



## Ervin Enoch Grifka

January 3, 1936 - June 12, 2022

Ervin (“Erv”) Enoch Grifka was born on January 3, 1936, to Mike and Agnes Grifka in Ubly, Michigan. After several months of declining health, Erv passed away peacefully on June 12, 2022 at the age of 86. Erv was blessed to be surrounded by his immediate and extended family when he passed. Erv was the fourth child of ten and the second boy of five. Erv’s father, Mike Grifka, owned one of the largest dairy farms in Tuscola County, Michigan. Erv attended Ubly High School where he was very popular and outgoing. In fact, he was one of the high school’s cheerleaders, a memory his friends and family often liked to remind him of fondly. Erv’s nickname in high school was “Duck”, the origin of which is the source of local legend in Ubly. The general consensus is that it had something to do with the way he walked. Erv was not cut out for farm life, so shortly after high school he moved to the city. There, he enrolled in business school where he met his future wife, Josephine Sabatine and were married on April 27, 1957. They had three children, Fred, Andy and Melanie. Although Erv and Josephine’s marriage did not last, they had an enduring friendship that lasted until Josephine passed away in May 2013. After business school, Erv went to work in the life insurance business. He worked for Macabees Mutual and then Alexander Hamilton. In 1980, he moved to Dallas, Texas where he worked for Coca-Cola. It was there he met his life partner, George Bynum. Erv and George were together for 12 years before George’s untimely death in 1994. Erv was extremely proud of his marathon walking while in Texas and won numerous awards. In 1999, Erv

moved back to Michigan to be with his family which had now grown to include two grandchildren, Tayler and Troy. Erv adored his grandchildren and vice versa. Erv was an avid bowler with a capital "A". Even after he turned 80, he was bowling on two leagues per week and his average was over 180. Unfortunately, this stopped when the pandemic hit and the bowling alleys closed. Erv's work ethic was second to none as well. Again, even into his 80's, he was working almost full time at Joyview Meat Market until the pandemic closed all stores. Erv's philosophy in life was simple. He would often tell his children: "Don't worry about what the other guy is doing, just worry about yourself." Ervin was preceded in death by his life partner, George Bynum, both parents, Mike and Agnes Grifka, his sisters, Lillian (the late Bob) Krug, Bernadine (the late Bob) Jansen and Gloria Schelke, his brother, Jerry (the late Marie) Grifka, his beloved daughter in law, Nancy Grifka, and his faithful companion and pet, Joey. Ervin is survived by his three children, Fred (the late Nancy) Grifka, Andy (Don) Fletcher-Grifka and Melanie (Travis) Brown and his grandchildren, Tayler (Nabeel Vira) Grifka-Brown and Troy Grifka-Brown. Ervin was blessed to have an extended family as well. He will be dearly missed by his step granddaughters, Susan (Orrin) Beane, Terri (Ron) Squires and his step great granddaughter, Jessica Beane and his step great-great grandchildren, Mia and Vincent Beane. Finally, Ervin is survived by his siblings, Henry (the late Bertha) Grifka, Mike (Helen) Grifka, Bill (the late Sandy) Grifka, Stasia (the late Marvin) Fisher and Linda (Bob) Tate and numerous nieces, nephews and friends. A Memorial will be held on Saturday, June 18th from 12–4 PM at Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home, 980 N. Newburgh Road (between Ford Road and Cherry Hill) in Westland. There will be a pause for a short Funeral Service at 2:30 PM. The family will receive guests following the visitation for a dinner honoring Erv's life at a location to be determined and announced by the family. To know Erv is to know that he loved animals. Therefore, in lieu of flowers, the family respectfully requests donations be made to your local animal shelter or the Michigan Humane Society in Erv's name. To share a memory, please use the Share a Memory

tab on this web page.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUN 18. 12:30 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home Westland  
980 North Newburgh Road  
Westland, MI 48185  
(734) 326-1300  
westland@vermeulenfh.com

## Funeral Service

JUN 18. 2:30 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home Westland  
980 North Newburgh Road  
Westland, MI 48185  
(734) 326-1300  
westland@vermeulenfh.com

# Tribute Wall



“ *Ervin Enoch Grifka*

December 07, 2023 at 05:11 AM



“ *Fiery Lily and Rose was purchased for the family of Ervin Enoch Grifka.*



June 18, 2022 at 09:32 AM



“ *He was such a funny, kind and sweet man . You will be missed Uncle Erv . May you Rest in eternal peace with our Lord Jesus our savior 🙏*

**nicole sabatine** - June 17, 2022 at 11:37 AM



“ *As I told you every time we saw each other, You are my favorite human. Our friendship span 25 to 30 years and you were always sweet, loving, and fun. Fly high with the angels my friend, you will definitely be so dearly missed ❤️ ❤️ 🟡*

**Lyn Dwyer** - June 17, 2022 at 09:14 AM

TR

*I just now learned of the passing of Erv. I knew I would hear of it at some point, but it still hit me hard. I lived right next door to Erv for about 10 years just before he moved to live with his son. I've missed him since. I can still hear his usual greeting, " Hello dear." He was kind, funny and loved my purple iris which I wish I had shared earlier. RIP Erv. You were one of the good ones!*

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**Teri R** - July 17, 2022 at 02:58 PM

KF

*“ I worked with Erv @ A & D Yard Accents for a year and loved the way he would greet me at the door with his two fur babies. We had many conversations & shared many jokes & that is how I will always remember him. Please watch over us all Erv ~ know you are up in heaven looking down on us.*

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**Kati Fennimore** - June 16, 2022 at 05:07 PM



*“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Ervin Enoch Grifka.*



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June 16, 2022 at 04:37 PM

LP

“ Our Dad’s grew up together, they are cousins, graduated same class at Ubly high school, were neighbors and friends. They had great times together and with friends, swimming in the stone quarry to hunting muskrat and fishing and of course playing cards. Your parents are my brother David’s Godparent’s. When my dad passed away your Dad called and we talked and talked, he was such a kind man. Your Dad was at my Dads funeral up in Ubly, on that cold icy March day, and that meant a lot to me and my family. Thank you again, Melanie, for making that happen. You are a great daughter. Uncle Irvin was always groomed beautifully. He had swag! ❤️

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**Lori & Peter Janice (Lori Pionk)** - June 15, 2022 at 05:24 PM

JB

“ Boy did he get irritated at restaurants when they tried to serve him with pink lemonade. He said lemonade isn’t pink. He could be so sassy and funny out of nowhere. He made us all laugh all the time. Such a joy to be around. I loved chatting with him and laughing.

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**Jessica Beane** - June 14, 2022 at 08:24 PM