



Edward P. Zydel

June 3, 1946 - October 28, 2025

Wantage - Edward P. Zydel was born on June 3, 1946, just 9 minutes after 12:00 am in Jersey City, to the late Frank and Helen [Kozakiewicz] Zydel. He grew up in Secaucus and graduated from Weehawken High School, where he excelled at football, was voted “class cut-up,” and earned the nickname “The Lump” for his grit on the field. A natural athlete, he even dipped his toe into professional sports with the then–Jersey Jets.

But the true calling of his life was not football—it was Carolyn. Married on June 22, 1965, Ed and Carolyn began a partnership that spanned six decades and defined both of them. They never liked to be apart. In life, they were rarely separated; in illness, they were inseparable. Ed remained at Carolyn’s side as long as possible, their hands entwined, in proper form, until the end. When Carolyn passed on October 24, 2025, Ed’s heart followed. He pursued her in life, and he followed her in death, a love story completed.

Together they built not only a home, but a livelihood: EZ’s Country Kitchen, EZ’s Catering, and, beginning in 1992, Pine Hill Farm Pig Roasting. They rose early and met every challenge head-on. Within minutes of meeting anyone, Ed would find a way to mention the fact of which he was proudest—his three children. He had everything to do with who they are.

Ed believed in over-tipping to honor hard work, in laughing often, and in finding the good in people. He taught fairness—and when life wasn’t fair, he taught resilience: go out, live it, and live it well. He treated everyone with respect and kindness, even the “people who talk just to hear their own

voices,” because listening was one of his quiet strengths. Above all, he taught love. From his deep devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary and his steadfast Catholic faith to his unwavering commitment to Carolyn, he showed us the meaning of selfless love. His greatest joy was his family, and that joy is the legacy he leaves behind.

Besides his parents, he was predeceased by his beloved wife, Carolyn on Friday, October 24, 2025; his sisters, Irene Rubes and Stella Morisette; and his brother, George Zydel. He is survived by his two sons, Adam Zydel and his wife, Christine, of Wantage, and Frank Zydel of Utica, Michigan; his daughter, Rebekka, and her husband, Franklin Lupianez, of Branchburg; his cherished grandchildren, Cole, Paul, Luke, and Jacob; and more than 25 adored nieces and nephews.

A Mass of Christian Burial for both Edward and his wife Carolyn will be offered at St. Monica R.C. Church, 33 Unionville Avenue, Sussex at 11:30 a.m. on Friday, October 31, 2025. They shared a lifetime of love together and entered eternal rest only days apart, and now family and friends are invited to gather to celebrate both of their lives. Carolyn and Edward will be laid to rest together at Mt. Salem Cemetery in Wantage. A private burial will be held for the family. In lieu of flowers, please consider a memorial donation in Edward Zydel’s memory to Pope John XXIII High School, Sparta, NJ. Online condolences may be offered to the family on www.pinkelfuneralhome.com

Cemetery Details

Mt. Salem Cemetery

Mt. Salem Road
Wantage, NJ 07461

Previous Events

Mass of Christian Burial

OCT **31**. 11:30 AM (ET)

St. Monica R.C. Church
33 Unionville Avenue
Sussex, NJ 07461
stmonica@ptd.net
<http://www.stmonicasussex.org>

Tribute Wall

BS

“ So sorry for your families loss. May they rest in peace.

Brandon and Melissa Smentkowski

Brandon Smentkowski - November 04, 2025 at 10:47 AM

JG

“ Joanne G. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Edward P. Zydel.

Joanne G. - October 30, 2025 at 08:28 PM

JA

“ Dear Adam, Frank, Rebekka and family,
We are heartbroken by the loss of your wonderful parents. They were such a special couple and we feel so grateful to have shared so many beautiful memories with them over the years. May you find comfort in knowing that their love for each other and for all of you will live on forever. We are keeping you in our hearts and prayers, and sending you love, strength, and peace through this difficult time.

*With deepest sympathy and all our love,
Tom & Janet Schoonmaker & Family*

Janet - October 30, 2025 at 02:52 PM

TF

“ Tom & Janet Schoonmaker & Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Edward P. Zydel.

Tom & Janet Schoonmaker & Family - October 30, 2025 at 02:49 PM



“ *Magnificent Life Spray was purchased for the family of Edward P. Zydel.*



October 30, 2025 at 02:49 PM



“ *Love The Specchio Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Edward P. Zydel.*

Love The Specchio Family - October 30, 2025 at 01:27 PM



“ *Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of Edward P. Zydel.*



October 30, 2025 at 01:27 PM



“ *Shannon Cane planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Edward P. Zydel.*

Shannon Cane - October 28, 2025 at 09:10 PM



“ *Shannon Cane purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Edward P. Zydel.*



Shannon Cane - October 28, 2025 at 09:10 PM

LI

“ I read Ed’s obituary and see his beloved Carolyn past 4 days earlier? My heart shattered bc my mom past 11/3/24 and my dad followed on 12/3/24. They were married 65 years. My dad died of a broken heart and I see your Ed as well for his Carolyn! I don’t know this family but I totally understand what you are going through it’s so hard! May god wrap his arms around you all and remember they are happy together looking as young as they did before having their family. I was told that by a psychic medium and I found my parents photo of them before having all of us. May they both RIP

Lisa - October 28, 2025 at 07:58 PM