



## Joseph Satterlee Northrop

August 2, 1949 - May 15, 2022

FORMER CHAIRMAN OF PIKE LUMBER COMPANY, HUNTINGTON  
ATTORNEY JOE NORTHROP PASSES AWAY AT 72.

Joseph Satterlee Northrop passed from this life at 6:22 a.m. on Sunday, May 15, 2022 at Parkview Regional Medical Center in Fort Wayne, Indiana, surrounded by his wife and children.

Joe Northrop was born at the military hospital at West Point, New York, to the Rev. Albert Hale and Florence Viola (Satterlee) Northrop on August 2, 1949. Soon thereafter his family moved to England where his father was stationed as a Chaplain and officer in the United States Air Force. For the first few years of his life, Joe's family lived in a 1,000 year old medieval house in the village of Ogbourne St. George, England. His family often had picnics at Stonehenge where Joe and his siblings would climb on the stones.

Joe moved around quite a bit after England due to his father being in the Air Force, living in Illinois, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Georgia, and Maine. He attended Wheelus High School at Wheelus Air Force Base in Tripoli, Libya, North Africa. His family's house was directly across the street from the Mediterranean Sea. He was voted 'Most Academic' of the Class of 1967 and played baseball. Joe and his family were evacuated from the air base and transported to Germany days before his scheduled graduation due to the

1967 Arab-Israeli War and pending invasion.

Joe attended DePauw University where he earned a B.A. in Political Science with an Economics minor in 1971, and he managed the school's baseball team. Most importantly though, it was at DePauw where he met the love of his life, Lynne Utter of Akron, Indiana. Theirs was a whirlwind romance that led to marriage in June of 1970, and a 52 year union that never waned.

Joe attended law school at Indiana University Bloomington where he earned his J.D. in 1974. He attended every home basketball game between 1971 and 1974. Joe was a member of the U.S. Air Force R.O.T.C. in law school, and upon graduation was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Air Force. He was assigned as a Judge Advocate General (JAG), and served on active duty before moving to Huntington and continuing as a commissioned officer in the Air Force Reserve. He served his country honorably for 29 years, retiring in 2002 as a Lt. Colonel. At retirement, he was the Staff Judge Advocate for the 434th Air Refueling Wing at Grissom Air Reserve Base in Peru, Indiana, the head of the JAG Office, and the base commander's lead legal advisor. He completed Air War College, Squadron Officer's School, and Air Command and Staff College. He received the Air Force Commendation Medal twice and the Meritorious Service Medal twice, as well as various other decorations. He spent time each summer stationed at Royal Air Force Base Mildenhall in Mildenhall, England.

Joe and his family moved to Huntington in 1975 when he was hired by the late William "Bill" Mills. Bill was the Huntington County Prosecutor and Joe served as the Chief Deputy Prosecutor from 1975 to 1978, followed by engaging in the private practice of law as Mills and Northrop until 1997. Mills and Northrop hired Chris Goff out of law school in 1997. When Chris became partner, the firm's name became Mills, Northrop, and Goff, LLP, which remained the firm name until 2005 when Bill Mills retired and Chris was appointed judge in

Wabash County, subsequently becoming the 110th Justice of the Indiana Supreme Court (we like to think because of Joe's mentorship), and Joe continued practicing law as The Northrop Law Office, continuing to work every day until illness prevented him from doing so. He was admitted to practice law in Indiana State Courts, both the Northern and Southern Districts of Indiana in Federal Court, and the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals.

Joe was one of the longest serving Directors of Pike Lumber Co., Inc., helping grow Pike into an international company and Indiana's largest manufacturer and distributor of fine hardwood lumber with a global customer base. He spent almost ten years as Chairman of the company and was a member of the Board of Directors at the time of his death. He was proud to say that Pike planted more trees than it cut. It was this love of the forested environment that led him and his wife to start and operate Northrop Farms, investing in and improving farmland and forests across Indiana. Together, Joe and Lynne planted over 40,000 trees by hand over the years.

