



## Edward Thomas Griffis Sr.

July 17, 1946 - June 26, 2025

Edward Thomas Griffis, Sr., (popularly known as “Grif”), age 78 of Philadelphia, PA passed away on Thursday, June 26, 2025, surrounded by his family.

Grif was born on July 17, 1946, in the neighborhood of Kensington to his late parents, Elmer and Helen (Appel) Griffis. He was a devoted husband to Joanne (McLaughlin) Griffis; loving father of Edward, Jr. (Bethany), Maureen Consorte (Michael) and Patrick; gentle Pop-pop to Christiano, Edward III and Rockwell. In addition to his wife, children, and grandchildren, he is survived by his siblings Eileen Williamson, Robert (Debbie), and Thomas (Amy). He is also survived by his in-laws Anne Marie Pettit and John McLaughlin and his nieces and nephews who he loved dearly. Grif was predeceased by his brothers-in-law James J. Pettit, Jr. and Richard Williamson and his niece Adrienne Williamson.

A lifelong educator and dedicated civil servant, Grif spent 46 years teaching in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia and over 30 years for the City of Philadelphia. His teaching career impacted thousands of students and was evenly split between Cardinal Dougherty and Archbishop Ryan High Schools where he was known for his charismatic lectures on U.S. History and loud personality demanding hard work from each and every student. In addition to teaching, he loyally served his old neighborhood as a Playground Leader for the Department of Recreation tending to Black Coyle McBride (Pop’s) Playground at the corner of Trenton Avenue and Huntington Street. Despite his many responsibilities, he always made time for his family and his friends.

Grif was a proud alumnus of North Catholic High School class of 1964 and St. Joseph’s University class of 1968, and the only other school he shared affection for was whomever was playing against Villanova. He would be regularly found at Hawk Hill cheering on the Hawks as a basketball season ticket holder. His other passions included spending time at the shore with his family and friends, following the Phillies and Eagles, catching any soccer game he could find, and watching old movies with his favorite being John Wayne’s The Quiet Man.

Relatives and friends are invited to his Visitation on Tuesday, July 8, 2025, from 6:00-8:00 PM at St. Bridget’s Church, 3667 Midvale Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19129. A second

Visitation will be held on Wednesday, July 9, 2025, from 9:00-10:30 AM at St. Bridget's Church followed by his Funeral Mass at 10:30 AM. Interment at Calvary Cemetery, West Conshohocken, PA. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in his memory to the Saint Joseph's Fund at Saint Joseph's University online at [giving.sju.edu/donate](https://giving.sju.edu/donate) or mail checks to University Advancement, 5600 City Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19131. Arr. Dinan Funeral Home, Phila., PA. Condolences may also be sent to [www.dinanfuneralhome.com](http://www.dinanfuneralhome.com)

# Tribute Wall

AG

“ *Joanne, My thoughts and prayers are with you. Griff was a truly great human being and will be missed by many.*  
*Ann Grebloski*



**Ann Grebloski** - July 08, 2025 at 03:28 PM

JS

“ *Loved Uncle Grif so much. What a darling person - so interesting to talk to - always welcoming and loving. Love his family - his children, and Aunt Joanne. Love you all so much. Thank you for sharing your beloved husband and father with me and so many of us. Love you.*

**Jennifer Stefano** - July 06, 2025 at 08:51 PM

DS

“ *Diane Stafford lit a candle in memory of Edward Thomas Griffis Sr.*



**Diane Stafford** - July 03, 2025 at 04:11 PM

SB

“ *Our condolences to Family and Friends of Grif. We remember how he made you feel Welcomed in his home. He was a wonderful Dad and Grandfather. Would be there for you if you needed help or support. May his soul Rest In Peace among the Angels. Love , Steve and Jeannie Bilynsky*



**Steve and Jeannie Bilynsky** - July 02, 2025 at 09:21 AM