

Joe Bilodeau

- Joe Bilodeau was born in Lewiston, Maine. His original name was Armand Bilodeau but due to a mixed up in the birth certificate, he legally became Joe. His mother's family was French Canadian. He learned to read and write French as well as English. His father was a bricklayer from a family of brick layers. They wanted Joe to join the family business, but due to his father's lack of control with alcohol, Joe didn't want to.
- Joe had one older sister Irene.
- Growing up in Maine, Joe learned to do many jobs. He worked on the farm in the gardens and helped sell the produce by the street. He delivered food and collected the money. He lived in Maine until he was 14-15 years old. One of his happiest memories was being told that he did something well done and he did a good job. He was taught to be observant by his mother. She told him to notice things that needed to be done and do them. That advice has helped him throughout his life.
- Joe was an altar boy for 8 years. He also was a boy scout and lived by the motto, "Be Prepared". While in Maine, he became a good hockey player. A coach from New Haven, Connecticut wanted him to play hockey for him. Joe had to pass up the offer. He had no way of getting there.
- Joe only attended high school for six months. He then moved to Hartford, Connecticut with his mother. He got a job working for Colt Firearms in Hartford. He was a trucker and made 36 cents an hour. He gave all his money to his mother.
- He joined the Navy during the war. He was a prison guard in the brig. He became a vet at 19. He only served for six months. He ended up serving 5 days in the brig for messing with a captain.

- Joe joined AA and learned a lot from the program. He learned that you had to listen so you can listen to learn. He said it was a very helpful and spiritual program.
- His favorite car was a Chevy. He bought it after the war. It had special wheels, and it was the first to have push buttons on the dashboard.
- Life advice from Joe is ... I don't give advice, I give suggestions.
- Getting older has its rewards. You can get into trouble without repercussions. You can get away with a lot, But I don't take advantage of it.
- Joe is the proudest of the fact that he is a Jack of all Trades but the Master of None. He worked most of his life in a warehouse. He drove a forklift, but then learned a lot of different jobs there. He learned 11 different jobs at the warehouse. He was always thinking ahead. He was never without a job. He liked to fix things.
- Joe had a good life. They didn't know that they were poor because everyone was poor. He was married to Jeannine for 64 years. They met at a birthday party at his house. Joe went out of his way to get her attention and ended up pinching her fanny to get it. They had 2 boys. Today he has 5 grandkids and 1 great grandchild.
- He would like to be remembered as a Jack of all Trades, Master of None. He tries to show an interest in everyone.
- Everything makes Joe happy. He enjoys talking to people and he still is a young man at heart. He is 97 years old and plans on making it to 100. Joe said that he is only here today because of the advances in the medical field and the care given by his family and Barbara his caregiver. He can be seen every Wednesday at lunch with Barbara.