



Joseph Michael Deffner

April 26, 1968 - November 7, 2017

Joe Deffner, 49, a resident of The Woodlands, Texas, was tragically taken from us on Tuesday, November 7th as a result of an automobile accident. He was a man full of fun and life, a sharp quick wit and a beautiful mind. A devoted and loving husband and father, Joe will be deeply missed by family and friends.

Joseph Michael Deffner was born in New Orleans and raised in Metairie, Louisiana. Joe graduated with high honors from: Jesuit High School in New Orleans; LSU (B.S. Finance); and The Fuqua School of Business, Duke University (MBA). Joe enjoyed playing the trumpet in the school band at both Jesuit and LSU.

In addition to his sharp intellect, Joe's ability to connect on a personal basis with every person he met served him well in his business career. At the time of his death, Joe was a Managing Director of the Houston office of HPS Investment Partners, where he started in 2013. Previously, Joe was a Director within Citi Global Commodities, Executive Director at UBS, consultant at Amaranth, and a Managing Director in the Global Finance Unit at Enron Corp. Joe was highly respected and regarded as a leader in his field.

Joe's business success garnered him the opportunity to give back to LSU by becoming an invited member of the Dean's Advisory Council for the LSU

Business School. As a member of the Krewe of Babylon, Joe was thrilled to ride in his first Mardi Gras parade this year.

Joe's first experience with The Boy Scouts of America was as a member of Saint Edward the Confessor Church Cub Scout Pack 496 in Metairie Louisiana. Since Joe's three sons all joined Cub Scouts and became Boy Scouts, Joe was an active adult scout for many years. He last served as Scoutmaster for Troop 204. As a result of his time on High Adventure trips with his sons, Joe planned to hike the Appalachian Trail from start to finish.

Joe is survived by his wife, Lisa Bills, and his three sons, Justin (fiancée Erika), Brett, and Jackson Deffner. He is also survived by his parents, Mary and Joseph Deffner; sister, Cheryl Deffner Calkins; niece and nephews, Maia, Liam, and Aidan Calkins; mother-in-law, Donna Bills; and brothers-in-law, John and Eric Bills. He was preceded in death by his grandparents, Hilda and James Nolan, Allen E. Deffner, Sr. and Gertrude Miller. He is also survived by numerous loving aunts, uncles, cousins and other relatives.

You are invited to join us Tuesday, November 14th at St. Simon & Jude Catholic Church, 26777 Glen Loch Drive, The Woodlands, Texas 77380 for a Vigil from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. The prayer service will begin at 7:00 p.m. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Wednesday, November 15th, at St. Simon & Jude. Welcoming will start at 10:00 a.m. with the service at 11:00 a.m.

In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to your favorite charity in Joe's honor.

Tribute Wall

BM

“ *Bill & Leona Malone lit a candle*



Bill & Leona Malone - November 14, 2017 at 12:00 AM

JG

“ *Jaime Gualy lit a candle Please accept my condolences and may the Lord comfort you during this time. I'm fortunate and thankful to call him a friend.*



Jaime Gualy - November 14, 2017 at 12:00 AM

TF

“ *The Floris Family lit a candle A Scout is Trustworthy, Loyal, Helpful, Friendly, Courteous, Kind, Obedient, Cheerful, Thrifty, Brave, Clean, and Reverent. Joe certainly led by example and we are fortunate that Scouting brought him into our lives. He was a remarkable human being, whose kind heart and soft manner left an indelible mark on our family. Our heartfelt condolences to the Deffner and Bills families.*
Luisa, Vinio, Daniel and David Floris



The Floris Family - November 14, 2017 at 12:00 AM

TH

“ *Tricia Carrigee Hales lit a candle RIP Joey my thoughts and prayers are with your family*



