

Joseph Kowalski (1912-2003)
By Dr. Joseph M. Vitolo
(Based on a phone conversation in March 2001)

IAMPETH member and Master Penman Joseph Kowalski shortly before this year's convention. The news was related to the membership by Michael Sull during the Master Penman Induction Ceremony.

Joe was a graduate of the Zanerian College and a contemporary of Bill Lilly. He earned a Zanerian Certificate (Green Seal) in Text Lettering from the Zanerian. Joe was born in 1912 in Niagara, NY and held several jobs in various occupations including Machinist, Printing shop (machining precision dies), and Barber. His penmanship skills were employed by the US Department of Labor. During a recent phone conversation, Joe related a story about EA Lupfer from his Zanerian College days. He said that as Lupfer would make his 'rounds' about the classroom, he would inevitably come upon the student who was having difficulties. On one occasion, a student looked up at Lupfer and insisted, "it's this darn pen point!" or "my holder must not be adjusted correctly!" Joe began laughing as he recalled the remainder of the story. He said that Mr. Lupfer calmly sat down and taking the student's pen, paper and ink would proceed to execute nearly perfect script. Joe lived in Ohio and belonged to the Cleveland Calligraphy Guild. He was among the first group of individuals inducted into IAMPETH's Master Penman Society along with his good friend Bill Lilly. IAMPETH extends its condolences to his family.

*My thanks to Mr. Bill Lilly for making this phone conversation possible.