Joe served on numerous boards, including multiple roles at Trinity United Methodist Church and the Salvation Army Advisory Board, where he could be found ringing the bell at Christmastime. He was a long time member of the Huntington Optimist Club, and the Board Secretary of the Boys and Girls Club of Huntington County. He also served on the Board of Directors of the Walnut Council. He was a life member of the Huntington County Historical Society, the Milford Connecticut Historical Society, the I.U. Alumni Association, the Reserve Officers' Association, the Air Force Association, and the Military Officers' Association of America. Joe quietly donated time and money to many philanthropic causes. Joe and Lynne's names appear on the plaque as named donors of the bronze Northrop, Mote, and Satterlee Family Tiger Sculpture at the entrance to Blackstock Football Stadium at DePauw University.

Joe and Lynne greatly enjoyed traveling, working on their farms, and spending time with family. For many years they took annual trips to England, and each winter they visited their beloved Caribbean island of St. Martin. Joe enjoyed working on his MG cars and was a member of multiple MG car clubs and associations. He was an avid outdoorsman who spent deer season each year with his sons and family friends, and he was an amateur genealogist. He had an unassuming and humble personality, and one hell of a sense of humor. When most people his age retired to warmer climates or kicked their feet up, he continued going to the office every day and spent his weekends working in the fields, planting trees, improving timber stands, and manually clearing brush. His stellar health and intense work ethic made his sudden illness that much more of a surprise. He worked up until the day he was hospitalized. Joe bravely fought a hyper-aggressive illness with his usual steadfast, unshakable manner and never, ever gave up, but God must have needed a legal adviser. Or an expert teller of 'dad jokes'. He had an infectious smile, a wry sense of humor, exuberant charm, and friends everywhere. He had a storybook marriage lasting 52 years that served as inspiration to all who knew him. He taught his children through his deeds and was a true gentleman. He taught his children how to treat others, how to laugh, and how to find humor in all aspects of life.

Joe's greatest joy in life, and that about which he was most passionate, was his family. He was the rock upon which multiple lives were built, the steadfast supporter in everyone's corner, and a cheerleader for his children and grandchildren. Left to celebrate his life and mourn the time until they see him again are his cherished wife of 52 years Lynne, son J.H. Northrop of Akron, Indiana, daughter Elizabeth (Terry) Thornsbery of Ft. Wayne, and son Charles (Melissa) Northrop of Indianapolis, and ten beautiful grandchildren – Sarah Lynne and C.J. Northrop of Akron, Indiana, Oliver, Mary, and William Thornsbery of Ft. Wayne, and Zoey, Liam, Myles, Maizey, and Matilda Northrop of Indianapolis. Joe is also survived by his sister Eleanor Hall of

Indianapolis, and his brother, Hon. Albert W. Northrop (Karen) of Pagosa Springs, Colorado, as well as numerous nieces and nephews who loved their "Uncle Joe", cousins, and extended family. He was preceded in death by his parents, sister Florence Elizabeth Mote and brother-in-law John Mote of Tucson, Arizona, and sister Virginia "Dinny" Inkoff and brother-in-law George Inkoff of Indianapolis.

Visitation will be Sunday, May 22, from 12:00 noon until 4:00 p.m. at Bailey-Love Mortuary, located at 35 West Park Drive, Huntington, Indiana. Additional visitation will take place from 9:00 a.m. until 10:00 a.m., Monday, May 23. The funeral service will take place at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, May 23, also at Bailey-Love, followed immediately by graveside services at Pilgrim's Rest cemetery. The funeral will be officiated by Dr. Todd Wilson.

