

## Joseph Edward "Doc" Jurich

Joseph Edward "Doc" Jurich of Warmminster passed away Wednesday, Feb. 20, 2013. He was 88 years old.

Doc was born to the late Paul and Mary on Oct. 25, 1924 in New York. The youngest of four children, Doc moved to Pennsylvania with his family at an early age and made his home in South Philadelphia. In 1953, Doc married his first wife Kitty, with whom he enjoyed 26 years until her death in 1979. In 1984, Doc married Joanne Pannepacker, by whom he is survived.

Upon graduating from South Philadelphia High School for Boys, Doc enrolled in West Chester University, but shortly thereafter, enlisted in the United States military. Throughout his three years in the Army, Doc served in all three major European Theaters, North Africa, Italy and France, in the Second World War. Doc's pride in his military service was reflected in his support of veterans throughout his life and in his chosen profession.

In 1948, Doc received a B.S. in Health and Physical Education from West Chester University. A devoted student of health education, Doc went on to earn his M.S. of Health and Physical Education at The University of Pennsylvania, took additional graduate courses in Orthopedics at Temple University and received his certification in physical therapy from New York University.

Doc combined his love of physical education with his passion for teaching and began his early career as a teacher and coach at Moorestown High School in New Jersey. In 1953, he accepted a position at Abington High School, where he would remain for 32 years. In the

early 1950s, athletic training was in its infancy. Doc joined Abington as a teacher of health and physical education and helped design an adapted physical education program, establishing state curriculum and guidelines for physical education and accessibility for all students at the school.

In 1963, Doc became coach of boy's lacrosse, chartering this program at the high school and building it into a program with a 74 percent win rate over the course of 16 years. Doc began coaching girl's swimming in 1971 and remained with the program for 14 years. It was at Abington where Doc coached and mentored hundreds of students, earned his well-respected nickname and established his legacy of dedication, loyalty and positive influence.

Doc began pursuing his passion for art shortly after retiring from Abington in 1985. Favorite mediums included pen and ink caricatures, watercolor and scrimshaw, detailed engraving on bone or ivory. Doc became an accomplished artist, participating in regional juried art shows, and produced countless drawings, paintings and engravings that brought joy to many throughout his life.

In 1985, Doc married Joanne (nee Pannepacker) Jurich, with whom he spent 27 wonderful years. Together, they shared a love of travel, nature, family and a large circle of close friends. In 2009, Doc and Joanne moved from Roslyn to Ann's Choice, a retirement community in Warmminster.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held for Doc on Saturday, Feb. 23, at Nativity of Our Lord Church in Warmminster. Family and friends, including many former students, attended the celebration. On Monday, Feb. 25,

Doc was laid to rest at Washington Crossing National Cemetery will full military honors.

Donations may be made in Doc's memory to the Benevolent Care Fund at Ann's Choice, 30000 Ann's Choice Way, Warmminster, PA 18974.

William R. May Funeral Home,  
Glenside-North  
Wales.

[www.mayfuneralhome.com](http://www.mayfuneralhome.com).