



## Frederick "Fritz" Kessler

July 24, 1932 - November 25, 2016

Kessler, Frederick "Fritz", of Macomb, passed away from this life on November 25, 2016, at the age of 84. He is survived by his loving wife of 60 years, his Queen, Shirley. He is also survived by his four devoted daughters, their husbands, his grandchildren, and his great grandsons. Fritz was born in Detroit, and grew up in Cherry Hill, with his mother, father, brothers, and sisters. His two brothers and his younger sister also survive him, and when he left this earth, he joined two of his sisters who predeceased him. He attended Ypsilanti High School, where he was President of his Senior Class and President of the National Honor Society. He was inducted into the Ypsilanti High School Hall of Fame, having played high school baseball, football, and basketball - with, he would tell you, a mean hook shot. He was tremendously proud his entire life of his high school football team, "The Glory Years", and the unbeaten teams he played on. After high school, he served our country as a Marine in the Korean War. He celebrated the Marine Corps birthday every year and was proud of having served his country. After the War, he went to Eastern Michigan University, where he played football and basketball, and earned a Bachelors, a Masters, and a Specialist degree in Education. He devoted his entire professional career to education - first as a teacher and coach, and later as an administrator. He was ahead of his time in methodology and his philosophy was, "If children can't learn the way we teach, we need to teach the way they learn." He was a member of the VFW, a member of the Utica Teachers Union (President of the Union in his early 30s),

a Eucharistic minister at his church, and a perpetual volunteer. He loved his family dearly and protectively - his parents, siblings, wife, daughters and their families, and his close friends - every moment of his life on this earth. He was so proud of the family he and his wife created. Perhaps it was because he lost his father when he was young - just 16 years old - but he believed life was too short to get angry. He also believed that because The Good Lord blessed us all so richly, and all He asked was an hour a week, we should not be late for mass - no small task in his younger days, when he had a wife, four daughters, and only one bathroom! If you know the story of the Good Samaritan, then you know what he was like. He never walked by a person in need, was never too busy to help, and was truly generous in every way. He was eternally optimistic, never spoke unkindly to or about anyone, and was thankful every day for the blessings the Good Lord gave him. He saw good in everyone and only spread good news. He collected inspirational writings and shared them with others. He loved the poems "The Man in the Glass" and "I Know Something Good About You" and the song "I Believe That Children are Our Future". His favorite expression was "Keep smiling", and he never parted company with anyone without wishing that they "be safe and have a great day" - including the doctors and nurses who treated his cancer the last two years of his life. He was loved and respected by his family, in his profession, and in his community. He touched many - and those who loved him were blessed beyond measure. In lieu of flowers, he has asked that memorial donations be made to the Capuchin Soup Kitchen or St. Jude's Hospital. His family will receive friends and family on Friday, December 2, from 2-9, at William Sullivan Funeral Home, with a rosary hour at 7:00 p.m. His funeral mass will be at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, December 3, at St. Thecla Church, 20740 S. Nunneley Rd, Clinton Township, 48035. He will lie in state at St. Thecla on Saturday, from 10:00 a.m. until funeral mass at 11:00 a.m. Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him.

# Cemetery Details

## Great Lakes National Cemetery

4200 Belford Road  
Holly Township, MI 48442

# Previous Events

## Visitation

DEC 2. 2:00 PM - 9:00 PM (ET)

Wm Sullivan and Son Funeral Home  
8459 Hall Road  
Utica, MI 48317  
(586) 731-2411  
utica@sullivanfh.com  
<https://www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com/>

## Rosary

DEC 2. 7:00 PM (ET)

Wm Sullivan and Son Funeral Home  
8459 Hall Road  
Utica, MI 48317  
(586) 731-2411  
utica@sullivanfh.com  
<https://www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com/>

## Instate

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DEC 3. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Thecla Catholic Church  
20740 Nunneley  
Clinton Township, MI

## Funeral Mass

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DEC 3. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Thecla Catholic Church  
20740 Nunneley  
Clinton Township, MI

## Burial of Cremated Remains

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DEC 5. 1:00 PM (ET)

Great Lakes National Cemetery  
4200 Belford Road  
Holly Township, MI 48442

# Tribute Wall

MD

“ My condolences to the family. Recall pleasant memories that you shared with your loved one. May you find comfort in Jesus words, "I am the resurrection and the life."-John 11:25

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**Ms. Dee** - December 04, 2016 at 06:29 AM

