



George L. Knoppe

November 25, 1937 - February 9, 2021

George Leo Knoppe, age 83, of Madison Heights, passed away February 9, 2021.

Beloved husband of Barbara (née Forster), to whom he was married for over 62 years. Loving father of Sabrina (John G.) Fodera, George (Robin), Thomas, Michele (James) McLauchlan, the late Joseph, and Corinne (Christopher) Bilkie. Proud grandfather of Andrea, Benjamin, Derrick, Lillian, Barbara, Danielle, Thomas, Brittney, Audrey, Shawn, Stephen, Caitlin, Hannah, Emily, Grace, Addy, Jeffrey, Joseph; and great-grandfather of Benjamin, Gabrielle, Devin, Evelyn, Benjamin, Griffin, Evelyn, and Caleb. Dear brother of Bernard "Roe," John, and Judy Baldrige. Predeceased by his parents, George and Leota; and his other siblings: Mary "Adeline" Hill, William, and Steven.

In his youth, George sang in the church choir, and as a young man taught catechism. He was also an usher and a member of Knights of Columbus. He always enjoyed politics and was an easy conversationalist, as he was well read and often listened to others' thoughts and opinions. Later in life and until he was no longer able, George volunteered at Grace Hospice - Troy.

George would be best described as a nature lover. He loved spending time in the woods, sightseeing throughout the Upper Peninsula, and both watching

and feeding birds. Closer to home in earlier years, he enjoyed keeping bees and raising his own chickens, geese, and ducks, along with the occasional goat and pig. He also raised pheasant for the State of Michigan.

Rounding out his interests, George was also an avid reader. George loved to learn about the health benefits of food and different ways to prepare meals. He enjoyed going to the markets for fresh produce and liked trying tastes from around the world. He was skilled at curing and canning various foods, such as hams, sausages, kimchi, bacon, and mushrooms. And it's fair to say that George was into organic gardening years before it was the cool thing to do. He knew much about nature because he loved it and loved life.

Perhaps most of all though, George enjoyed spending time with his family. He especially loved his wife, kids, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. He loved taking his family on yearly vacations, as well as fishing and hunting while they were growing up, and more recently he enjoyed visiting family both close to home in Michigan and down in Florida. He enjoyed kids and played along when children thought he was Santa when he was out in public. George was deeply loved by his family and will be dearly missed.

Visitation will take place Saturday, February 13, from 2 - 6 p.m. at Wm. Sullivan and Son Funeral Home, 705 W. 11 Mile Rd. (4 blocks east of Woodward), Royal Oak. Additional visitation will take place on Sunday, February 14, from 1:00 p.m., until time of service, 3:00 p.m. The service will also be livestreamed at <https://www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com/obituaries/George-Knoppe/#!/PhotosVideos>. Please note that attendance is limited to 25 visitors at any single time, and a mask is required to enter the funeral home.

Share a memory at www.SullivanFuneralDirectors.com.

Cemetery Details

Oakview Cemetery

1032 N. Main Street
(south of 12 Mile Road)
Royal Oak, MI 48067

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 13. 2:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Wm. Sullivan and Son Funeral Directors-Royal Oak
705 W. Eleven Mile Road
Royal Oak, MI 48067
(248) 541-7000
royal@sullivanfh.com
<https://www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com/>

Visitation

FEB 14. 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

Wm. Sullivan and Son Funeral Directors-Royal Oak
705 W. Eleven Mile Road
Royal Oak, MI 48067
(248) 541-7000
royal@sullivanfh.com
<https://www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com/>

Funeral Service

FEB 14. 3:00 PM (ET)

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705 W. Eleven Mile Road
Royal Oak, MI 48067
(248) 541-7000
royal@sullivanfh.com
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Tribute Wall



“ *Wm. Sullivan & Son Funeral Directors created a Webcast in memory of George L. Knoppe*



