



Gregory J. Knoph Sr.

May 9, 1947 - April 10, 2020

Gregory J. Knoph, Sr.

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Greg was born in Detroit, MI to Edwin and Genevieve Knoph (Papa and Nana Nop) and was the

third of seven children: Judy Hunt, John (Barb), Joe (1949-2003), Jerry (Marcie), Mark (Jeanette), and Mary Kay (Ralph) Sirotkin. He attended Our Lady Gate of Heaven Grade School,

Visitation High School, Highland Park College, and Ferris State.

At Visitation, he met and fell for one of the teacher's (who was also the Athletic Director) daughters, his love, Sharon (Hannigan). From his beautiful Irish bride he inherited a large loving

family: his in-laws, Marjorie and Martin (Grandma Margie and Grandad Hannigan); and her six

siblings, Maureen, Sheila, Martin (Rose), Margie (Chet) Kuras, Kevin (Patti), and Kathy.

Together, they celebrated 50 years of marriage, had two children-Gregory, Jr. (Jenny) and Colleen (David) DeWitt, and countless blessings, many of which involved their 51 nieces/nephews, and 42 great nieces/nephews.

Greg was an amazing all-around athlete who played basketball through college, baseball and

football through high school, golf, and softball, winning the Softball World Championship in 1978. He continued to play/manage with his son on the Our Lady of Loretto mens' softball team

through this past summer. He never missed a grandchild's sporting event; he was their greatest

fan and kept meticulous stats year after year. Many refs will miss seeing Greg pacing the sidelines.

Greg served in the National Guard. He served as a Grand Commander of Alhambra. He served

on the board at the Michigan Columbus Credit Union. He served as treasurer for years of the

Building Association for the Knights of Columbus. He worked for over 30 years at Michigan

National Bank, many of those as V.P.

Most importantly, by far, to Greg, he served the Lord. He attended mass daily and observed

weekly Adoration. Although his home parish is St. Kenneth, Greg enjoyed travelling to different

churches, saying he and Sharon were “ROAMIN’ Catholics.” Greg was a lifelong devout Catholic whose faith has been a beacon throughout his highest highs like the births of his greatest

loves, his grandchildren: Molly (Eoghann) Stephens, Abigail, Aidan, Ian, Nicholas, Sean, and

James and his lowest lows like the deaths of those who have preceded him and this horrible

Corona virus that kept him from his family in his last days as he fought COVID hoping to take a

souvy!

Although he did not win this battle, the family is thankful for the nurses and doctors who stood

beside him and comforted him.

The current state of our world has forced a temporary delay in a memorial mass and a “Draft Day

Party” that Greg Jr. has mentioned where we can celebrate the life of this amazing husband,

father, grandfather, and friend who has been “called up to the bigs.” These will be planned in the

near future when we can share some of the things Greg would appreciate so much--our faith, our

family, our friends, and our fond memories--TOGETHER!

Greg will be interred at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery on Wednesday, April 15, 2020.

Cemetery Details

Holy Sepulchre Cemetery

25800 W 10 Mile Rd
Southfield, MI

Tribute Wall

VH

“ Greg, we met at the Gate when I first came from Ireland. We will meet at the Gate one more time called Heaven. Thanks for the memories my long lasting friend. Until we cross paths again may you Rest In Peace.

Vince Heaney - June 26, 2020 at 09:44 PM

MZ

“ Dear Sharon and Family, I have waited so long to post something on Greg. It was not because I was neglectful, it was because every time I started it was so hard to finish. Greg and I went through grade school together at the "Gate" and then high school at Visi. Greg was always so quiet but when he spoke it was worthwhile to listen. We actually became what I call dear friends, working on the many reunions for Visi and the newsletter when our motto was "65 keeps it alive". He will be missed by so many but we are all glad that we had the time with him that we did. Rest in peace dear Greg.

Margaret Fischer Zack

Margaret Zack - May 02, 2020 at 02:24 PM

DR

“ I had the good fortune to know the Knoph family – having grown up with Jerry and Mark. Greg was a role model to the many young boys who watched him play basketball in the OLGH gym. And having read the many tributes paid to him by family members and friends, it is apparent he never stopped being a role model. Greg clearly conveyed powerful lessons of faith, love, kindness, and humility to all those he touched in life –a life so well lived. May God grant him eternal rest.

Heartfelt sympathy to Mrs. Knoph and the entire Knoph family.

Sincerely,

Denis Riordan

Denis Riordan - May 01, 2020 at 05:53 PM

KB

“ Greg was my first manager at Michigan National Bank 8 & Grandriver, they sent me out for a McDonald's run to initiate me..when I came back the bank was swarming with police as we had been robbed!! Greg was calm and a terrific supportive manager. Always a nice guy, welcoming everyone with a smile! May he Rest In Peace and sending prayers of strength and comfort to his family.

