



## Joseph Edward Seman

February 12, 1963 - November 29, 2011

Joseph Edward Seman died suddenly Tuesday, Nov. 29, 2011, at his home in Alexandria, Va. He was born Feb. 12, 1963, and was 48 years old. Joe is survived by his wife, Karen Tokarsky; daughter, Emily; and son, Matthew; as well as mother, Frances; and sister, Kimberly Gawlik. Joe was a career diplomat with the United States Department of State and his duties enabled him and his family to travel the world. Second only to his love for his family was his love of the outdoors. Following in his father's footsteps, Joe was a hunter and fly fisherman with a strong commitment to conservation efforts. He was a lifetime member of Trout Unlimited and a fund has been set up in his name to support Trout Unlimited's cold water conservation efforts. Donations may be made in Joe's name to Trout Unlimited, P.O. Box 1256, Charlottesville, VA 22907-2221. There will be a gathering for friends and family from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 p.m. Thursday at the JEFFERSON FUNERAL CHAPEL, in Alexandria, Va., with a celebration of Joe's life at 2 p.m. Friday at Fairlington Presbyterian Church, also in Alexandria.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Joseph Edward Seman*

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October 27, 2022 at 09:45 PM



“ *Dear Karen and family: please accept my heartfelt condolences. There simply aren't enough words to describe my shock and sadness at Joe's passing. He will be truly missed.*

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February 25, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ *Dear Karen, I have just read about your unmeasurable loss. That Joe has passed away so unexpectedly leaves one shocked, deeply saddened and utterly speechless. We will all remember Joe's friendly and helpful nature and miss the dialog with a good friend. In our thoughts we are with you and your family in these difficult hours. In deepest sympathy, Klaus and the Heartland Flyfishers*

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December 18, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *Liebe Karen, wir sind sehr traurig und betroffen ber den Tod von Joe. Mit Ihm ist ein Freund und Fliegenfischer von uns gegangen. Wir werden die Gesprche und seine Kameradschaft vermissen. In gedankensind wir bei Dir und den Kindern. Brbel und Jrn Stiefvater Mhlheim*

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December 18, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Karen and Family, we are so sad to hear about Joe sudden death. Joe brought the spirit of the Heartlandflyfishers back in the club. It was always a pleasure to meet or fish with Joe. Whenever I wade with my Flyrod in clear water, I will remember Joe as a good friend and flyfisher. We will miss him. In deepest sympathy. Markus & Lene Hartl

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December 18, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Karen and family, sorry but we have no words since you informed us. We wish you all the power you need in this hard time and promise you we never forgett our good friend and flyfisher. If you need any help let us know Stefan & Ute & Niklas from Germany

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December 15, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Karen, Emily, and Matthew, Please know that you are in my thoughts and prayers. Please let me know if Adrian and I can stop by one day to visit with you and bring anything you may need. With love, Jamie

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December 13, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ I (and my family) were shocked about his passing. It was and still is hard to understand why. I pray that through this hard time that you and your children find peace and happy memories as a way to help in the healing process.

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December 11, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ I was sad to hear of Joe's sudden passing. I worked with Joe on an official visit in 2009; he was extremely knowledgeable and had a great sense of humor. We will miss him.

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December 09, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Karen, Emily & Matthew, There are not enough words that will comfort you at this time, just know that our hearts ache with you and may you be comforted by a peace that passes all our understanding. I will always remember my "cross-hall" colleague with much fondness. Sincere condolences. Rita & Chuck..

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December 09, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Joe was one of the best bosses any one could have. A straight shooter who always told it like it was and with Joe, you always knew where you stood. He never micromanaged and as long as you knew what you were doing he let you run your own shop. At the same time, if something went wrong you had his support. There are too few in the Foreign Service the caliber of Joe. God bless and keep him.

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December 08, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Our condolences to the Seman family. We were very shocked and saddened by the news of Joe's death. Joe was one of the best we have ever worked with.

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December 08, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ remember teh many past posts and the many people he has interacted and made friends with over the many years of his life :)

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December 08, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ I am terribly shocked and saddened to hear of Joe's passing. Please accept my deepest condolences. Joe was one of the very best people I ever met and it was a priviledge to know him as a friend. He will be sorely missed and always remembered. Billy & Vipa Hill

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December 07, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ I was deeply saddened to hear of Joe's passing. My prays are with you all. He was such a great bridge partner and a wonderful man. Stephanie

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December 06, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ My condolences to the Seman family. I am very saddened to hear of Joes passing. Working for Joe was a pleasure. I will always remember his passion and dedication. Kind regards, Peter Bruzzese

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December 05, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ We were shocked and deeply saddened by the news of Joe's death. He was a positive force and bright light in the lives of many, and a good friend.