Memorials may be made in Joe's name to the American Cancer Society or the Boys and Girls Club of Huntington County, Indiana.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAY **22**. 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Adkins Bailey-Love Mortuary  
35 West Park Drive  
Huntington, IN 46750  
(260) 356-1710  
wecare@baileylove.com  
<https://www.baileylove.com>

## Visitation

MAY **23**. 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (ET)

Adkins Bailey-Love Mortuary  
35 West Park Drive  
Huntington, IN 46750  
(260) 356-1710  
wecare@baileylove.com  
<https://www.baileylove.com>

## Service

MAY **23**. 10:00 AM (ET)

Adkins Bailey-Love Mortuary  
35 West Park Drive  
Huntington, IN 46750  
(260) 356-1710  
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<https://www.baileylove.com>

## Burial

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MAY 23 (ET)

Pilgrims Rest Cemetery  
4945 N. Jefferson St  
Huntington, IN

# Tribute Wall



“ *Bailey-Love Mortuary has created this video tribute in memory of Joseph Northrop.*



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**Adkins Bailey-Love Mortuary** - May 20, 2022 at 04:54 PM

RP

“ *Sorry to see that Joe passed. I haven't seen him in a good many years, but I always enjoyed his humor and good wit in conversations we had. May God Bless you in your loss. Roger Presl*

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**Roger Pres** - June 08, 2022 at 03:09 PM

MS

“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



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**mark satterlee** - May 22, 2022 at 10:54 PM

MS

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



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**mark satterlee** - May 22, 2022 at 10:49 PM

MS

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**mark satterlee** - May 22, 2022 at 10:38 PM

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**mark satterlee** - May 22, 2022 at 10:36 PM

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**mark satterlee** - May 22, 2022 at 10:35 PM

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**mark satterlee** - May 22, 2022 at 10:34 PM

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**mark satterlee** - May 22, 2022 at 10:32 PM

MS

“ 1 file added to the album *Memories Album*



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**mark satterlee** - May 22, 2022 at 10:29 PM

MS

“ Dear Lynne and family,

*From the bottom of our hearts we grieve the passing of Joe, such a brilliant, amazing, humble and kind hearted man. The world seems so empty without him, we just wished we could have given him one last hug and say one last good-bye, to a true treasure to all of us.*

*Please know Lynne that we pray the angels will hold and comfort you and the family during this indescribable and so unexpected passing.*

*The the two most rememberable things that we recount is first Joe's and your love for each other. Jose and I always marveled at your wonderful relationship. You two were two pieces of the puzzle that fit perfectly together, a beautiful relationship that made us see you and Joe as one forever. Every time we met you two it seemed like your love grew even deeper. We think you two had one of the best, if not the best marriages/couple we have ever known. We and I'm sure all the family were truly inspired by you two!*

*I will especially remember Joe, for his time, wit and patience with helping me and so many others learn the history of the amazing Satterlee family. He always was happy to answer my questions by emails, calls and in person. He was an incredible family historian and genealogist who documented our families history in so many ways. (and way before ancestry.com came along) I cannot imagine a family reunion without him as he gave so much help and advise to Eleanor and I with the England Reunion and you and me with the D.C Reunion*

*We will forever keep him, you and the family in our hearts! Remembering the wonderful memories during such a horrible time will give us and we hope you and the family some peace in remembering such a distinguished, kind, loving and remarkable man.*

*Love Always,  
Jose, Kellyel and Mark*

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**mark satterlee** - May 22, 2022 at 10:27 PM

CH

“ *I would like to send my deepest sympathies to the family of Joseph Northrup. I didn't know Joseph but know Lynne and my son went to school with Charles. I am so very sorry for your loss.*

*Cheryl Hitzemann*

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**Cheryl Hitzemann** - May 22, 2022 at 09:33 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Joseph Satterlee Northrop.*



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May 22, 2022 at 10:30 AM

SW

“ *Lynne & family*

*Steve and. I are so very for your loss. What a good man. I remember him being so soft spoken, unassuming. He was so very respected. Please know that you are in our hearts.*

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**shana working** - May 21, 2022 at 10:53 AM

JD

“ John and Deb purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of Joseph Satterlee Northrop.