Karin (Wadsworth) Baugher - April 29, 2020 at 06:37 AM

SS

“ Growing up in the neighborhood I didn't know Greg very well, but remember him as a quiet athlete. Thoughts and prayers go out to Jerry and the Knoph family, sorry for your loss 🙏

Steve stahley - April 28, 2020 at 02:12 PM

SH

“ We all bear witness that a wonderful “Croatian”, turned into an “Irishman” -

Every time the “Hannigan's” partied!
Do I hear an amen?
-Sheila

Sheila Hannigan Harris - April 24, 2020 at 03:39 PM



Amen!

Kathy Walker - April 25, 2020 at 03:24 PM

“ Dear Sharon and the Knoph family,

I am sending condolences on behalf of all the Radowick family. We just learned of Greg's passing from one of our other Michigan cousins, Kay Connelly.

Greg was our first cousin - his mother, Gen, was our father - Ralph's - sister. Our branch of the Radowick family all moved from Michigan in the 70's. But growing up in Detroit, we had so many good times with Greg and his siblings. The Knoph family had seven children and our Radowick family had six children plus there were three other Radowick cousins. Family times together were noisy and boisterous. We went to the Knoph house every Easter and, as we got older, we would all go bowling after Easter Brunch. In the summer, we had great picnics which always involved Grandma Radowick's fried chicken and a big family softball game.

You are always in our hearts and we will continue to keep you in our thoughts and prayers.

Pat (Radowick) Winckoski - Grapeview, WA

Mary Jo (Radowick) Tedeman - Delray Beach, FL

Jim Radowick - Gilbert, AZ

Sue Radowick - Gig Harbor, WA

Jerry Radowick - Gig Harbor, WA

Bob Radowick - Auburn, WA

Pat Winckoski - April 22, 2020 at 08:44 PM

KK

“ Dear Uncle Greg- what I admired most was your constant support of all of us, and how you lived without ego. You thought of others all the time. Our joy was your joy, our success yours. You found a thousand ways to be thoughtful- a quote here, a print of a picture there. Your love for Aunt Sharon is legendary and your love and pride in your kids, their spouses and your grandchildren was sincere and true.

Growing up and spending so much time at your home, knowing you were always near, whether it was the sounds of baseball from the other room in the basement of one of your first homes while Colleen and I played 'school' in the play room, or they way you'd knock on the cabin door in a Port Austin rainstorm to try to guess the 'password' to the 'pink club' Colleen Meghan and I created to keep ourselves occupied- and kept trying all kinds of silly phrases to make us laugh is a 'core' memory that helped define me. Your presence with us, with this family, was constant and true.

Your advice and wisdom were at ready. The phrase 'Uncle Greg said....' or "Uncle Greg thinks..." was enough to settle an discussion or confirm a plan even if it you were not in the room. I called you for advice about buying my cottage before it was even the idea of an idea and you responded like I was you own daughter- honest, kind, wise. I know I'm one of a thousand recipients of your kindness, yet you always made me feel like it was just me and you.

Last summer in Port Austin I 'stopped by your cabin' -before we knew it, Aunt Sharon, Colleen and I had a glass of wine in new happy hour themed wine glasses. You had found them in a store and bought and brought them for just such a moment. To pause and celebrate life, toast a moment in a special glass, be with the people you love watching the people you adore in the soft sunlight. You planned for and thought of everything. You are well and truly missed, but never will be forgotten.

Thank you Uncle Greg- for everything.

Kelly

Kelly Kuras - April 22, 2020 at 09:15 AM



Kelly, what a Wonderful Tribute to Uncle Greg. He will live in our hearts FOREVER!

Kathy Walker - April 23, 2020 at 01:24 PM

KK

“ Kelly Kuras lit a candle in memory of Gregory J. Knoph Sr.



Kelly Kuras - April 22, 2020 at 09:00 AM

KK

“ I worked with Greg at Michigan National Bank. A great teacher and boss. Very sorry to learn of his passing. My condolences to Sharon and their family.
Kerry O'Dea Koppin

Kerry O'Dea Koppin - April 19, 2020 at 09:19 PM

PE

“ 5 files added to the album Memories Album



Patricia A Elliot - April 19, 2020 at 04:23 PM

PE

“ With prayers of comfort and strength for Sharon, Greg Jr and Colleen. Greg touched a lot of lives while at Michigan National Bank. He was a favorite to many employees and customers, quiet but funny. A few photos to share from MNB of fond memories.
Pat Renton Elliot



Patricia A Elliot - April 19, 2020 at 04:16 PM

SM

“ Sharon and family, I am so sorry to hear of Greg’s passing. I was fortunate to have Greg as my Branch Manager at Michigan National Bank and then again at Bank of America. He always talked about his family and was very proud of all of you. He was a “Gentle Giant” and always took the best care of the bank customers.