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December 05, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Joe, you brought so much to so many. You were so smart, funny, and good-natured. I remember so much about you--school, attending your graduation party. Thank you for helping Nicholas w/ his scout project & the little stuffed pig. I will never get over the thoughtfulness that you put into a project for a child who wasn't even your son--or relative, for that matter. I'm sorry I could not play for yours and Karen's wedding. The photos of Karen and your children were beautiful & the love within your family exuded from them. You are with God now and I'm certain Heaven is rejoicing for such a wonderful & special addition. I pray that your family heals.

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December 04, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Karen, On behalf of Tacla, James and Susan, please accept my most heartfelt condolences. I consider myself fortunate to have known Joe and to have worked with him for the short time we were in Frankfurt. The Foreign Service has lost an excellent colleague and officer.

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December 04, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Karen, Emily, and Matthew, Dan and I and the boys were so saddened to hear of Joe's passing. We will always remember him as such a cheerful, good neighbor. Trinity Lutheran included your family in our prayers this morning. May God be with you and comfort you,

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December 04, 2011 at 12:00 AM



*“ Karen - please accept Lisa and my deepest sympathy on Joe's tragic and unexpected death. I wish I could write magic words that would remove the pain and right your life again but I don't know what those word are. All I can do is offer our heart felt condolences to you and your children. Respectfully, Ted Culp and Lisa Berger*

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December 03, 2011 at 12:00 AM



*“ Dear Karen, Emily, Matthew, Frances and Kimberly, I worked with Joe on various issues for the last year and a half. Joe was a wonderful guy, who was always cheerful. I looked forward to seeing him and knew that he was ready to help with anything. Please let me know if you need anything. Best, Laura*

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December 02, 2011 at 12:00 AM



*“ My sincerest condolences to you, Karen, and the rest of the family. I enjoyed working with Joe during his assignment in Frankfurt. I was in FMC at that time. Joe was always in a happy mood. It was far too early for him to go.*

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December 02, 2011 at 12:00 AM



*“ My sincerest condolences to Karen and the rest of the family. The memories of Joe will always be fond.*

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December 02, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ To the family of Mr. Seman, I was working together with Mr. Seman during his tour here in Frankfurt. Me, I'm working in Facilities and there was a close work together with Mr. Seman. I remember him as a great leader in his section and I enjoyed the time with him. I'm feeling very sorry, please except my sincere condolences. My thoughts are with you as his family. I wish you all the strength you need to get through that hard time. All my best, Sebastian

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December 02, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Karen I'm so sorry. Please let me know if I can do anything to help or if you need a place to escape to you are welcome to come to Frederick.

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December 02, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Karen, Emily, Matthew, Our deepest condolences to you at this terribly sad time. Joe was an outstanding Foreign Service Officer, and a valued colleague and friend. Karl and Barbara

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December 01, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ To the family of Joe Seman, please except my sincere condolences. I attended school with Joe from Elementary to High School. He was a very intelligent man and all of his hard work paid off for him. RIP Joe, you'll be missed.

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December 01, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ I am so very sad to read this. I graduated high school with Joe and I really liked him. My sincere condolences to his family.

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December 01, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Karen, Emily and Matthew, We are deeply saddened at the loss of Joe. In our two years as colleagues in Frankfurt, I quickly learned he was a true family man, always speaking glowingly of you three, and a dedicated FSO. Joe made major contributions of which you can be proud. Joe loved working on official visits, almost as much as he loved the outdoors. He combined both when we worked President Obama's visit to Baden Baden and took a side trip to a nearby protected area for nesting storks. Joe was ecstatic. I will always remember him for that enthusiasm and for the many ways he lightened our hearts and our workloads. May God bless you and bring you comfort. With deepest affection and sympathy, Dorothy, Dennis, Lindsay and Lauren Imwold

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December 01, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Karen, Matthew and Emily, My heart goes out to you at this very difficult time. I first met Joe in Seoul where I was working in NIV, a very busy and large office. Joe stopped by regularly, and his humor and obvious concern for employees was much appreciated. He was a kind person who contributed more to morale than he probably realized. You are in my thoughts and prayers. Teta

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December 01, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Our deepest sympathy to you and your family. I had the pleasure of meeting your husband while attending the book club. He was a very nice and friendly person. My heart goes out to you and the children.  
Goska and John

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December 01, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Id like to express my sincerest condolences to Mr. Semans immediately family members and beloved close friends. I had the opportunity to work within his Department at the U.S. General Consulate, Frankfurt Germany from 2008-2009. Joe was a great leader with a great personality. He will be missed, may God bless his soul and may he rest in peace with the Lord. Wilson J. Suarez Jr., Former Co-worker

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December 01, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Hi Karen, Emily, and Matt, I am so sad to hear about Joe's death. He was such a kind and gentle man. My heart is hurting for you guys. You are in my prayers. All my love, Dee Pollock

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December 01, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Karen, Emily, and Matthew: I remember Joe so well not only as a great F.S. Officer in Frankfurt, but was struck also by how frequently he would bring up the subject of his two children and how proud he was of them, and as a doting father always concerned about their safety, good health, and future in the world. Karen - I cannot imagine the grief you are feeling right now. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your two children. Mark Young

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December 01, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Karen, Emily and Matthew, I am deeply saddened and I can't believe that Joe is no longer with us. Please accept my deepest sympathy, my thoughts are with you and your family.

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December 01, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Joe was alone for three weeks at the end of his tour while the family went ahead to begin setting up the home in Virginia. Since my wife was also out of the country, he showed me all of his favorite restaurants, giving me a six month head start on Frankfurt. We had long talks and he shared many stories, most about fishing and the outdoors. Once he was fishing deep in the woods and was astonished to hear what he thought was a cuckoo clock, until he realized that no - it was actually a real cuckoo bird. Joe truly loved life and appreciated the world around him.

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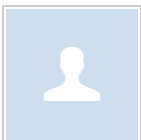
December 01, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ We are so sorry to hear about Joe please accept our most heartfelt sympathies, our thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time.

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December 01, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Karen, Emily and Matthew, Please accept my condolences for your loss. Joe was an incredible man, a true professional and a great supervisor to me personally during my time as CLO here in Frankfurt. My heart goes out to you and your children. May he rest in peace. Doug and Ana Fitzpatrick

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December 01, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Karen, Emily, and Matthew, We were saddened to hear about your loss and pray that you will be able to draw strength and comfort from family and friends. Keeping you in our thoughts and prayers during this difficult time, Birgit, David, and Hans Myaard

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December 01, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Karen, Matthew and Emily, As we share your sorrow of the loss of someone so special, we send you love and prayers now and in the days to come. We treasure memories of Joe as colleague, friend and good neighbor in both Czech Republic and Germany. Remembering with you the life that touched and cheered so many others, The Wannier Family

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December 01, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Karen, Emily, and Matthew, I am so deeply saddened at the news of the loss of your beloved husband and father. Joe was a dear friend and colleague for more than 20 years; however, thoughts of our first Foreign Service assignment in Korea especially bring back many fond memories of Joe. Seeing his joy at the birth of Emily is just one of many such memories of our time in Korea. I also enjoyed working with Joe at Overseas Buildings Operations. I will miss Joe very much. My thoughts and prayers go out to you at this difficult time.

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December 01, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Karen, Emily, and Matthew, Please accept our most heartfelt sympathies for your loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time. God bless you, Sergio, Maricari, and Sofia

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December 01, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *Much love to Karen, Emily, and Matthew. There are no words.*

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November 30, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *Dear Karen, Emily and Matthew, I can't believe Joe is no longer with us. He was such a vital presence, filling the room with his good humor and thoughtful insights. Our paths crossed only occasionally over the years since we worked together in Seoul, but he was not someone easily forgotten and it was always a treat to bump into Joe. I know you will miss him sorely and send my sincere condolences to you in your loss. Alcy*

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November 30, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *Karen, Emily, and Matthew -- We are so very sorry for your loss. I will always remember your husband and father for his witty commentary and lively conversation as he "held court" in the Embassy Seoul consular section while we adjudicated Travel Agency Referral Program (TARP) visas. Because of Joe Seman, that time with our colleagues was always fascinating, always fun. The camaraderie we all had there together was something special that I will always prize.*

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November 30, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *Karen, Emily and Matthew, We pray that God's comfort and strength will uphold you during this difficult time. We care about you and will walk beside you and assist you in any way that we can.*

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November 30, 2011 at 12:00 AM