



Joseph Plauché

June 10, 1943 - April 18, 2026

Joseph Byron Plauché, Jr., known to many as "Joe" or "Joey", and to his grandchildren as "Grandpère", passed away on April 18, 2026, at the age of 82 in his Evanston home.

Born in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, to Joseph Byron Plauché, Sr., a banker, and Mildred Alice (Bordelon) Plauché, a teacher, Joe developed an early respect for numbers and knowledge that would shape the rest of his life. He graduated from Cathedral High School (Lafayette, Louisiana) and went on to earn a Bachelor of Arts in Economics from Louisiana State University in 1965. Both deepened his interests in how the world works—from philosophy and physics to literature and the markets.

In 1966, Joe moved to Chicago and began a job at the First National Bank of Chicago, where he met and worked side by side with Mary Macellaio, the first woman hired in the bond department. Sharing a love of music, sports, and good jokes, Joe and Mary both had the good sense to recognize a remarkable person when they met one. They married soon after and spent nearly 60 years together, building a partnership defined by good humor and steadfast devotion.

Joe worked as a financial manager and trader in the bond, futures, and currency markets, with roles at First National Bank of Chicago, ACLI, and

Nuveen. He approached his career the same way he approached most things: seriously, thoughtfully, and with deep curiosity. He was an analyst not just by profession but also by temperament—always asking questions, always studying, and always reading. Books were Joe's constant companion, and he maintained a lifelong interest in French language and literature, as well, combining his intellect with his passion to connect with his family roots.

Joe was conscientious, intellectual, and, at times, unmistakably stubborn—a quality that served him well in markets, debates, and book club discussions. Those who knew him best understood that his persistence was simply another expression of how deeply he cared and how firmly he held to his principles.

Known as a keen listener and engaging conversationalist, Joe also had a great sense of humor that surfaced at just the right moments. In fact, he once placed second in the Jambalaya Jamboree Comedian competition—a credential he did not bring up often, but one the family feels deserves official recognition.

Joe also liked to think of himself as a sailor, though he spent less time on the open water than he might have liked. This interest, like his love of books, reflected a quiet appreciation for adventure and possibility.

Above all, he was a caring and loving husband, father, and grandfather, a mentor and friend to many, and someone who believed deeply in the value of the arts and sciences, both of which he supported generously.

Joe is survived by his beloved wife, Mary Macellaio Plauché; his children, Stephen T. (Ningsih) Plauché and Mimi Plauché; and his grandchildren, Marcus, Audrey, and Erica Plauché, who will always remember their Grandpère and the deep interest he took in their lives. He is also survived by his siblings, Adrienne Aronstein and Stephen A. (Pattie) Plauché, and

siblings-in-law James (Cathy) Macellaio, Eleanor “Tuni” Sheils, Rita Macellaio, and Linda Miller Macellaio, as well as his many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his brothers-in-law, Jay Aronstein, Gerald Macellaio, Joseph Macellaio, and Thomas Sheils.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations in Joe’s memory to ALS United, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, or the Chicago International Film Festival—three organizations that reflect his commitment to and support of science, music, and the arts.

Joe lived a life of quiet dedication and steady love. He will be missed, remembered, and—by those who knew him best—occasionally quoted.

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

Tribute Wall

FO

“ *My deepest sympathy to Mary, Stephen, Mimi, and the entire Plauche Family*

Joe was my mentor and guiding light throughout much of my professional career. I began working for Joe in 1981 at ACLI trading Government Bonds. He gave a young 25-year-old with similar education background in economics and liberal arts an opportunity. To be able to build and have a career that most could only dream of. Joe nurtured and taught me how to deal with market volatility and trading pressure. But he also taught me how to think better and deal with life. His great quest for understanding and desire to continue learning will always be an inspiration.

*Thank you Joe
Frank Oddo*

Frank Oddo - May 06 at 09:06 PM

“ I first met Joe at a conference held at the Chicago Athletic Association on South Michigan Avenue in the summer of 1992. The conference’s topic attracted individuals from Chicago’s investment community. Long story short, seven of us in attendance that day agreed to form a study group. We met regularly for the next 3 years to discuss our readings in Austrian economics.