Wm. Sullivan & Son Funeral Directors - February 14, 2021 at 12:55 PM

MK

“ *When I think of Uncle George a memory comes to mind regarding a visit to their house when I was young, he and my dad, John Knoppe, would often sit, talk, and have a beer while us kids goofed around. On this visit Uncle George and my dad decided to give my brother and I Big Red chewing tobacco. All went well for about five minutes til our face turned colors and we get sick to our stomach all over the yard. My brother and I never touched the stuff again.*

Mark Knoppe - February 15, 2021 at 02:00 PM

KK

“ *Kim and Mark Knoppe purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of George L. Knoppe.*



Kim and Mark Knoppe - February 15, 2021 at 01:08 PM



“ *Pretty Please was purchased for the family of George L. Knoppe.*



February 13, 2021 at 10:49 AM



“ *My heartfelt sympathy for all of you! 💔 I have so many memories of Uncle George...all our family get-togethers when we were younger, his garden and all the animals on his "city farm", the knuckle sandwiches 😞, the deep talks he and my Dad had, our sledding trip when our feet froze, singing "Kiss me my darling" when we butchered our chickens, growing his hair and white beard out. 🤔 Family was most important to him and he loved you all so much!! Even after we moved to the country, he always made the drive and came to our graduation parties, weddings and family picnics! I'm thankful for all the memories! 💖 May the love and prayers of everyone comfort you all as you grieve. Love you all so much! ((Hugs!!))*

Sharon Hazard - February 13, 2021 at 09:59 AM

LM

“ As you all can see from the accompanying testimonials, George was a true nature lover and imparted that love on his children and grand kids. Not a surprise. George and I were close friends all through grade and high school at St. Benedict in Highland Park. He did love animals and helped raise chickens, and ducks and pigeons at the family home on Candler ave. He loved the woods and just being outside. One of his favorite pass times was really long bike rides. Riding once from Highland Park to Monroe (45 miles one way), and back on the same day/ Then going out to run his Free Press paper route that evening. He was indeed a special guy and close childhood friend. He became the envy of us kids when he purchased and rode a Whizzer Motor Bike. We lost track of each other after high school but renewed our friendship a couple of years ago. It was nice to know that he never changed. A nice guy.

We will miss him.

Larry Millen

Larry Millen - February 12, 2021 at 09:33 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of George L. Knoppe.



February 12, 2021 at 09:03 PM

AP

“ I always think of grandpa when I see bumble bees. He used to have been hives and let me hold the queen bee as she had no stinger he taught me when I was young. I've always liked bees since :)

andrea Pack - February 12, 2021 at 08:19 PM

AY

“ *Aimee Baldrige Yanek & Brian Yanek purchased the Sweet Tranquility Basket for the family of George L. Knoppe.*



Aimee Baldrige Yanek & Brian Yanek - February 12, 2021 at 03:24 PM

LB

“ *Lou Bozich purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of George L. Knoppe.*



Lou Bozich - February 12, 2021 at 03:07 PM

GB

“ *Guy, Janet, Laine and Tessa Boitos purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of George L. Knoppe.*



Guy, Janet, Laine and Tessa Boitos - February 12, 2021 at 10:35 AM

RW

“ *Barb and family I'm so sorry for your loss George was like a second father to me I loved him very much. R.I.P*

Ronald Williams - February 12, 2021 at 08:41 AM

CM

“ Carolyn McLauchlan purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of George L. Knoppe.



Carolyn McLauchlan - February 11, 2021 at 11:46 PM

CF

“ Chuck, Ann Hill & family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of George L. Knoppe.



Chuck, Ann Hill & family - February 11, 2021 at 07:28 PM

TK

“ My last conversation with you father will forever be cherished in my thoughts. It seemed as if his life story was the conversation of how much he loves my mother being married to her for 62 years, how wonderful she is and knowing her for more than 65. He certainly loved my mother and us children.

Tom Knoppe - February 11, 2021 at 12:30 PM