



Timothy Anthony Fitzpatrick

October 14, 1948 - August 21, 2024

TIMOTHY A. FITZPATRICK

OCTOBER 14, 1948 – AUGUST 21, 2024

Timothy A Fitzpatrick, age 75, passed away peacefully August 21, 2024 after a brief illness. Beloved husband of 55 years to Terri (Sullivan). Loving father to Kelly Thorp (Edward) and doting Papa to his granddaughters Regan and Ryan. Brother to Mike (Sherry), Dan (Nancy) and Jerry (Janet). He is also survived by 33 nieces and nephews and 56 great nieces and nephews, as well a great number of special extended family and dear friends. He was preceded in death by his son-in-law Edward, sister Mary Anne, brothers John and James, parents Timothy and Kathleen, as well as in-laws Lawrence and Florence Sullivan.

Tim was a champion of life.

He was a champion of education of others and himself. An educator for 35 years, Tim had a love of learning – and an even bigger love of teaching. Tim started his career in Bedford Schools in Temperance MI as a 5th grade Science and Math teacher at Douglas Road elementary in 1973. From there he progressed into administration as a Principal at Summerfield Middle School and then Dundee Elementary before his move to Jefferson Schools in Monroe as a Principal at Hurd Road Elementary. Then in 1987 he led the district as

Assistant Superintendent for many years before finally taking the mantle of Superintendent of schools in 1999. He retired from Jefferson in 2008.

He valued not only formal education but also learning about people and life. As an early adopter of technology, his cluttered home office held a wide array of computers and devices. He showed his great love of music and entertainment as a pioneer of mixed tapes and had the largest collection of laser discs known to man. In the kitchen he was always trying his hand at being the next Paul Prudhomme, Bobby Flay or “Cajun Chef” Justin Wilson. He hosted the inaugural (and only) family hot sauce competition on Christmas 1994 where he almost killed his brothers with a single drop of “Skull and Crossbones”. And, coming from a competitive and athletically-inclined family, Tim organized the first (and only) family tennis tournament where he seeded himself number one, of course – a move that was highly contested. It was during this tournament a family motto was born – “Cheaters Never Prosper”.

He was a champion of others as no one was ever a stranger to him. Within minutes of meeting him, you had a new best friend. He always helped others win (except when playing Monopoly) and celebrated their successes in life. He genuinely wanted to know how you were and gave thoughtful advice to push you beyond the limits you thought existed. He did it all with a smile and a few (too many) jokes. In retirement, Tim was able to focus on his love of golf, getting together for a neighborhood “nosh”, or meeting with his men’s group, the “GNOMES”, each month for dinner and a movie.

Tim was a champion of family. He was the eldest of 7 children and uncle to countless nieces and nephews. He was the best pet dad to a menagerie of tropical fish, birds, cats and dogs. Most importantly, he had 4 soul mates that he dedicated his life to. His bride Terri was his great love since they first met in traffic court as teenagers. From there he was content to live in his “estrogen pool”, being blessed with a daughter and eventually 2 granddaughters. He

loved them all fiercely and unconditionally. He was at every musical performance, dance competition and softball game with pride in his heart.

As we mourn the great loss of our champion, we ask that you remember his kindness and compassion, his passion for celebrating your successes, his great smile and laughter and his genuine love for his family.

Visitation Friday, September 6th, 2-9pm with Scripture Service/ Remembrance at 7:30pm at Vermeulen Funeral Home 46401 W. Ann Arbor Rd., Plymouth, MI. Funeral Mass to be celebrated Saturday, September 7th, 12 Noon, St. Kenneth Catholic Church 14951 N Haggerty Rd, Plymouth, MI. A celebration of life will be scheduled for a future date in Aiken, SC which Tim and Terri have called home for nearly 20 years. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that you make a donation in Tim's memory to: Leukemia/ Lymphoma Society and/or The American Heart Association.

To share a memory, please use the share a memory tab on this webpage.

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP 6. 2:00 PM - 9:00 PM (ET)

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

In state

SEP 7. 11:30 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

St Kenneth Catholic Church
14951 N Haggerty Rd
Plymouth, MI 48170-2798
(734) 420-0288

Funeral Mass

SEP 7. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (ET)

St. Kenneth Catholic Church
14951 North Haggerty Road
Plymouth, MI 48170
vermeulenfh@comcast.net

Tribute Wall

DB

“ Terri, Kelly, Reagan and Ryan

I am so sorry about the loss of Tim. I wish we could be there. You all are in my thoughts and prayers.

*Much love to all of you today-
Donna*

Donna Banks - September 07, 2024 at 08:23 AM

DH

“ Of course I'm remembering Tim as a teacher at Douglas Road School...he taught two of our boys (hopefully they weren't in Lunch Bunch!!)He promised me he would still be there for our third boy..but Tim went on to Summerfield Schools as an asset to the school and my husband Russell Hoogendoorn...have fond memories of him.. remembering you Terri and Kelly as your young daughter!! Tim is an absolute loss to all!! Wishing you and your family Comfort and Peace..Diane Hoogendoorn and Family

Diane hoogendoorn - September 05, 2024 at 06:05 PM

CS

“ I was a secretary to Tim when he was the Principal at Summerfield Middle School. He brought so much energy and passion to the job and I admired him immensely. Students were so luck to have him at the helm when they passed through the Middle School.

My sympathy to the family as you grieve this loss. May God bless and be with you.

Cathy Secor

Cathy Secor - September 05, 2024 at 11:18 AM



“ Rest in Peace my brother-in-law Tim Fitz -- I will miss you greatly. You were the embodiment of hospitality - the best host, always welcoming guests, making sure that everyone was well-fed and taken care of. One of my fondest memories is of you and Terri chauffeuring Peg and I from Temple Sholom right after our wedding ceremony to the reception site, and providing champagne and snacks in their car for us. Thanksgivings will just never be the same. May your memory be for a blessing and an example.

Michael

Mike Bloom - September 03, 2024 at 08:34 AM

NW

“ Kelly, I didn't know your dad but I remember you. Your Aunt Mary Anne would bring you to basketball practice at St Vincent de Paul. She loved to chase and scare you all during practice. Sorry for the loss of your dad. I'm sure you were even more Special to him than your Aunt Mary Anne! Dan and Jerry sorry for the loss of another sibling. Terry, Sorry for your loss! You were blessed to be part of the Fitzpatrick family.
Nancy Skiba Wuwert

Nancy Wuwert - September 02, 2024 at 11:05 AM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Timothy Anthony Fitzpatrick.



August 30, 2024 at 02:17 PM

TF

“ The Borgaro Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Timothy Anthony Fitzpatrick.

The Borgaro Family - August 30, 2024 at 02:17 PM

PF

“ I had the privilege of meeting Tim about 5 years ago in the neighborhood and have cherished every meeting since. Tim had a way of inspiring and it was evident he truly cared and gave insightful advice. We're sure going to miss you buddy!
The Fugates

Phillip Fugate - August 30, 2024 at 05:32 AM

LI

“ Uncle Tim will always have a place in the Reitan hearts. He will always be remembered as "uncle candy man" to our kids. Love Lisa, Scott, Zoey, Carter, Sophia, Miller, Reese and Parker (not the dog)

Lisa - August 29, 2024 at 03:59 PM

JF

“ Terri and Kelly
I have looked up to Tim all my life and will continue to look up to him in Heaven .
I love you brother
Jerry

Jerry Fitzpatrick - August 29, 2024 at 03:52 PM