



Joseph J. "Joey" Saleeby Jr.

May 1, 1955 - May 19, 2026

Joseph J. Saleeby, Jr.

Joseph J. "Joey" Saleeby, Jr. died peacefully on May 19, 2026. He was 71 years old.

Joseph Joel Saleeby, Jr. was a baptized member of All Saints Anglican Church, where he accepted the eternal gift of salvation.

Funeral services will be held Thursday, May 21, 2026, at 1 PM at All Saints Anglican Church in Florence. Burial will follow at Grove Hill Cemetery in Darlington. Immediately following the graveside service there will be a reception at Joe's Grill. The family will receive friends Wednesday May 20, 2026, from 5 PM until 7 PM at the funeral home.

Joey was born and raised in Darlington. He was the son of the late Joseph J. and Ruth Isgett Saleeby. His family owned the famous Joe's Grill (Established in 1952) and he was the second-generation proprietor. Joey and his mom, Ruth, (known to her close friends as "Dynamite") operated the grill together until her death in 2003, when he became the sole owner and the last Saleeby to manage this landmark. Upon his retirement in 2015 he sought out a new owner who he felt could continue the legacy. He found that person in Olivia Ridgill. Although he sold the grill, he ate there at least once a week to give the

new owners his total support. Olivia continued the Pizza Burger tradition at Joe's that was started by Joey's dad. The pizza burger is so good "Santa eats one every year on Christmas Eve before he heads out. Darlington children have come by Joe's every Christmas for years to see him off" according to many of the longtime patrons.

Joey graduated from St. John's High School in the class of 1973. He has maintained lifelong friendships from that class ever since. He attended and graduated from Francis Marion College. He received his degree in business administration. He was a loyal alum and was a staunch Blue Devil and Patriot until his final day.

Joey loved Darlington. He was involved in many civic affairs to include the Jaycees, the Yam Jam, The Miss Southern 500, DDRA, Darlington County Tax Appropriation Committee, and the Darlington County Elections, to name only a few. Many decisions were made about many community topics at the grill. Joey was the chairman of the board. Darlington is better because of him.

His hobbies were vast. He loved racing and maintained a "statistics" sheet for every race. He was a Darrell Waltrip fan through and through and would not, under any circumstances, go against him, unless he finished 14th. Nothing good came from Nevada Teen. He enjoyed fishing. He liked ponds and he liked the pier at Surfside. (It was close to Crabby Mikes). This was something he and Miss Ruth did together all her life. He was a Champion Putt-Putt player having begun his amateur golf career at the course in front of the airport Mrs. Purvis owned. This talent led him all over the Pee Dee competing in some tournaments as far away as the beach. He was a T-Shirt extraordinaire. Joe's Grill and the Blue Devils were his favorite t-shirt artwork, but he had many other topics over the years. He was the official town photographer, and his celluloid collection was entered into the archives of the grill. You knew you had arrived when your picture made the wall! He loved chicken and dumplings,

and the only honest sport left was professional wrestling.

Joey was a patient man. If he wanted something he was willing to wait. Eleven years ago, he married his high school sweetheart, and Marie Segars became Mrs. Saleeby. A lot of people would say he lived sixty years for the last ten. There's a lot of truth in that. Marie made him the happiest man on earth.

When Joey married Marie, he received a family that he absolutely adored. Her children, Josh Segars and his wife Helen and Erin Faile and her husband Cameron, became his. Joey's grandchildren called him J.J., and he became the best granddaddy you could ever ask for. He never missed a dance recital or ball game. Lilly, Kayden, Reese, Anna-Coleman (Bink), and Journey were "the apple of his eye". Joey also had two cousins on his mother's side, Terri Isgett McElveen and Robbie Isgett that he remained close to all his life.

"Joey was a friend to all and a Darlington tradition" said his lifelong friend, Robert Garland. "True friends, a person that's always there when you need them, is hard to find. Joey was mine" added his friend since childhood, Cecil Chandler. Jimmy White said, "Joey spent his life doing good for his town and his friends".

Cathy, Virginia, Maggie, and Modestine were all part of his Joe's grill family, along with his most loyal customer of all time, Johnny Bryant.

