



Albert P. Zelenak

August 18, 1934 - October 31, 2008

ZELENAK, ALBERT P., SR. age 74, Oct. 31, 2008 of Sterling Heights. Beloved husband of Patricia. Dear father of Albert P. Debra Zelenak, Matthew J. Kathryn Zelenak, John M. Zelenak, Paul J. Kristin Zelenak. Loving grandfather of 9 grandchildren. Dear brother of the late John Zelenak. Friends may call at Wm. Sullivan & Son Funeral Home, 8459 Hall Rd., 3 blks. E. of Van Dyke Utica from 3-9PM Sunday. Mr. Zelenak will lie in state on Monday at St. Matthias Catholic Church, 12509 19 Mile Rd., Sterling Heights from 9:00 AM until 9:30 AM time of Mass. Interment will take place on Tuesday at Great Lakes National Cemetery, Holly. Memorials suggested to Beaumont Hospice.

Tribute Wall



“ *Albert P. Zelenak*

March 25, 2023 at 11:03 AM



“ *Al was a friend and teacher and mentor for me at the IRS. When I returned from active duty in the Air Force, he helped me continue my training, recognizing the effect of my absence. I will miss him.*

Al Belkonen - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM



“ *To Col Zelenak and family, May God grant you comfort and peace in your time of bereavement and healing. Blessings to you and your family always. The James Family Steve, Monique, Steven Jr. and Kayndis*

Monique M. James and Family - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DA

“Big Al”, I know you were looking down on your family today, as they were celebrating and remembering your life. Your grandchildren stepped forward and in almost perfect military steps, no doubt part of the Zelenak training brought your resting casket forward for your Resurrection Mass. Your two oldest sons, were dressed in their military uniforms, adorned with their rank and privileges, accompanied by their spouses, then they were followed by your other two sons, who were dressed impeccably along with their families at their side. During the Mass, your son John rubbed Pat's back as if to say, it's alright mom, he's with God at his heavenly banquet, making plans to receive each of his family members when they have to leave earth and venture to everlasting life. Your casket was draped with the American flag that you and all your sons and their families cherish, respect, and honor for the service you gave to your country, as well as the service your sons are continuing to give in your footsteps. As you were loaded into the hearse by your grandchildren and your sons, "Attention" was given, and your sons gave their final salute to you with everyone watching in quiet silence, as your ride to Holly MI, to the Great Lakes Memorial Cemetery for your earthly resting place, befitting a man of your caliber slowly drove away. Your sons saluting you as you left reminded me of November 1969, when little 'John John' as he was called, saluted his dad as the hearse went by. Al, you led a good life, your example and love of family lives on in your own family as it was evident today and any day, someone comes in contact with any of your sons, Pat, or members of their families. Al, you will be missed, but will still live in the hearts and many memories of all of us who you have touched during your life here. You have now as the Air Force poem entitled "High Flight" ends, "touched the face of God."

Dave - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

RD

“ To the Family of Mr. Albert P. Zelenak, My family and I are sorry to hear of your loss. While I didn't know Mr. Zelenak, I've worked for his son, Col Albert Zelenak, for the past 16 months. If Col Zelenak is a reflection of the character of his father, then I know Mr. Zelenak was a good man. God bless, Rick Dodd and Family

Rick Dodd - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

SS

“ We are so sorry for your loss. Your Dad raised a fine son. We are glad you are here, working with us in Colorado. In Christ, Stuart, Jody and Julie

Stuart, Jody and Julie Smith - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

CO

“ Condolences to the Zelenak Family, My thoughts & prayers are with your family in this time of sorrow. We all went to Queen of Heaven a long time ago, but a good family leaves good memories.

Carol Owczarzak - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

PM

“ Dear Patty, I have fond memories of your years at St. Cyril. I remember your big dramatic scene in "The Song of Bernadette." I was in 4th Grade! I also remember your wedding so many, many years ago. You and Al really had many good years together. That's truly a blessing. I last talked with him at Chuck & Rose Howell's wedding anniversary, talking about music from the good old days. My prayers are with you. God bless you and your family.

Paul Martinsky - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DG

“ Pat, Al, Matt, John & Paul; There were many moments remembered when you all lived on Sirron. Your dad was the one who gave all his sons, the courage, moral example, Christian life upbringing that molded your character, along with the devotion to one's own life, the ability to make their own decisions after asking the old man for advice. I remember he said, "Well what do you think?" He would allow for the thinking of his sons to make the decisions for themselves. He may have prodded or made a fatherly recommendation, but the boys made the decisions in their lives, based on the respect, the moral courage, straight forwardness "Big Al" their dad, gave them as an example in their personal lives. Many times I would on the afternoon shift while patrolling the neighborhood, I would see Pat or Al in the kitchen window, and they would wave me in for a cup of coffee. At Queen of Heaven, I tried to get Al to be a lector there, but the only one I could convince was Pat. She did it probably because she didn't want to say no. Al on the other hand was busy in his own personal way with his involvement at Queen of Heaven. If I was still on the force, I would personally give "Big Al" a police escort to his final earthly resting place. AL is already home, where we will all eventually be. He left to be the first one, to help prepare a homecoming for all of his family and friends when we are called on our day. "When you lose a parent, you lose your past. When you lose a spouse, you lose your present. When you lose a child, you lose your future. When you lose a friend, you lose a part of yourself." Well we all lost a friend. Al will be missed, but will live within our fond memories of him and his family. In closing, Luke 23:42-43 Al said, "Jesus remember me when you enter into your kingdom." And Jesus replied, "Al, I assure you, this day you will be with me in heaven."

Dave & Grace - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

CB

“ Matt, You and your family are in our thoughts and prayers as you go through this difficult time. Bruce and Christina

COL Bruce H. Bahr - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

MM

“ I worked with Al in the 1970's. He was unfailingly generous, kind and gracious, and universally loved and respected by those of us who had the good fortune to be associated with him. He carried his complete devotion to Patty and his children on his sleeve. He was, in short, a man to be admired. My heartfelt condolences to Patty and his family for the loss of this very special man.

Mary F. Mann - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

TZ

“ Dear Aunt Patty, Albert, Matt, John, and Paul: We are both very sorry for your loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with your family. Take comfort from each other in this time of grieving.

Tom and Maureen Zelenak - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

TF

“ Our prayers and thoughts are for you and your family. Be at peace for Albert is now with God celebrating in Heaven!! If we can be of any help, please let us know.

The Schwandt Family - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

MT

“ I truly regret that I will be unable to attend the service for Mr. Zelenak. I loved Mr. Zelenak for his bright spirit, wonderful smile and lengthy hand shakes, of which he would never let go!! That always made me smile! To me, Mr. Zelenak was a Great Man and a Great American Hero that reminds me of my own father! He was an inspiration to all, because of his kind nature and gracious character. I will miss him and I pray that the Lord will comfort all of you in your time of sorrow. May God Bless You and keep you in his graces.

Mark A. Tyler - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

EC

“ Matt, we did not have the privilege of meeting your dad, but because of your life we know he was a wonderful man. Our thoughts and prayers are with your mother and your family. Hugs
The Claggetts

Eric, Jamie, Hannah & Rachel Claggett - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM