



## Joseph Maeda Raiger

March 14, 2006 - March 17, 2024

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Joseph passed away suddenly on March 17, 2024. He had just turned 18 years old.

Joseph was born March 14, 2006, in Kirishima, Japan to Scott and Eriko (Maeda) Raiger. He spent his early years growing up in Okinawa, Japan before moving to Stuttgart, Germany with his family at age four.

Joseph attended the International School of Stuttgart until the age of 14 when he again moved with his family to Alexandria, Virginia. Joseph graduated from Thomas Alva Edison High School in August 2023 at age 17.

Joseph's interests were many and as varied as his travels. He always had a clear goal in mind, even if those goals weren't permanent. Beginning with skateboards and video games from a young age; to designing and building his own computers, badminton, video editing, finances, motorcycles, as well as boxing and fitness as he aged. No matter what his interest was at any point. He was driven by his passions. Joseph had a strong sense of creativity and meticulously researched every detail about whichever subject had captivated him while simultaneously calculating how to do the bare minimum for that which he had no interest in.

Joseph was known by all to be a caring and loyal soul to ever light up a room with his cheerfulness and charisma. Whether it was with friends, family, work colleagues, or his cats, Joseph's devotion was consistently compassionate or even sweet and romantic. These character traits were amplified by his dignified maturity and tendency towards taking ownership of his personal actions.

Surviving are his parents Scott and Eriko as well as his older sister Lana, all of Alexandria, Virginia. He was loved by many close as well as extended family and friends near and far.

In lieu of flowers the family requests that donations be made in Joseph's name to the National Motorcycle Safety Fund- <https://nmsfund.org>.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAR **24**. 11:00 AM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Jefferson Funeral Chapel  
5755 Castlewellan Dr  
Alexandria, VA 22315-5516  
(703) 971-7400

## Funeral Mass

MAR **25**. 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM (ET)

St. Lawrence Catholic Church  
6222 Franconia Road  
Alexandria, VA 22310-2511  
<https://stlawrencealex.org/>

# Tribute Wall

AN

“ *Joseph was the brightest star in the sky. He will be dearly missed. My thoughts and prayers are with the Raiders.*

*Will there be a shrine in remembrance of him?*

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**Andy** - April 15, 2024 at 07:27 PM

JS

“ *I remember first meeting Joe in second grade, Me, Joe, Mateusz and Victor were all very close friends and stayed close until I moved away end of sixth grade. We talked quite a few times over the phone after I left. I'm very sad to hear he has passed, I know he is in a better place now. My condolences go out to his family and I know this is a rough time for them. I cherish the memories I have of Joe because he was genuinely a great guy and had my back more times than I can count. Rest in peace Joe, I'll see you in heaven some day. ❤️❤️*

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**Jake Sumstine** - April 09, 2024 at 11:32 PM

CB

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



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**Cynthia Bolton** - April 09, 2024 at 04:52 PM

CB

“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



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**Cynthia Bolton** - April 09, 2024 at 03:42 PM

CB

*Joe was a very special boy, such a big heart even when he was being a bit mischievous. I remember visiting the ISS-Sindelfingen campus a few years after I moved away; when I saw Joe he gave me the biggest hug and thanked me for believing in him so many years before. Lana, Eriko and Scott, please know Joe will always hold a special place in my heart and I'm honored to have had the opportunity to know him.*

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**Cynthia Bolton** - April 09, 2024 at 03:54 PM

MA

“ *I've known Joe since the second grade, and there were a lot of memories. I still remember when we went trick or treating for the first time (at least my first time) on base, the long queue, and the fact that everyone knew his costume, while mine was put together at the last minute, so most people didn't know what I was. We ran around getting candy for hours, that was great.*

*My condolences to the family.*

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**Mateusz** - April 08, 2024 at 03:59 PM

AN

“ It's been three weeks and still, not a day goes by without me thinking of him. I unfortunately never had the pleasure of meeting him. I never had the pleasure of properly knowing him. We had only exchanged a few texts, but I found out we were so alike. I found out that we had crossed paths so many times without ever meeting each other.

*It felt wrong to feel at first. I felt massive Imposter Syndrome, feeling this much grief for someone I never even met. It felt wrong to mourn, to feel lost, to feel confused. Sometimes it still does; the thought of mourning this much for someone I never actually knew. It feels silly to get caught up in this. Imagine how much others are hurting, the ones who actually knew what a gift he was? This confusion, this feeling... it's something I'll never fully understand.*

*It hurts, thinking about how we made plans. We had plans to meet up one day. I even told him I'd make something for him when we met, and the thing is, I did. It hurts to think about how he never even saw it. It feels so strange, having him here one day and gone the next. I feel lost in a maze that makes up my mind.*

*I met him for the first and last time at his viewing. It still doesn't feel real when I say that. What were the chances that would've been the case? We were supposed to meet elsewhere. Somewhere where it was happy, exciting, and lively. Not somewhere sad, quiet, and full of sorrow. It was supposed to be different. Our first meeting should've been something else.*

*Thank you, Joseph. For keeping me company when I needed a friend. Thank you for distracting me, for making me feel anything other than numbness. I don't think I can ever thank you enough. I hope you knew how much people care for you. You left a strong and lasting impression on my life, and I'm sure you did the same for others. May you rest in peace. You will forever be remembered.*

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AN - April 07, 2024 at 05:07 PM



Michelle Alspaugh

*Just because your connection happened online doesn't make it less a connection. Condolences for your loss.*

Michelle Alspaugh - April 07, 2024 at 07:17 PM

RI

“ Please accept our heartfelt condolences for this huge loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with Joe and the whole family. I remember Joe as the most jovial, fun, and naughty kid. If I think about him, I can only remember him smiling.  
I remember vividly how he cared about not wasting even a grain of rice because his mother had taught him how farmers work hard to sow each paddy plant. So many memories of him as a fun loving kid in ISS Sindelfingen. He will continue to live in our thoughts and prayers. Hugs to Eriko and the whole family. May God give you the courage to bear this.

Rishika - April 07, 2024 at 07:51 AM

SA

“ Joseph was one of my greatest friends, I never had the chance to meet him in real life but he still left an impact on me. I met Joseph online and we used to play games but over time our conversations became more deep than just games, he advised me and treated me like a true friend. I give Joseph's family my condolences.

Shareef Altamimi - April 06, 2024 at 11:39 PM

YS

“joe was a really good friend of mine we played a lot of games together he helped me in the gym he helped me through everything i can believe it and i refuse to believe but the truth is the truth and i cant sit here and be delusional im sorry to the raigers but i really miss him i wish i couldve had more memories with him he helped me through my depression that nobody knew about bc he was so funny and a really nice guy i remember facetiming him when he bought his goldfish from the store next to the starbucks he worked at and then the fish passed after 2 days and we laughed it off together he named the fish adonis constantinapolis giannis III it was a really fun time playing with joe

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**yousef sulieman** - April 06, 2024 at 09:36 PM

MR

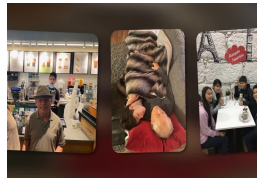
“Please accept our heartfelt sympathies at this very sorrowful time. Our thoughts and prayers are with Joe and all his family. The light that was in your life now shines in heaven.”

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**Mariann Renardo** - April 04, 2024 at 11:54 AM

ER

“1 file added to the album Joe Raiger



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**ER** - April 01, 2024 at 07:37 PM

KP

“ Joe was my cousin that I felt was the most similar to me, despite how rarely we would see each other. We clicked so well and would have lots of laughs. We would talk about tech, what we wanted to do in life, or even our own youtube channels that had about 0 following lol. I always looked forward to connecting with him next and seeing how he has changed in the years since we've last hung-out. While this was such a tragic incident that is more than unfair, I'm so grateful I ever got the few chances to meet such an amazing cousin/friend/sarcastic fella such as myself. Rest Easy Joe❤️ and thank you for all the laughs we've had. I'm wishing all of the Raigers the best right now🙏

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**Kyle Pearson** - April 01, 2024 at 01:15 PM

IA

“ We used to play video games together over quarantine, I was really depressed and he always listened to me and he saved my life.

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**Izzy Alexander** - March 31, 2024 at 05:45 PM

LA

“ Today, the 28th of March, marks two weeks since Joseph turned 18.

*I still can't believe that you're gone. It's going to be a while before I can organize my thoughts into something coherent.*

*I'm glad I had a chance to prove to you just how much I pay attention to you.*

*I'm gonna miss our banter.*

*Thank you, and I love you.*



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**Lana** - March 28, 2024 at 11:33 PM

NS

“ Nolan Schelly, 7th - 8th grade:

*Joe was the first kid who let me become his friend. Our first day at school, we picked potatoes out of the science classrooms garden. I went back to his house, played minecraf with him, and we made fries for the class.*

*Joe was beyond unique. There was no one who thought like him and spoke like him, and there never will be. If there was one thing he could be proud of, it's that he was always himself; and never compromised that.*

*I am friends with Matthew Mitchell, and I only recently had the pleasure to reconnect with Joe, and I wish I could've continued to do so.*

*People who are as special as Joe was are unforgettable in nature, and that is just who he will be.*

*I am sorry for the losses suffered by his family, his friends and those he loved. God bless him and all of you.*

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**Nolan Schelly** - March 26, 2024 at 06:55 PM

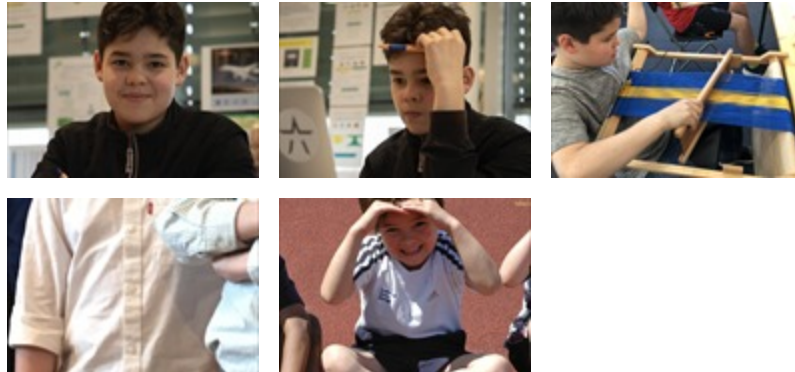
SK

“ How to express my condolences on hearing this tragic news? Eriko, Scott and Lana I will write to you separately.

*I am grateful to have worked with and learned with Joseph over many years. He warmed my heart and tried my patience and warmed my heart again. He had an extraordinary capacity for reflection on life and he had the sweetest singing voice as a little boy. When he went on a school trip to the weaving museum in Sindelfingen, he wouldn't leave at the end of the day until he had finished, fascinated by the process of weaving the weft through the warp on his loom. You wove your way into our hearts Joe and you left this life too early but we hold you in our hearts. God bless you.*

*With love and prayers, Sarah Kupke*

*Photos: Chris Gottlieb, Gabie Fejes and Sarah Kupke*



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**Sarah Kupke** - March 25, 2024 at 12:23 PM

EC

*That could be my words, dear Sarah! I remember Joseph very well, the stressful times but especially the happy times. He had a lot of charm and I think he would have had a great and meaningful life ahead of him. I am very sorry and I wish the family and Lana a lot of strength during this difficult time. Elke Clarus*

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**Elke Clarus** - March 26, 2024 at 08:15 AM

AY

“ 7 files added to the tribute wall



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ayano - March 24, 2024 at 07:12 PM

JE

“Joey was the most caring, loving and the sweetest boyfriend I could ever ask for. He wasn't just my boyfriend but he was also my bestest friend. He was always there for me anytime I needed a shoulder to cry on, he was my biggest supporter in everything and I wish I got to appreciate him a little more. I'm going to miss being greeted by that bright smile of his every time he came over to see me and being in his warm embrace. I'm going to miss that voice that always called me "Schatzi" and always telling me to eat more. I'm going to miss being around him because he was my safe place to go to. I hope he knows that he made the biggest impact on my life. I finally know what it feels like to be loved and genuinely cared for. I hope he rest easy and know that he will always have a special place in my heart. I love you Joseph, always and forever. We'll meet again in another lifetime.

