



## Joe Bystrom

July 4, 2011

Joe Bystrom, age 61, died in the loving arms of his family on July 4th. He left behind to cherish his memory; wife, Julie; father, John Bystrom; brother, Wayne Bystrom and wife, Patti; his two children, Jennifer Holland and husband, Ron. Justin Bystrom and wife, Colleen; his 5 grandchildren, Cameron and Morgan Holland. Peighton, Haleigh and Hannah Bystrom who will miss him dearly.

Joe was a teacher with Portsmouth schools, retired after 33 yrs. He owned a gymnastics school and has been coaching for 40 yrs.

A celebration of Joe's life will be held at Believer's Church 4500 Peak Trail Chesapeake, VA 23321 at 6 p.m. Friday The family will receive friends in Loving Funeral Home Thursday from 4-6:30 p.m.

# Tribute Wall



“ Coach Joe Bystrom was an amazing gymnastics coach. I had been with him for about two and a half years. He was the one that got me to do my first double-backhandspring and my first back tuck. He also got me started on getting my kip for the low bar. He was a great person, I thought of him as a grandfather. I will miss him dearly but I know now he is in a better place. ##imported-begin##Christine Pinell##imported-end##

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March 06, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ Mr. Bystrom was my art teacher in middle school from 01 to 03. He was also my mothers art teacher and my step fathers teacher back in the 80s. I am very sad to hear of his passing. He was an amazing man, and could always put a smile on your face. The Portsmouth community will miss him dearly. So incredibly sorry for the Bystrom's family loss. Prayers are with you and God Bless. ##imported-begin##courtney##imported-end##

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August 11, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ We remember when we first signed Abbie up for Summer gymnastics camp at TCC in 2001; there was no question Abbie would join Joe's gymnastics team in Fall. Joe used to call Abbie "Abbie Dabby" and would always reward her efforts afer practice, he had a big bag of candy and the kids would get to choose their favorite after practice, Abbie loved it. Joe was always supportive and attended the local gymnastics events where all his past gymnast and their parents would get to visit with him and remember the times when he was their couch. Joe has a special place in our hearts. Our deepest sympathy. Greg, Judy, & Abbie###imported-begin##Greg, Judy & Abbie Tucker###imported-end##

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July 08, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ THINKING OF YOU AND YOUR FAMILY###imported-begin##REGINA WILLIFORD###imported-end##

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July 08, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Mr. Bystrom was my favorite teacher during my years in Hunt-Mapp Middle school 1994-96. He was an excellent teacher and I thought of him often. He was a great supporter of my softball team as well and would visit my games often. I am so sorry for your lost. Please know his family is in my prayers during this time.

Christina###imported-begin##Christina###imported-end##

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July 07, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ I had the pleasure & the honor of working with Joe at Woodrow Wilson High School for six years 1979-1985. I still recall lots of great times with him to this very day - Just a fun, wonderful, caring teacher & a good friend to see each day at school or after school at one of our social gatherings! Sounds like he stayed true to his course throughout his life and remained a great guy from start to finish - He will be missed; & remembered fondly forever!##imported-begin##Sean Hickey##imported-end##

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July 07, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Julie and family, My thoughts and prayers go out for each of you. I wish I could take the pain from you but it is a road you will have to travel with your family. Joe will always be with you so open your heart and remember all the wonderful memories you had together. Once your life begins to calm down if you need to talk I am a phone call away. God Bless you in these difficult times.##imported-begin##Linda Taylor##imported-end##

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July 07, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Julie and Family,  
My family wishes to send deep condolences for your loss. Joe was a great guy...Love and prayers to you...##imported-begin##Carolyn LaLiberte##imported-end##

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July 07, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ I am so sorry for your loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with your family.

*Coach Joe taught my daughter Emily Pearce at World Class Gymnastics and it was always a pleasure to see him work with the kids. They all loved him so much.*

*He will be missed by many.##imported-begin##Kim Bergman##imported-end##*

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July 07, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ When someone you love becomes a memory, the memory becomes a treasure.

