



Joe Canup

November 20, 1967 - February 27, 2026

Joe Nathan Canup, 58; artist, photographer, bartender, gardener; of LaPorte, Indiana, formerly of Chicago's Edgewater neighborhood; passed away due to complications of a sudden recurrence of metastatic esophageal cancer.

Born in Aurora, IL, Joe graduated from Oswego High School in 1985 and took college classes. In 2001 he moved to Chicago and worked as a bartender at Touché from 2009-17. He was the invaluable Gallery Assistant at The Leigh Gallery (2005-2019). In 2003, he met the man he would later marry. In 2023, the couple bought a fixer-upper home in LaPorte, IN; an ongoing labor of love project. Recently, Joe worked in facilities management at Brentwood of LaPorte Senior Living.

He was an outstanding artist and photographer who loved robots. Avid gardeners, Joe and his husband Stephen won LaPorte's 2025 Green Thumb award. Joe was the best husband ever, who had the greatest sense of humor and could make anybody laugh in the toughest of situations.

Beloved husband of thirteen years to Stephen Farrell, loving son-in-law of Debra Farrell, dear brother of Mary Canup Smotzer and Daniel Canup, and cousin Kimberly Hall, who was like a sister. He was a dear uncle of several and the devoted father of Miss Kitty. He is also survived by his best friend Jean (Denise Lesiak) Leigh and many, many other friends who loved him

dearly.

The family is deeply grateful to David Williams and other staff at Brentwood of LaPorte Senior Living who are planting a rose garden and dedicating a plaque in Joe's memory.

Services will be announced. Please check back to this website for information.

Arrangements by Inclusive Funeral Care, 773-318-1305 to www.InclusiveFuneralCare.com.

Tribute Wall

JA

“ So thankful for the privilege of knowing Joe. I will remember his sense of humor and how he enjoyed playing jokes on unsuspecting victims! He was a joy to be around and cared very much about all the people in his life. I will miss him very much.

Janet - March 05 at 09:13 PM