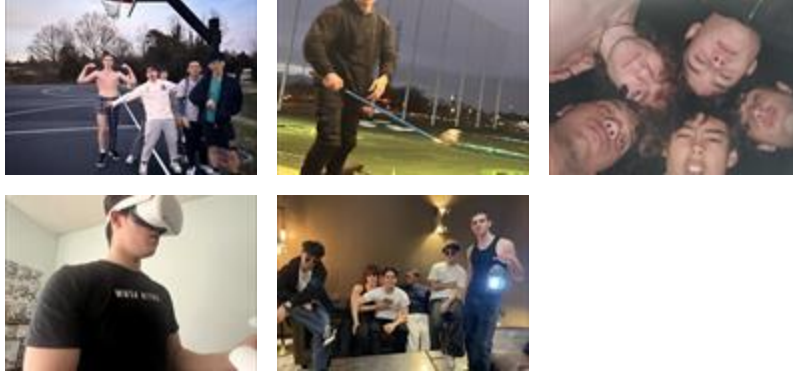


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Jennie - March 24, 2024 at 06:02 PM

JO

“ Joseph was like a brother to me, when I first started working I knew we became friends but after time grew we become closest friends. Most of my time spent with him were my favorite times in life. I wish to give my condolence to his family



josias - March 24, 2024 at 09:50 AM

BR

Joe, without words, we just had a few short days together celebrating Matthew's graduation, got those stains out of your hoodie but I am speechless that this tragedy hit u & family. Joe u we're so excited, came bye to show your gratitude on Thursday, what a tragedy to lose u so young, the world could do with more like u, sincere sympathy/ my prayers are with all the families for healing. Blessings b 🙏🙏🙏🍀🍀🍀

Bridget - March 24, 2024 at 05:11 PM

AL

“ Joseph was truly a kind person. He always made conversations brighter and it was always fun to call with him. It's so unfortunate that he passed away and he will be missed. My deepest condolences

Alvin - March 23, 2024 at 12:19 PM

PG

“ Joe returned to Germany in 2022 and visited his former school. His surprise return visit to the school was special.



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**Panela Grimes** - March 23, 2024 at 11:13 AM

DW

“ 2 files added to the album Joe Raiger



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**Della Wild** - March 23, 2024 at 09:57 AM

TE

“ I never got to meet Joseph, but we were still a really good friends.. Joe was always so positive and supportive..I will miss him very much. Rest in peace Joseph. My deepest condolences for your loss.

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**Teodor** - March 22, 2024 at 05:45 PM

ST

“ I never got to meet him in real life, but he was a really good friend to me and everyone we played with. Its sucks to see him go early in life. No one should suffer such a fate. I give my deepest condolences to the family, and the hard time you are going through right now. I am very sorry for your loss

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**Steven** - March 22, 2024 at 05:24 PM

UJ

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



UJ - March 22, 2024 at 12:24 PM

RJ

“ 4 files added to the album Joe Raiger



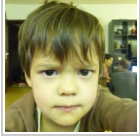
Rebecca Jones-Buerk - March 22, 2024 at 09:52 AM



“ 12 files added to the album Joe Raiger



Jodi Hanaity - March 21, 2024 at 03:56 PM



“ 2 files added to the album Joe Raiger



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**Scott Raiger** - March 21, 2024 at 02:17 PM



“ *I never met Joseph, but I could tell he was amazing through our minimal interactions. Rest in peace and rest in power Joseph, you will be sincerely missed by those in your community.*  
🕊️ *My dearest condolences to his loved ones.*



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**Anonymous** - March 21, 2024 at 01:57 PM