



## Joseph E. Birk Jr.

December 18, 1941 - May 6, 2026

Joseph “Buddy” Birk, a lifelong resident and proud advocate of Cairo, passed away at the age of 84 on Wednesday, May 6, 2026, at Albany Medical Center.

He was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, public servant, and friend whose life was centered around family, community, and hometown pride.

Buddy graduated from Cairo Central High School, where he excelled in athletics and earned numerous awards. He later retired as Supervisor of the Greene County Solid Waste Management, where he was respected for his leadership and strong work ethic.

Dedicated to serving his community, Buddy was Town Chairman of Cairo for 24 years and a sitting New York State Community Chairperson for 18 years. He was honored as the 2011 Greene County Republican of the Year for his years of leadership and service.

Buddy enjoyed spending time with his family, taking car rides, and cheering on his beloved New York

Yankees. He will be remembered for his strength, loyalty, quiet dedication, and deep love for his family and community.

He is survived by his beloved wife of 67 years, Gayle Birk; his daughters, Mary Jane (David) Mokszycki and Debra (James) Bogins; his grandchildren, Brandon Ritter, Lauren Ritter, Preston (Keeley) Ritter, Daniel (Mallory) Mokszycki, and Sarah (Michael) Moolick; and eight great-grandchildren. He is also survived by his siblings, Edna Higgins, Wayne Birk, Dorothy Campbell, and Alma Veverka, as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by his parents and sister, Grace Dorpfeld.

Buddy's legacy of love, service, and dedication will be remembered by all who knew and loved him.

In accordance with his wishes, a private memorial service will be held by the family at a future date.

A public celebration of Buddy's life will be at a date and time to be announced. Please check back with to our website for updates

To leave condolences for the family please visit the tribute wall

Arrangements have been entrusted by Joe's family to the Richard's Funeral Home in Cairo

# Cemetery Details

## Acra Cemetery

Roosevelt Avenue  
Acra, NY 12405

# Events

**Details are pending.**

# Tribute Wall

PV

“ With sincere sympathy to the Birk family and others touched by this loss Peggy Veverka Vazquez

peggy veverka vazquez - May 21 at 10:04 AM

MK

“ My deepest sympathy Gayle, to you and all your family..MaryAnn & Charlie Keifer

maryann keifer - May 16 at 01:13 PM

MN

“ Mr Birk as I referred to him most my life. Since I was a young kid in Elementary school I would sleep over the Birks home. I was always treating like family. Mr Birk was the first to introduce me to venison stew. He would take the time at the dinner table to ask how our day went at school? I have many fond memories of Mr and Mrs Birk, and their two daughters.My deepest sympathy to all his family and friends. May you rest in peace Mr Birk ❤️

melody nunez - May 12 at 05:25 PM

SW

“ Joe was a great boss and a good friend I will miss him. Gail u are in our thoughts and prayers  
Steve Wase

steve wase - May 11 at 04:52 PM

CS

“ *My family moved here in December, 1951 when I met Buddy and the Birk family. He and I have both stayed in the same neighborhood since then making us neighbors for 75 years. Buddy always had a smile and a kind word, was willing to help, and in his kindness fed all the animals who came to his door both tame and wild. I'll certainly miss my long- standing neighbor and friend, and may God bless him always.*

*Carole (Biggi) Smith*

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**Carole B Smith** - May 11 at 04:00 PM

MA

“ *May you take comfort in knowing an angel is watching over you, may the love of those around you help you through the days ahead:*  
*Mary & Thomas Murphy*

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**mary** - May 08 at 11:35 AM