Sandy Malaniak - April 17, 2020 at 09:40 PM

MG

“ Maureen Gillanders lit a candle in memory of Gregory J. Knoph Sr.



Maureen Gillanders - April 17, 2020 at 12:20 AM

“ Our fondest recollections of Uncle Greg:

His fantastic memory, “sharp as a tack” He stayed that way by doing daily crossword puzzles with Aunt Sharon...when we saw Uncle Greg coming across the PA compound Clare knew his thinking cap better be on! Clare never wanted to disappoint Uncle Greg by not coming up with the very “challenging” word that would SOLVE the puzzle of the day.

Uncle Greg, could remember every road he ever travelled on and we know he remembered every Elvis song and a lot of Tiger and Yankee milestones. He kept stats and was the Hannigan Family chronicler, keeping track of birthdays, weddings, births and death dates..many times we find ourselves going to those duo-tangs to look up or check on something. Thanks, Uncle Greg, for having that information at our fingertips!

His dance moves to Sister Sledge’s “we are Family”, Village People, Y-M-C-A at family gatherings He was generally, the first one on the dance floor with Aunt Sharon in tow. Maureen’s favourite memory of Uncle Greg is seeing him doing all the animal actions to the Irish Rovers “The Unicorn Song” 🍀

In the States, you have the Easter bunny and the tooth fairy but in Canada, we have “The Uncle Greg” who would always leave his favourite Canadian nieces/nephews with bags of “candy corn” on Canadian Thanksgiving and “Peeps” on Easter and the rare chocolate we could never find in Canada. Thanks ,Uncle Greg, for your kindness.

Uncle Greg, set a great example for all the younger men as a father, husband and grandfather ; a true gentleman.

You will be missed but certainly NEVER FORGOTTEN by all that really knew him. He loved life and we will love and remember him FOREVER.

Clare and Maureen Gillanders ❤️

Maureen Gillanders - April 17, 2020 at 12:17 AM



Maureen....very well written! My tissues in my hand. He will be in our hearts forever 💔

Kathy Walker - April 18, 2020 at 07:48 PM

RM

“ My heart goes out to your family. Greg was one of my favorite people in this world. I have so many fun memories of the years we worked together. He taught me to be the manager I became. Always putting people before business. He attended our wedding over 30 years ago! I loved him as a person and admired him as as my mentor. God definitely has a special place for him in heaven.

Rebekah (Becky) McKinney - April 16, 2020 at 07:11 PM

PB

“ I first met Greg at Our Lady Gate Of Heaven and later we became members of the original 27 ers. For those of you who don't know who they are, they were the protectors of the zone 27 Galaxy in Detroit, a group of about 10 of us. We came of age together, learned basketball in my back yard (Paul's Palace), played numerous base ball games at the school yard and did many things together like camping, cruising and partying.

Greg was one of my closest friends growing up until I got married and headed west.

We would meet again and again at funerals and reunions that would bring me back to Detroit and my roots.

Life is full of chapters that make up one big story and we shared many together. We are running out of 27ers and the memories that only Greg and a hand full of others can relate to. I will miss the chance to visit old times with a friend who remembers the stories as they happened, not second hand.

I hope we will meet again in another Galaxy and start all over again. We had a ball,

Nothing but love and sympathy for you Sharron and family

Paul and Mary Bonino

paul bonino - April 16, 2020 at 06:49 PM

MH

“ My uncle Greg was awesome!! Never heard him say a bad word about anyone, loved his tunes, loved to dance...I loved his meticulous attention to detail with all the family updates he was always providing. He cared genuinely about every single family member, young or old. What an awesome testimony of the life of a great man when during the last few days he had people praying for him from the west coast to the east coast and all the states in between! And Canada! He will be so missed...As my four year old put it... mama don't be sad, we know uncle Greg is with Jesus! Amen!!!

Meghan Hall - April 16, 2020 at 03:19 PM

KW

“ Greg Knoph, I hope you're looking down watching me write this about you. I am one LUCKY person to have been related to such a great man,the day he married my cousin,Sharon Hannigan Knoph. I always thought Greg was a tall QUIET person, that is until I began going to Port Austin with all the Hannigan Clan. He was so funny, did so much,and kept us all under control...HENCE....THE NO HAIR on his head. I will never forget the memories I have of him. You're at Peace now in Heaven. Please continue to watch over your wife and family.
Love from Delaware.....Kathy R

Kathy Walker - April 16, 2020 at 01:22 PM

LB

“ To the Knoph family.