I was raised in downstate Illinois and attended state universities; the classic small-town boy making his way in the big city. Joe was 14 years older and served as my much-needed mentor. He invited me to join him for luncheon speakers, CSO concerts, and foreign films. When he “retired” in the summer 2001 he invited me to join a book club he was forming.

We met at my office on the corner of Madison and Clark every month for the next 10 years. After my firm changed ownership, Joe hosted the club at his Evanston home on a quarterly basis. The book club met on Sunday afternoons for another 14 years, with Joe graciously serving lunch.

Joe designed a democratic system for selecting which books we read, with each of us taking a turn in leading the discussion. Joe was the captain, but he led by example not by force. We followed him because he had the compass, a firm hand on the tiller, and we trusted that he was taking us where we wanted to go.

*We started every meeting by going around the room, with each member giving his overall impression of the book, along with any prior experience they had had with the author. During our session on *The Republic*, Joe waxed nostalgically about the 1970’s television show, *Rowan & Martin’s Laugh-In*, which of course we were all familiar with. One of *Laugh-In*’s regular bits began with “I could have...” followed by something absurd like “...had a V8”, then smacking their forehead. But Joe said, “I could have...” smacks his forehead, “...been reading *Plato*”. Perhaps you had to be there, but he cracked us all up.*

Our level of culture, both as individuals and collectively, depends on what we do for enjoyment when we're not working or doing the dozen other mundane tasks that fill our days. While my peers were distracted by sports, politics, or religious routines, our group focused on literature, philosophy, and the creative arts.

Less than two weeks before he passed Joe sent me an article that featured exactly what I needed for a project I was working on. He probably wasn't feeling too energetic that day but he reached out to me with something he somehow divined I was in need of. That's just one example of the generous spirit of the Joe I knew and loved.

*Joe was also generous with his personal disclosures to our group. For instance, he once told us how, in some ways, the father in Dostoevsky's *Brothers Karamazov* reminded him of his own father. Anyone familiar with the novel will have no trouble knowing which of the sons reminded us of Joe.*

Joe surely enjoyed the connections and conviviality we shared through the book club. But its value extended beyond bringing together a group of lonely readers. As William Gass said, "Art is a proven human glory, and literature shares with all great art the potential to expand our awareness." And I would add, to activate our latent potentials.

In closing, my experience of living and working in Chicago would have been much impoverished had I not known Joe. To have the respect of those whom you respect is a worthy reward. Joe gave me that gift.

I will always be grateful for the time I had with him. He will be sorely missed.

David Hershey - May 05 at 06:13 PM

LH

“ Dear Mary, my sincere condolences to you and your family for your very sad loss. I have many happy memories of Evanston Associate Movie & Dinner nights with great conversations with Joe, and recognize the use of the word stubborn in his beautiful obituary. May you feel some consolation in the well wishes and love of others, knowing that we grieve with you. Love, Laurie Howick

Laurie Howick - April 28 at 08:24 PM

KH

“ Mimi, we were so sorry to hear about your Dad. We are sending you and your family much love from DCVB.

Katherine Harrison - April 22 at 07:47 PM

SS

“ Joe was in my life as long as I can remember. He was such a positive presence in my life, and never failed to ask me the most interesting questions. He encouraged me to question the things in my life and dare to challenge myself. The last time I saw him was Christmas Eve. He wanted to know the intricacies of my job and asked questions my family never did. They even learned more about me because of Joe. I'm so grateful I grew up with such an inquisitive and intelligent man to learn from. Thank you for everything, Joe.

Sharon Seabury - April 21 at 04:56 PM

CS

“ Joe had a rare gift, he made you feel like what was happening in your life genuinely mattered to him. Every time we spoke, he asked real questions and actually listened to the answers. His curiosity and warmth were something special. I'm so glad I got to see him one last time on Christmas Eve. Rest easy, Joe. You will be missed.

Chris Seabury - April 21 at 04:53 PM