BD

“ I'm proud to be a Kessler, and Uncle Fritz is one of my heroes. As a kid, I got to go to an Eastern Michigan football game and watch him play. I will never forget that. I also remember the story about Fritz scoring a touchdown as an offensive lineman. What a man! And, the first football game I ever watched was with my Dad and the Kessler Brothers. We watched the game on this 6 inch black and white TV, and the Detroit Lions thrashed Jim Brown and the Cleveland Browns. What an experience to hang out with some really cool men. I'm so glad that I got to see him after many years at the Kessler reunions. I will miss him.  
Love from the Colorado Daly's

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**Bill Daly** - December 02, 2016 at 05:55 PM

SC

“ To the Kessler Family, I meet Fred when I worked in Livingston County. He was one of the supporters that got me hired! I always thanked Fred for the opportunity to work in both Fowlerville and Hartland Schools as a coordinator for special education. Fred lived in Macomb County as I did while I worked in Livingston. We use to talk about the drive to and from work. Fred was all about kids. He was their advocate. Fred was a great man and will be truly missed. RIP Fred. Sally Cairo

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**Sally Cairo** - December 02, 2016 at 04:52 PM

TD

“ *The children of Don and Patricia Daly purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Frederick "Fritz" Kessler .*



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**The children of Don and Patricia Daly** - December 02, 2016 at 11:26 AM

MF

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



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**Maryann Foxlee** - December 02, 2016 at 10:52 AM

MF

*He was loved by all who met him!*

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**Maryann Foxlee** - December 02, 2016 at 02:49 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Frederick "Fritz" Kessler .*



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December 01, 2016 at 06:57 AM

JK

“ I met Fred in the early 60's when he was teaching elementary PE in UCS and I was at UHS. We became friends and to this day I have considered Fed my very good friend.  
Our friendship was the type that we could go for long periods of time without seeing each other, and meet, and it would be like we had talked yesterday. I consider myself a better person having known Fred Kessler. Like all his friend I will miss him.

*Jim King*

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**Jim King** - November 30, 2016 at 03:37 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Frederick "Fritz" Kessler .



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November 30, 2016 at 10:15 AM

BP

“ Lisa,

*Please accept my deepest condolences for your family's loss.*

*Brenda Parrish*

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**Brenda Parrish** - November 30, 2016 at 08:54 AM

GE

“ For Aunt Shirley, Cheryl, Vicky, Lisa & Julie -

*Uncle Fritz was a class act. He was a great son, brother, father, husband, and grandfather, uncle, coach, and administrator. He was truly a great role model for me. He was the first one in our family to earn a college degree and compete in college athletics. When we played in the rec league together, he'd always come out with that left-handed hook and most times, it went in. He was always so positive to everyone. I never heard him complain or speak ill of others. He will be sorely missed by all the people who had the privilege to know him.*

*Greg & Renee*

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**Greg & Renee Esler** - November 29, 2016 at 08:35 PM

TK

“ When I came to utica Fred was the second person I met. He took me under his wing and helped me adjust her. I had a wife going through a hard pg and he as kind to me. Every thing said in the profile is true but it hardly touches the surface. he was Assitant principal at Stevenson. I had an operation and started school late and he took over coaching my wrestling team to keep it going all that in addition to being an administrator.i have been trying to see him but his battle did not allow it. God how Fred close and his Fmily Bless all of you. A great man

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**Tom Kroll** - November 29, 2016 at 08:24 PM

AS

“ Shirley

*Deepest sympathy to you and your family.*

*Fritz was amazing in all he did for neighbors and friends in need of help or a kind word.*

*He did so much for the Huntcliff condo community gave freely of his time and talents, we are lucky to have had him as President and neighbor.*

*consider ourselves lucky to have Fritz and Shirley as friends.*

*your in our prayers and thoughts at this most difficult time*

*Al and Lonnie Saam*

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**Al and Lonnie Saam** - November 29, 2016 at 04:07 PM

RE

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**Renee Esler** - November 29, 2016 at 02:13 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Frederick "Fritz" Kessler .



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November 29, 2016 at 08:28 AM



“ 3 files added to the album Memories Album



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**Marisa Lynn** - November 28, 2016 at 02:03 PM

LM

“ Special prayers for Shirley and the entire Kessler family. I have a special place in my heart for Fred, since he hired me at Clintondale Community Schools in 1973. He was a wonderful man with a big heart!

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**Lou Moss** - November 28, 2016 at 01:51 PM

KS

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



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**Katie Sergeant** - November 28, 2016 at 11:29 AM



“ 50 files added to the album Memories Album



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**Wm. Sullivan & Son Funeral Directors** - November 28, 2016 at 09:30 AM

BH

“ Shirley, I only got to know Fritz these last few years but he was every good thing you told me about him- kind to others, devoted to you, a committed educator. I share your family's loss and celebrate a wonderful man.

*Beth Hwacinski*

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**Beth Hwacinski** - November 27, 2016 at 05:07 PM