We are so saddened to hear about Greg's passing during this awful time. I have many wonderful memories of Mr. Knoph from my time at St. Michael's, and my Dad does as well. You are all in our hearts and prayers.

The Baucus Family

Laura Baucus - April 16, 2020 at 10:55 AM

PA

“ A true gentleman. Blessings to Sharon and family on his loss. Take comfort in knowing his was a life well lived.

Phil Abele - April 16, 2020 at 07:08 AM

MH

“ Dear Uncle Greg,

Thank you for being my Godfather. You were always the most polite person in the room and when you spoke we all listened. Man, your eyes could pierce through steel...yet, you never had a harmful bone in your body, nor say a bad word directed at someone else. I loved that about you. When a group would be in uncontrollable laughter, I would catch you snickering a couple times and like clockwork, you would drop the funniest line in the room to top everyone. I will remember your meticulous attention to detail being second to none and there will never be another Putt-Putt Open commissioner like you, for us, ever again.

Some of my favorite memories I have of you include my everlasting excitement of being able to tag along to my first baseball card show as a 7 year old, your famous "corn runs" with my Dad in Port Austin (never saw any corn, but once I did see some empty Blatz/Papst beer cans roll down the street as the car doors opened...at least you weren't "missing" anymore and the search teams could be called off), the fact that no one had a better Memorex tape collection of Elvis and Motown hits than you. I am sure that my love of music has much to do with your subtle influence.

*Finally, there was that one time we all hid in the basement for your surprise birthday party and Colleen had forgotten to put the vacuum away. With that long stride of yours, you raced down the stairs yelling at the top of your lungs for her. "COLLEEENNN!"....(*crickets*), then, you heard "SURPRISSE!"....That one will always bring a smile to my face, especially since we saved Colleen!*

We will miss you, but your calming influence and memory will never be forgotten. Thanks for just being you.

*Love Always,
Mike Hannigan*

P.S. audio book also available

Mike Hannigan - April 15, 2020 at 06:12 PM

KW

*Mike, what a WONDERFUL TRIBUTE to such a Great Man. He has taught so many what loving their family was all about.
I'm proud to be a cousin to Greg Knoph!*

Kathy Walker - April 16, 2020 at 01:13 PM

MH

Loving that Mike! I love the memories you brought back for all of us ... so full of love ❤️

Meghan Hall - April 16, 2020 at 11:55 PM

MC

“ My condolences to the entire Knoph family. You're in my thoughts and my heart.

Margaret Currie - April 15, 2020 at 05:46 PM

ER

“ At the Hannigan family gatherings Uncle Greg was the quiet one. My favorite memory is during our Port Austin Bingo game when he stood up and yelled “I have B.O.!” Always the competitor. You left a huge whole in our family. We loved you so much and will miss you terribly. Sending love to my Knoph family.
Erin, Joe, Joey and Anthony Ales

Erin - April 15, 2020 at 04:52 PM

SH

“ Uncle Greg will be so missed... A loving, gentle, kind man who loved his family so much. We will always have Port Austin memories especially Putt Putt tournaments. He really made that into something special for all of us. He will always be in our hearts and we will always remember his wonderful smile that would light up a room when he entered it. Love forever, XOXO

Sue Hannigan - April 15, 2020 at 04:14 PM

GP

“ Sharon, Pam and I are sad at Greg's passing and will continue to pray for you and your family. I have many fond memories of Greg at Visitation. I played Football, Basketball and 1 year of Baseball with Greg. I felt we were very similar in sports especially in football, we both played on the line and both wanted to be the team's kicker. We shared the same positions in Basketball and would always pair up during warm ups trying to get over the rim, neither of us ever could dunk the ball as hard as we tried. I remember seeing Greg walking from the Plymouth Bus to Highland Park College as we used to walk to Visi from our home. I remember planning on attending our 50th reunion. Pam and I incorrectly marked our calendar, and missed the reunion. Later that week I received a call from Greg checking to see if we were ok, not why we weren't there but if we were ok. You and Greg were so gracious to us that you sent all of the materials handed out at the reunion plus a check with our deposit. This is the kind of people you are. We love both of you and will miss Greg immensely.

