



Gerard J. Cottrell

August 5, 1927 - October 25, 2018

Cottrell, Gerard J., age 91 of Plymouth, passed away peacefully on October 25, 2018. Beloved husband of the late Clara for 63 years. Loving father of Susie (Jim "Chief") Stoklosa, Jim (Cindy), Tom (Linda), Paul (Janis), Judy (Rich) Perry and, the late Michael (Becky). Proud grandfather of 18. Great Grandfather of nine. Dear brother of Patricia Brennan, Kathleen Jenkins, Eileen Longe, John (Donna), Helen McAskin, and the late George.

Mr. Cottrell honorably served in the U.S. Navy during the World War II era, and in the U.S. Air Force during the Korean conflict.

He was a graduate of the University of Detroit with a bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering. Mr. Cottrell also earned a Master's degree from the University of Michigan.

He retired in 1983 as a professional engineer with Giffels Associates.

Jerry was an active supporter of Detroit Catholic Central High School, and the athletic boosters at the University of Detroit.

He was also an active member of Christ the King Parish in Detroit.

In retirement he enjoyed golf and traveling.

Visitation Sunday, October 28th 2-8 PM , Scripture Service Sunday 7 PM, at Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home, 46401 W. Ann Arbor Rd., (Btwn Sheldon & Beck) Plymouth. In State Monday, October 29th 11:30 AM until the 12 PM Funeral Mass at St. Colette Parish, 17600 Newburgh Rd., Livonia, MI 48152.

Donations may be made to St. Paul of the Cross (<https://www.stpaulretreat.org/>). To share a memory, please use the Share A Memory tab on the web page.

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT 28. 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home Plymouth
46401 Ann Arbor Road West
Plymouth, MI 48170
(734) 459-2250
plymouth@vermeulenh.com

Scripture Service

OCT 28. 7:00 PM (ET)

Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home Plymouth
46401 Ann Arbor Road West
Plymouth, MI 48170
(734) 459-2250
plymouth@vermeulenh.com

In state

OCT 29. 11:30 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

St. Colette Catholic Church
17600 Newburgh Road
Livonia, MI 48152

Funeral Mass

OCT **29**. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (ET)

St. Colette Catholic Church
17600 Newburgh Road
Livonia, MI 48152

Tribute Wall



“ Gerard J. Cottrell

December 07, 2023 at 05:11 AM



“ I am saddened to learn of Gerard's passing. I know he was a True Titan in support of the Detroit Mercy. We both shared being Members of the Calihan Athletic Leaders (CAL) Club in support of our beloved Titan Basketball Team.

May Gerard Cottrell be Resting-in-Peace.

*Mark Mikula.
Rochester Hills.*

Mark Mikula - April 22, 2019 at 06:48 PM



“ Our prayers are with you at this time and may God be with you today and the days to come and give you peace and strength. Blessings to all! Love Keith & Bonnie Smith

Bonnie Smith - October 29, 2018 at 09:13 AM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Gerard J. Cottrell.



October 29, 2018 at 08:53 AM

GC

“ Tom,
My deepest condolences to you and your family.

Greg Criner

Greg Criner - October 28, 2018 at 03:59 PM



“ Basket of Memories was purchased for the family
of Gerard J. Cottrell.



October 28, 2018 at 10:59 AM



“ Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the
family of Gerard J. Cottrell.



October 28, 2018 at 01:35 AM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for
the family of Gerard J. Cottrell.



October 27, 2018 at 06:41 PM

“ How did Jerry’s life affect my life?

Let me count the ways: A friend, a mentor, a role model, a bridge partner, a supporter; all of those things, and more.

Jerry and I became friends in 1960, when he worked in the Civil Engineering Department, next to the Specifications Department where I was assigned at the time. We found common ground on many things over coffee breaks. The friendship intensified in later years, when I became a project manager, first as an assistant to Jerry, who had several years of project management experience under his belt. We also both became stockholders in the firm, and served on the Board of Directors together. He headed the Construction Services Department of the firm when I took on the role of construction manager on a major truck plant, supported by Jerry’s staff. Ultimately, we worked together, with him as Senior VP of Corporate and Market Planning and I was Senior VP of Business Development. In his role, he recommended the acquisition of a firm in Atlanta, and upon acquisition he transferred there, and upon his retirement I took over his responsibilities.

Our friendship extended outside of our work. We regularly played bridge with a foursome of company employees and their wives, alternating between homes. We got to know each other’s families, and even hired one of the Cottrell children to do some chores around our home. We appreciated how the Cottrell’s were raising their family.

When I began my own firm, Jerry agreed to serve on my first Board of Directors.

We have lost a good man, and the world is worse off for it. We thank God for having had him in our life. May he rest in peace with God.

Don and Peggy Giffels

Don and Peggy Giffels - October 27, 2018 at 06:05 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Gerard J. Cottrell.*



October 27, 2018 at 06:05 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Gerard J. Cottrell.*



October 27, 2018 at 02:38 PM



“ *Jerry was always a leader in our family, ever encouraging and helpful. When He told me after meeting my Terry that he was a "keeper" I was so pleased. Jerry and Claire and Terry and I shared many fun times together. Those memories are a comfort to me today. There is no question that he is with Our Lord and his beloved Claire and son Mike now.*

Patricia Brennan - October 27, 2018 at 10:31 AM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Gerard J. Cottrell.*



October 27, 2018 at 07:03 AM



“ *Terry and Tina purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Gerard J. Cottrell.*



Terry and Tina - October 26, 2018 at 10:57 PM



“ *Guiding Light Bouquet was purchased for the family of Gerard J. Cottrell.*



October 26, 2018 at 09:32 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Gerard J. Cottrell.*



October 26, 2018 at 08:37 PM