"There ain't no place like home" were Joey's words.

Joey is home.

If you care to send a memorial in his memory we recommend: All Saints Anglican Church, building fund;1425 Cherokee Road, Florence, SC 29505 or

DDRA: 400 Pearl Street, Darlington, SC 29501

Tribute Wall

SS

“ *In loving memory of a wonderful fella that meant so much to so many. May he forever rest in the presence of the Angels. My thoughts and prayers are with everyone that loved him. Joey sure will be missed and always remembered fondly.*



Suzette Shelley - Yesterday at 08:29 PM

SG

“ *Sorry to hear of Joey's passing. Prayers for his family and friends.* 🙏



Sonya Garris Gandy - Yesterday at 07:24 PM

BB

“ *There will never be another “Joey”!!
He was very very special.
He loved us and we loved him.
Will always miss you!
Chesley & Barbara Truluck Benjamin*

Barbara Truluck Benjamin - Yesterday at 07:14 PM

RM

“ *Very sorry for your loss he was a good man I eat there every week*

Richard murff - Yesterday at 07:07 PM

HO

“ *Harriet Mentges, Sean & Stacey O’Neal purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Joseph J. "Joey" Saleeby Jr..*



Harriet Mentges, Sean & Stacey O’Neal - Yesterday at 07:05 PM

JF

“ *To Marie and family, Joey was such a good man. When I moved to Darlington because my sister Pat lived there, Joey was one of the first people I met. Ate at Joe’s grill often with Jeff Chandler and Pat. I did not have much when I arrived in Darlington. We were opening gifts at Pats home and he give me Santa Claus Train, small wooden one, with one car attached. I still have it and use it every Christmas. That was the kind of person he was. After his Mom passed he would coming fishing at the lake behind my home, caught a 13 1/2 lb big mouth bass. Boy he was a happy person. Ate Sunday meals with family at my home also. Marie, he loved you with all his heart and soul. He will be waiting to welcome you to his new home one day. What a wonderful reunion that will be. Love you Joey.*



Jean Funderburk - Yesterday at 06:19 PM

SB

“ *Susan Booker lit a candle in memory of Joseph J. "Joey" Saleeby Jr.*



Susan Booker - Yesterday at 05:33 PM

TF

“ The Shaw Dargan Family purchased the Divine Light for the family of Joseph J. "Joey" Saleeby Jr..



The Shaw Dargan Family - Yesterday at 04:24 PM

TF

“ The Shaw Dargan Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Joseph J. "Joey" Saleeby Jr..

The Shaw Dargan Family - Yesterday at 04:24 PM

JW

“ Joey has been my friend since we were babies. He was always a gentle soul who never passed-up an opportunity to be kind and share a smile if not a laugh. To be invited to fish with Joey and Mrs Ruth was an honor to me. And I miss all the rounds of golf at Tifton. Joey's life was one well lived. I miss you my friend. See you later.



Johnny Willis - Yesterday at 04:15 PM

LA

Many days at SJH Elementary , Brunson Dargan, SJH high I could say were spent with Joeys special energy and friendship. He is the true Darlingtonian that loved his home town and people by example , as his dad and mom did ...

Ladson(Larry)Fraser - Yesterday at 08:33 PM

FD

“ Franklin Dudley lit a candle in memory of Joseph J. "Joey" Saleeby Jr.



Franklin Dudley - Yesterday at 04:07 PM

IT

“ Joey and I shared a love For NASCAR and anchovies, but most importantly we shared the Gospel..., Joey and Marie were Darlington's grandest romance...

Ingram Truluck - Yesterday at 03:55 PM

EH

“ Knowing his is home with Jesus gives us great peace. Sending lots of love hugs and prayers to Marie and the family

Elaine Hubbard - Yesterday at 03:24 PM

GO

“ I met Joseph a few years back when he was selling st johns T shirts and I stopped by and got one from him. Very friendly gentleman indeed and a joy to speak with. I know that he will be missed by all of his classmates and customers. In His Care, Grady O'Neal, class of 1985



GL O'Neal - Yesterday at 02:36 PM