07:02 PM



*Such loving memories Dee Dee, thank you for sharing them.*

**Victoria Jankowski** - September 07, 2017 at 07:15 PM



Charles Howell

*He always had a smile whenever I saw him very nice guy.I always thought it was cool he played video games for someone his age.Rest in peace uncle joe.*

**Charles Howell** - September 07, 2017 at 10:08 PM

LM

“ Larry & Mary lit a candle in memory of Joel Cortina Sr



Larry & Mary - September 07, 2017 at 04:20 PM



“ I remember buying my grandpa a little ceramic cactus with flowers on it a long while back. He kept it by his side for years and now it is mine again... filled with memories. I remember walking with him, everywhere. He loved to walk with me. He loved to draw with me, he loved when we made breakfast together.... my grandpa is my everything. And I've had such a good time with him throughout my short life time. We would work on costumes together and he'd always have something to do with me. I always will love him. ❤️



Em Bean - September 07, 2017 at 03:46 PM

MW

“ Mike Wolowina lit a candle in memory of Joel Cortina Sr



Mike Wolowina - September 07, 2017 at 10:39 AM

MW

When I met him he was always laughing, in good humor, that's how I remember him.

Mike Wolowina - September 07, 2017 at 10:41 AM



*That's my dad in a nutshell Mike.*

**Victoria Jankowski** - September 07, 2017 at 09:34 PM

TE

“ *Joe would take Ginny to church on Saturday and get home and call us every time and say What you guys doing?*

**Terry** - September 07, 2017 at 10:13 AM



“ *I remember riding bikes with grandpa when I was little. I wasn't paying attention one time and ran into him knocking both of us off our bikes!!! I can still remember his voice with that little grunt he always did "Ahhhhh,Jeremy,what the hell!?"*

**Jeremy Cortina** - September 06, 2017 at 11:21 PM



*Awe!!!!*

**Candy Cortina** - September 06, 2017 at 11:48 PM



*Lol!*

**Gini Perzigian** - September 11, 2017 at 09:23 PM



“ *My grandpa loved video games and would always call me Lara Croft haha he was also so proud of his yard and always made sure it was picture perfect. It was always so pretty. I miss him to much already.*

**Candy Cortina** - September 06, 2017 at 11:07 PM

VJ

“ *One of many wonderful memories was when dad took me to see Journey in 1982! Had a blast and I believe he did too. Many laughs and excitement that night.*

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**Victoria Jankowski** - September 06, 2017 at 10:16 PM