*You are in my thoughts and prayers.##imported-begin##Joyce Barker##imported-end##*

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July 07, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Julie,

*Christy and I are sad at Joe's passing. He was a good man and well loved. I know Peighton enjoyed the gymnastics in the past. We both want to express our condolences for the loss of your partner in life. May the love of your children and grandchildren be enough to fill the void.*

*Love and God Bless,*

*Jeremy and Christy*

*Jennifer,*

*We are so sorry for your loss. Christy lost her Mom and I lost my Dad; both after battles with cancers. May you find solace in your the embraces of your family.*

*Love and God Bless,*

*Jeremy and Christy*

*Justin,*

*We both want to express our sorrow in the loss of your Dad. Hope this loss will draw you closer to all your loved ones.*

*With sadness,*

*Jeremy and Christy###imported-begin##Jeremy & Christy Moser###imported-end##*

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July 07, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ We are so sorry, Know he will always be with you.##imported-begin##Harriet Roche##imported-end##

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July 06, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Our daughter, Savannah was fortunate to have Coach Joe as her first gymnastics coach! He was amazing with the kids and you could see how much he enjoyed what he did! He gave our daughter the love she has for gymnastics!

*I also worked with him when he was employed by PPS! It was a pleasure to be in his classroom.*

*What a wonderful person! He will be missed by many. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Coach Joe's family!##imported-begin##Lisa Lovette##imported-end##*

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July 06, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Coach Joe was our daughters gymnastics coach and what an impact he made on her from the start! He had such an amazing way with the kids and will never be forgotten. His smile lit up the gym and the kids! He knew how to get the best out of each and every one of them and they loved him for it!

*Please know that our thoughts and prayers are with you. You were so fortunate to call such an amazing man your husband, father, brother, and grandfather. What a legacy he left. Hold on to the good times and be at peace that he is no longer in pain. He did so much for so many people in his life that will never be forgotten!##imported-begin##Tammy LaValley##imported-end##*

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July 06, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Our thoughts and prayers are with the family during this time.##imported-begin##Ronquillo family##imported-end##

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July 06, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Julie, So sorry to hear about Joe. If there is anything I can do, please let me know. formerly worked w/you at CENIT Bank##imported-begin##Sue Price##imported-end##

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July 06, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Joe and I worked together in the art department for a number of years before he retired. Because I move around the city visiting art classes, I frequently heard students say that Mr. Bystrom was their favorite art teacher or the best art teacher they had ever had. Joe was a true teacher and will be missed by scores of young people who benefited from his skill and support. I teased Joe about his love of scrounging for a cast off treasures and marveled at how hard Joe work. He always spoke so loving of your family. I am sorry for your loss.

Sincerely,

Diana Davenport##imported-begin##diana davenport##imported-end##

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July 06, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *Mr. Bystrom was my art teacher at Hunt Mapp Middle School in 2002. . . I know that he touched my life and inspired me to do great things. He's the best art teacher that I have ever had and was always there to listen if we needed him. I remember we used to pick on him for his bald head : he would then jokingly tell us it was because of us that he went bald. I know he touched many lives and he will be greatly missed. ##imported-begin##Lynette Bowen##imported-end##*

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July 06, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *Mr. Bystrom was an amazing teacher. I have always been an artist and he helped guide me when I went to Hunt Mapp Middle. He was not only an amazing teacher but an amazing individual. He touched everyone's heart and was loved by many. It broke my heart to hear the news. My thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends. He will be greatly missed. ##imported-begin##Jessica Reitz##imported-end##*

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July 06, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *Joe...you will be missed by many!*

*Julie: May God Hold You in his arms & give you peace & strength and comfort during such a difficult time!*

*Joe's Family: Hugs, thoughts & prayers for you all!##imported-begin##Debi Williford##imported-end##*

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July 06, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ We can't believe that we have to say goodbye. We don't want to. Joe was amazing with his ability to love others and inspire children to do things they had no idea they could accomplish. As soon as we met him, we knew he was special and as evidenced by the many tributes on his Caring Bridge page, we see that he has a long history of being a special person who touched many, many lives.

What a terrible loss to his family, us--his friends, and the community. What a wonderful gain for God and heaven.

Julie, Justin, Jennifer, and the rest of his family, may you find peace in knowing that Joe is pain-free and that he left an incredible legacy as a genuine role model. He is loved and missed by many and we could all only hope to be as big of a man as he was.

Hugs and prayers.##imported-begin##Marv, Shellie, Parker, and Jack Carlin##imported-end##

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July 05, 2011 at 12:00 AM