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**John and Deb** - May 21, 2022 at 08:29 AM

TW

“ Tim Weist purchased the [Memorial Trees](https://www.baileylove.com/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) for the family of Joseph Satterlee Northrop.

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**Tim Weist** - May 21, 2022 at 07:32 AM

RB

“ Ron & Sandra Bortner purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Joseph Satterlee Northrop.



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**Ron & Sandra Bortner** - May 20, 2022 at 04:37 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Joseph Satterlee Northrop.



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May 20, 2022 at 01:52 PM

VM

“ So much love for this family 🙏❤️



Vicki Harris Mickley - May 19, 2022 at 06:42 PM

DW

“ Lynne and Family,  
We are so very sorry for your loss. Joe was such a humble,  
unassuming man who did great things. He adored his family most of  
all, and will be missed by all who knew him. Thinking of you all.

Denise Wertenberger - May 19, 2022 at 03:25 PM

DR

“ Don & Denice Ray purchased the America the Be  
autiful for the family of Joseph Satterlee  
Northrop.



Don & Denice Ray - May 19, 2022 at 02:33 PM

MS

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Mark Satterlee - May 19, 2022 at 11:45 AM

KD

“ Joe will be missed by all his friends who attended school at Wheelus Air Base, Tripoli, Libya. At our reunions, he was one of the members who made the gatherings fabulous. Condolences to all family and friends.

Kathleen deRussy - May 19, 2022 at 01:17 AM

LK

“ Love Always, Jose, Mark and Kellyel purchased the Sweet Tranquility Basket for the family of Joseph Satterlee Northrop.



Love Always, Jose, Mark and Kellyel - May 18, 2022 at 05:11 PM

TH

“ I've know Joe since 1977 when Nell and I came to Huntington. I trusted him as an Attorney and considered him a friend. When I was on the bench, he would stop by on Friday afternoons for a chat...I'm not sure he knew how much I appreciated that...the world was a better place for him having been here and his loss will be felt

Thomas M Hakes - May 17, 2022 at 10:01 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Joseph Satterlee Northrop.



May 17, 2022 at 05:23 PM

KM

“ Joe,  
You were such a kind hearted man whom I have enjoyed working for. I will always remember the talks. You will be missed and remembered as a GREAT man!  
Lynne I want you to know you the two of you were a great couple to be around and I am honored to have spent time with Joseph S. Northrop and to be a friend not just an employee.  
Love always,  
Kim

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**Kim Mitchell** - May 17, 2022 at 04:45 PM

SM

“ Lynn and family...  
Jen and I were in Bryce Canyon when we received word of Joe's passing. We were shocked and saddened to learn of his illness and death. I have many pleasant memories of Joe... Optimist Club, Boys and Girls Club, his legal advice, insurance discussions, euchre games and so much much. Indeed, he had a unique, unassuming personality and his death will be a tremendous loss for family and friends.  
So sorry we will be unable to pay our respects at this time but hopefully we can share a hug when we are in Indiana later this summer.  
Our most sincere condolences....

**Steve and Jen Mason**

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**Steve Mason** - May 17, 2022 at 04:22 PM

JW

*Dear Lynn, JH and family:  
Joe's passing was a shock to say the least. I didn't even know he was sick! Joe was my real estate attorney, friend, and fellow Optimist member. I'm still in shock! Gloria and I pray God's richest blessings and may He comfort you now and always as we mourn the passing of  
A great and wonderful man. Jim and Gloria Wilson.*

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**Jim and Gloria Wilson** - May 18, 2022 at 07:02 PM

JH

“*Lynn and Northrop family ... I am very sad to learn that Joe has passed. He was a great guy, and I was lucky to get to know him. Best wishes to all of you as you navigate this difficult time.*

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**Janet Houghton** - May 17, 2022 at 04:09 PM