Tricia Carrigee Hales - November 13, 2017 at 12:00 AM

YL

“ Ying Liu lit a candle Joe, I am immensely saddened by the loss of you, a good boss and mentor, an ultimate Finance professional, a friend who was always willing and ready to offer help, and most importantly, a person who effected far-reaching impact on my career and personal life. I first met you in 1999 when you interviewed me for the Analyst & Associate program at Enron's Super Saturday event. You were an extremely successful young executive, Managing Director at Enron North America's Finance group. Out of all interviewers, you were outstandingly sharp but nice and I felt I connected especially well with you. When I joined Enron and was assigned by HR to a business group that was soon to be eliminated (later I came to know that HR applied a "reverse order" based on the interview results to give higher-ranked new-hires lower priorities in first rotation assignments), I was desperate for help, and came up with just enough courage to give you a call out of the blue. To my surprise, you invited me to go to your office right away, and just sat there and made several phone calls for me, until you found an ideal rotation for me at ENA's Generation Investments group. After doing a good job in my first rotation, I got the opportunity to work in your group, a highly esteemed business unit at Enron and a hotly sought-after opportunity for MBAs, for my second rotation. I had the pleasure and honor of working with you and being mentored by you for 8 months, always impressed by your intelligence and effectiveness, and most importantly, your kindness, fairness and your meritocracy-based respect for talents. When the Enron bankruptcy happened, as a Chinese citizen without a green card back then, I would have had to leave the United States if I were to lose my job. As the head of the group, you decided to retain me so that I didn't lose my visa status, until I received another job offer. I have always been extremely grateful for you - you had no other reason to favor me but your warm-heartedness, your appreciation for talent and good work ethic, and your willingness to help someone in need. After many years, when I returned to Houston in 2009, I had a catch-up lunch with you and looking back, I am very happy that I told you face-to-




face about the tremendous benefit you had brought to my career and personal life. I clearly remember your smile then - somewhat surprised, bashful and uneasy, and so unassuming as always. That smile will live in my mind for ever. The last time I met you was more than a year ago, when you, Lisa and I had lunch at the Morton's restaurant in downtown. I gave the two of you a flower basket hand-made from beads by my mother. Oh Joe, how I wish we could re-live that relaxed and happy moment, just one more time!

As a person born and raised in the atheist China, I am not even familiar with the Christian vocabulary to pay tribute to you. But I wish you could hear these words in heaven. Your life was as heavy as a mountain to my world, and your leaving has left a big void in my heart that I don't think could ever be filled. Rest in peace Joe, you are and will always be painfully missed! Ying

Ying Liu - November 13, 2017 at 12:00 AM

DV

“ *Dan Vogel lit a candle Joe,
You were a great friend and business partner.
I always enjoyed getting together for lunch or
essential business diligence outings such as
halibut fishing in Alaska. I'm so happy I was
able to spend time with you and Lisa. You will be missed my friend.*



-Dan

Dan Vogel - November 13, 2017 at 12:00 AM

BB

“ *Bob Boswell lit a candle My deepest condolences and sympathies to Joe's family. Joe was a true professional who made many friends throughout his career. I particularly enjoyed working with Joe who was always straight forward, a great problem solver, and whose integrity was beyond reproach. Joe will be missed by many.*



Bob Boswell - November 13, 2017 at 12:00 AM

JP

“ *Jim Piccone lit a candle Joe always lit the room up and made meetings fun. Here is a candle in memory of his wit and joyous personality.*



Jim Piccone - November 13, 2017 at 12:00 AM

JD

“ *Joseph Deffner lit a candle Your birth brought perfect joy into our lives. Your loss has left an emptiness in our hearts that will be with us always. We love you.
Mom & Dad*



Joseph Deffner - November 12, 2017 at 12:00 AM

CC

“ Cheryl Deffner Calkins lit a candle You had a brilliant mind, an adventurous spirit, a generous heart, and a kind soul. I cherish every memory that we have ever shared. You will always be my Joey. I love you and will miss you my dear sweet brother.



Cheryl Deffner Calkins - November 12, 2017 at 12:00 AM

BK

“ Brian Kerrigan lit a candle You were one of my best friends and I will miss you dearly. I cherish all the fun times we had and the times we worked together. I will miss your humor and laugh. Having you in my life made me and everyone you touched a better, happier person.



Brian Kerrigan - November 12, 2017 at 12:00 AM

GC

“ Gina Ferlita Cutrer lit a candle



Gina Ferlita Cutrer - November 11, 2017 at 12:00 AM