



Chatham, IL—Joseph A. Fleming, 78, of Chatham, died at 9:58 a.m. on Friday, January 1, 2021, at Memorial Medical Center.

Joseph was born on September 3, 1942, in Williamsport, PA, the son of Lawrence and Catherine (Sheppard) Fleming. He married Marion Danner on April 14, 1986 in Springfield.

Joseph graduated from DePaul Academy in Chicago and from University of Illinois. He proudly served his country in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War with 101 Airborne Division and 1st Calvary Division while with the 1/30th Artillery, and for a short time, with the South Korean Capital Division. He was ranked as a Sergeant and Army Artillery Officer. Joseph was awarded the National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, and the Air Medal. He was a member of the American Legion and VFW Post 4763 where he was a past Post Commander and All State Commander for District 10. Joseph was a member of Catholic War Vets, and a lifetime member of Vietnam Veterans of America and Vietnow. He was also the Chairman of Sangamon County Veterans Assistance Commission and a Lieutenant on the Park Forest South/ University Park Fire Department.

Joseph worked in the highway construction and asphalt oil industry and retired from Marathon Oil. After retirement, he volunteered at St. John's Hospital and the Abraham Lincoln Museum.

Joseph loved to fish, loved to travel, and enjoyed spending time with his family. Joseph was an avid Chicago sports fan and one of his proudest moments was being honored as a Veteran on the ice at a Chicago Blackhawks game.

He was preceded in death by his parents and brother, Lawrence Fleming II.

Joseph is survived by his wife, Marion; son, Kevin Fleming of Chicago; daughters, Kathryn (Chris) Blom of Petersburg, Megan (Chris) Lutz of Oceanside, CA, and Deborah Murphy of Springfield; grandchildren, Alexandra, Jacob, Alyssa, Bill, Kailey, and Fletcher; great-grandchild, Christopher; brother, Thomas Fleming; and sisters, Mary (Joe) Hutmacher and Patricia Bellgardt.

Funeral Mass: 10:00 a.m. on Friday, January 8, 2021 at St. Joseph the Worker Catholic Church, 700 E. Spruce St., Chatham, IL 62629, with Rev. John Nolan, celebrant. Due to COVID restrictions there will be limited capacity and face coverings will be required. Family and friends may view the Mass via livestream at: <https://client.tribucast.com/tcid/17697852>

Burial will follow at Camp Butler National Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to Chatham VFW Post 4763, 501 W. Mulberry St., Chatham, IL 62629 or Chatham American Legion, P.O. Box 402, Chatham, IL 62629.

The family is being served by Butler Funeral Home – Chatham, 8855 State Route 4, Chatham.