



John G. Kolmetz

February 15, 1929 - November 30, 2014

Kolmetz, John G., age 85, of Warren, went to Heaven on November 30, 2014. The way he lived his life was an inspiration to all who knew him. He believed in being happy and thankful in all situations, and he shared that positive outlook with everyone around him. He was a man of strong faith, and his belief in Jesus Christ was the cornerstone of who he was as a person and guided everything he did. He was an active member of Woodlawn Church serving in Children's Ministry and as a Promise Keeper leader for most of his years. He was an avid runner and was one of a select group of people who had run every Free Press Marathon since it started in 1979, until he ran his last marathon at 80 years of age. He continued his active lifestyle until a few months before his death, and believed the secret to health was found in a combination of spiritual beliefs, healthy eating, exercise, fresh air and sunshine. He juiced daily for his family and tried to encourage others to be healthy as well. He graduated from Wayne State University and was a veteran of the Korean War. On October 4, 1950, he married Joan Cameron in Warren, and they were married for 64 years. He worked for General Motors Photographic for 46 years. He was an amazing father and grandpa, always there to give hugs, smiles and encouraging words. He was a die-hard U of M fan and a lifelong Detroit Tigers fan. He was the beloved husband of Joan. Loving father of Jane Kolmetz, Carrie Dave Wheatley, the late John Jr. and Mark. Cherished grandpa of Kendra Jeff Riley; Emily, Claire, Maddie, Noah and Evangeline Wheatley and great grandpa of Grace Riley. Dear brother of

Rusty Gratson and Ellie Abrahamson. Father-in-law of Lisa Davidson. The family will receive friends Saturday, December 6, 2014 from 10 a.m. until the time of the service 11 a.m. at Woodlawn Church, 3620 Rochester Road, Royal Oak. A private burial with military honors will take place at Oakview Cemetery, Royal Oak. Memorials to the Wounded Warrior Project or Gilda's Club are appreciated. Arrangements by Wm. Sullivan & Son Funeral Home, Royal Oak, 248-541-7000. Share your memories at www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com.

Tribute Wall

PB

“ John is my good friend. I met John running,I ran a lot of miles with John. I will miss him very much.

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

RG

“ I met John some years back at GM's wellness center. I always enjoyed our brief conversations about just about everything. John always had a pleasant disposition and some advice or thought to share- especially about the Lord. I will always remember the way he walked. His gate was that of a much younger man. I was very sad to find that he passed and will miss him. May he rest in peace. Rainer Glaser

rainer glaser - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

LW

“ Its tough to believe and sad to hear of John's passing. I am another avid runner been at it since spring 1969 and have come across John at many running events. I often speak to others about the time I was running around Wayne State and decided to run on the football stadium track - John was doing stadium stairs- I am 67 & 1/2 and said hi to john etc. and asked him how old he was now- He said 80- doing college football stadium stairs at 80! What an inspiring person! May God be with his loved ones. Larry Wibright

Larry Wibright - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

WP

“ I am stunned and saddened to hear of John's passing. He was my Dad's John best running buddy. Remember him shouting out while running 'I FEEL GOOD..da dada da' by James Brown!

wendy paton-beaupre - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

KK

“ I was so sad to hear of the passing of John Kolmetz. I remember him well from his years at Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church. He was a real gentleman and will be truly missed. My condolences to the family? Kathleen Kauffman

Kathleen Kauffman - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

FR

“ I'm just another person that you left your mark on. Thanks John

Floyd Robinson - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

RH

“ I was saddened to hear of John's passing. We worked together at GM for a long time, and I was a great admirer of his efforts at marathon running. I always thought of him as a real gentleman...one of the best. My sincere condolences to his family.

Ron Herron - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

AK

“ I was deeply saddened to hear of John's death. We were neighbors for many years...I went to school with his sons John and Mark. Rest in peace my friend.

Andrea Wendt Kolton - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

TM

“ Hello Rich--- I'm so glad you got to meet my Uncle and through running --- one of his great passions! Wonderful memories flood back of all the marvelous childhood adventures I enjoyed with two of my favorite cousins: John and Mark. Carrie and Jane were quite young then. Ha when they would have family parties we'd climb a tree above them listening to everything or we would steal away somewhere staring at every guest through a telescope magnifying every blemish, every wrinkle Mark's idea of course!. we'd top off the evening catching red-bellied snakes in a field! I loved every moment. And Uncle John was a huge champion of the outdoors, athleticism. Delighted in his children. John would become an incredible high school wrestler and Mark a top notch saxophonist. The world was a much better world with them in it and I am happy for all the treasured time I spent with them. Their light lives on in sisters Carrie and Jane. True blessings! Lots of love, Cousin Terri

Terri Mills - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DW

“ My the love and kindness that filled John's life be of comfort to each as you as you celebrate his life. John will always be a warm memory to us. Love, Don & Judi Wheatley

Don & Judi Wheatley - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

RD

“ True generosity involves *GIVING*, not just giving back. It means giving with no expectation of repayment. Giving back is a zero-sum equation: We give back what we received and the world is not better off than it was before we received it. *TRUE GIVING* means the world is improved by the sum of our giving. It is better off because we are here. From my perspective, and I am sure that of many others who shared time with him, John was a True Giver, he gave of his talent and skill as a runner, he gave of his time, he mentored, coached, advised and served as a very positive role model. He has left us all with folks who are better, just by knowing him. He will be missed, but not forgotten! Rich, glad our paths intersected

Rich D'Augustino - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

AG

“ Floyd Jones I was very say to hear of John's passing. He was my friend ,my boss and a person we at G.M. Photographic enjoyed being around . You will be missed by all god bless.

a guest - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

KS

“ Dear Kolmetz family ~We were so sorry to hear of John's passing. He was a well loved man and will be missed by so many. We knew John through Woodlawn Church and as the treasured dad/grandpa of the Wheatley family. I pray that his legacy lives on in the lives of those who loved him.

Keith & Donna Saltsman - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM