



John Kopiwoda

March 25, 1925 - September 8, 2016

Kopiwoda, John, September 8, 2016 age 91 of Dearborn. Beloved son of the late Felix and Pauline (Banka) Kopiwoda. Dearest brother of Sophie Koch and the late Ed, Frank, Steve, Phyllis Gaston, Josephine Bar, Rose Harkey, and John's "special guardian angel" Chris Harkey. Beloved uncle to his nieces and nephews and dear friend to many. He joyfully lived a life of challenges.

"Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me". Matthew 25:40 Visitation Monday 4-8 PM at Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home, 46401 W. Ann Arbor Rd., (Between Sheldon & Beck) Plymouth. Rosary Monday 7 PM. In state Tuesday 10:30 AM until 11 AM Funeral Mass at St. Gerald Catholic Church, 21300 Farmington Rd., Farmington. Interment Holy Cross Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to United Cerebral Palsy-Detroit. To share a memory, please use the Share a Memory tab on the web page.

Cemetery Details

Holy Cross Cemetery

8850 Dix
Detroit, MI 48209

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP 12. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

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

Rosary

SEP 12. 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

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

In state

SEP **13**. 10:30 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Gerald Catholic Church
21300 Farmington Road
Farmington, MI 48336

Funeral Mass

SEP **13**. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

St. Gerald Catholic Church
21300 Farmington Road
Farmington, MI 48336

Tribute Wall



“ *John Kopiwoda*

December 07, 2023 at 05:11 AM

“ Eulogy presented by Barbara Gaston ... Thanks Barb!

EULOGY
JOHN KOPIWODA

JOHN KOPIWODA WAS A HIGHLY INTELLIGENT, WITTY AND KIND-HEARTED MAN WHOSE INTUITIVE AND SENSITIVE NATURE ALLOWED HIM TO FACE CHALLENGES IN LIFE MANY OF US WOULD FIND DIFFICULT TO ACCOMMODATE.

JOHN WAS BORN WITH CEREBRAL PALSY AT A TIME WHEN PROFESSIONAL MEDICAL HELP FOR HIM WAS LIMITED AS WAS HIS EDUCATION WHICH WAS SPORATIC AND COMPROMIZED. NO FIRST DANCE, DRIVERS LICENSE OR FIRST CAR FOR HIM AND NO TOUR OF COLLEGE CAMPUSES EITHER. GROWING UP ON THE SIDELINES WAS HARD.

THE YOUNGEST OF FOUR BOYS, HE ALSO HAD FOUR SISTERS AND LATER IN LIFE THEIR FAMILIES WHO HELPED HIM IN MANY DIFFERENT WAYS. HIS LACK OF INDEPENDENCE AND HAVING TO ACCEPT THEIR SCHEDULES INSTEAD OF HIS OWN WAS A LIFE-LESSON FOR US ALL.

A DEVOUT CATHOLIC AND A PROUD POLISH AMERICAN, HE LOVED TO TEASE, JOKE AND BANTER. HIS ENTERTAINMENT WAS AT ITS BEST WHEN HE WAS ABLE TO DEFLECT A COMMENT WITH A VERY INTUITIVE AND WITTY REMARK AND THEN LAUGH AT THAT PERSON, WHO OF COURSE HAD TO LAUGH TOO. HE LOVED ONE-UPPING PEOPLE WHO UNDERESTIMATED HIM.

JOHN LOVED PARADES, FESTIVALS AND PICNICS AND IF THERE WAS POLISH MUSIC, SO MUCH THE BETTER. THE DETROIT TIGERS RANKED HIGH ON HIS LIST TOO. IN HIS

YOUNGER DAYS HE TRAVELED AROUND THE CITY OF DETROIT ON HIS OWN – WALKING – UNBELIEVABLE DISTANCES WHICH SHOCKED HIS FAMILY. HE WAS THE FAMILY’S OWN POWER-WALKER AND WE DIDN’T KNOW IT. HE WAS AHEAD OF HIS TIME. NOTHING WAS GOING TO HOLD HIM BACK. OR, HE TOOK STREET CARS AND BUSES. HE SHOPPED AT KRESGE’S AND SMALL INDEPENDENT STORES ON MICHIGAN AVENUE IN DEARBORN AND BOUGHT GREAT LITTLE SURPRISE GIFTS FOR THE FAMILY, PLAINLY WRAPPED IN A BROWN BAG AND PRESENTED WITH SHY SMILE. THE GIFTS DEFLECTED QUESTIONS ABOUT WHERE HE HAD BEEN ALL DAY.

WHEN POPE JOHN PAUL II (NOW SAINT JOHN PAUL II) VISITED THE CITY OF DETROIT, SEPTEMBER 18-19, 1987, AND SPOKE AT FORD AUDITORIUM, UNCLE JOHN WAS IN THAT CROWD AT HART PLAZA.

A FEW YEARS AGO AT AGE 89, JOHN COULD STILL PLAY A MEAN GAME OF CHECKERS. HE SURPRISED HIS GREAT NEPHEWS AT THE FAMILYS ANNUAL KOPIWODA FAMILY REUNION WHEN HE BEAT THEM GAME AFTER GAME WHEN THEY THOUGHT THEY WERE INTRODUCING HIM TO SOMETHING NEW...OR DOUBTED HE COULD PLAY.

WHEN HIS FATHER DIED AND HIS BROTHERS AND SISTERS LEFT TO START THEIR OWN LIVES, HE WAS THE STALWART SOUL, A QUIET AND ACCOMODATING MAN WHO HELPED TAKE CARE OF HIS MOTHER, GRANDMA KOPIWODA AND HER HOME. HE WAS THERE, ALWAYS READY AND WILLING, AND ALWAYS HAPPY TO SEE YOU.

WE WILL MISS HIM....GOD BLESS YOU UNCLE JOHN....YOU WERE SPECIAL AND WE LOVED YOU.

CH

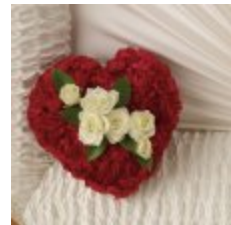
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Chris H - September 12, 2016 at 06:00 AM



“ A Devoted Heart Casket Insert was purchased for the family of John Kopiwoda.



September 11, 2016 at 02:30 PM

GK

“ Rest in Peace Uncle Johnny. I will always remember the twinkle in your eyes and your mischievous smile. You were a legendary at checkers and the greatest Detroit Tigers' fan. You were a blessing to everyone who knew you. Thank you to all of John's nephews and nieces who were there for him who and gave him their unconditional love. Thank you Chris Harkey for being John's guardian and best friend.

Greg Koch - September 11, 2016 at 12:18 PM

KA

Greg, that is so beautiful and made my cry (again). Thank you for your kind and loving words. We miss you.

Karen - September 11, 2016 at 01:36 PM

JK

“ Tina and I were sorry to learn of John's passing. The few occasions that I had gone with Chris to visit him were fun occasions. Uncle John's genuine smile and an almost mischievous twinkle in his eye communicated his delight to see you. His gentle nature and perseverance is an example for us all. Rest peacefully and enjoy your just reward. Jeff Klassa

Jeff Klassa - September 10, 2016 at 07:20 PM

DA

“ I want to say sorry for your loss. John was the sweetest. He taught me how to play checkers last summer. I loved coming to work to play with him. He really made my day. He had a great sense of humor. He also would talk to me and tell me stories from time to time. I'm going to miss him.



Dakeisha - September 09, 2016 at 11:42 PM