Gary Pasant - April 15, 2020 at 03:50 PM

PA

“ Greg was at every family function, never missing one. Always family first. Thanks for the man, many years he did our stats and was our commissioner of PA putt put. We all will miss him.
Love Pat

Pat - April 15, 2020 at 03:14 PM

DR

“ Prayers of peace and comfort to the Knoph family. My family grew up in the Detroit neighborhood with the Knoph's and attended Our Lady Gate Of Heaven school and church with them. I was in class with Mary Kay and Greg's wife Sharon was my 5th grade teacher.

Debra Roszkowski - April 15, 2020 at 03:08 PM



“ My condolences to all of Greg's family for your loss. You are all in my prayers.
Kathy Hengesbaugh Schwartz

Kathy Schwartz - April 15, 2020 at 02:21 PM

CC

“ I went to the Gate with Greg. Always kind. Very shy. The world will be a little sadder without him.
Candice Guyitt

candice Guyitt Cubba - April 15, 2020 at 12:04 PM

CB

“ You will always be remembered. You're in all our hearts! Carol & John Bridges

Carol & John Bridges - April 15, 2020 at 11:35 AM

EJ

“ We've lost a very special man. A calm, thoughtful, insightful, balanced and generous friend. A true gentleman. Greg didn't always talk a lot. Words weren't necessary. The way he lived his life spoke volumes. I will miss him greatly. May he Rest In Peace! (Ed Jennings)

Ed Jennings - April 15, 2020 at 11:06 AM

DA

“ Greg was a friend of my brothers David and Stephen Alexander and I recall great memories of the guys, letting me catch for there pick up games and latter as a minor part, bench guy of there softball teams. Coming back to the house on Montrose with stories of encounters with the Warrendale gang and other "souvy" experiences. Greg always was cool to me as the little brother in the group known as the 27er's. and with his size and personality he was somebody to look up to in many ways. I was happy to see him and Sharon at Steve's house awhile back and going over the stories of the past.
May you rest in peace my friend.



Dan Alexander - April 15, 2020 at 09:07 AM

MP

“ What a difficult time of loss of your beloved husband, father. I pray that he is now enjoying the company of our lord and his saints. My prayers are with your family.

Marilyn Pachota

MARILYN Pachota - April 14, 2020 at 09:28 PM

DD

“ My father-in-law was a man that all decent men desire to be. He loved God and family with all his might. He was a great father, mentor and trustworthy friend. He will be missed by everyone that knew him. I know I will.
With the utmost respect and love, Dave DeWitt

David Dewitt - April 14, 2020 at 09:28 PM

VH

“ Thanks for being a friend during our grade school days at OLGOH and VISI. You were one of the best in any sport that came out of the old neighborhood around Mettetal. Rest In Peace my friend.

Vincent Heaney - April 14, 2020 at 08:50 PM

HG

“ Greg and I were good friends at Visitation High. We shared a common factor of sports as I believe Greg participated in football, basketball and baseball. If I could describe the persona of Greg, it would be intensive, competitiveness, and mild mannered. That spirit he exuded made all of us better at what we tried to accomplish. In my sophomore year, I remember that I was goofing off in practice as I was starter for the basketball team and there was a lesson for me to learn. To my surprise that Friday, the coach called Greg to start in my place. I was stunned and dismayed that I was being benched. Greg played a hell of a game and scored 20 or 22 points and naturally we won the game. We were all happy for the effort and superb play of Greg. Later in the locker room, Greg came over to me and said Griff, you will have your position back next game the coach wanted to teach you a lesson and he patted me on my shoulder. That was Greg, a humble giant that stood tall for all men to see. Greg was the teacher and I learned some rudiments of life from him. I will miss our Greg (Joe Pepitone) as he was affectionately called, Greg loved the Yankee first baseman. Now that he has departed this world for a better place, he will be on the heavenly playing field shooting basketballs, hitting baseballs and catching passes. One day, I look forward to playing with you again my Brother.

Henry Griffin

Henry Griffin - April 14, 2020 at 08:45 PM

CH

“ Dear Sharon & Family,
So sad to hear of the passing of you beloved husband, Dad, Grandfather, sibling, and friend. Knowing Sharon, I know that Greg was an amazing husband and partner in their lives together. Know that you are all and have been in my prayers. I will be at the memorial for Greg when it happens.
Lots of Love coming your way.
Cindy Hudson 🐱❤️🙏

Cindy Hudson - April 14, 2020 at 08:22 PM

DC

“ A great memory of mine, back in the mid 70's, playing for K of C in the Kirkoff Class A invitational softball tournament,, Greg just got back from doing a summer camp for the National Guard, and Greg hit 11 home runs in a double header! Sharon came up after the 2 games to meet him and the next day, Greg's bat went Silent. He went 0-fer! Guess he hit his 12 TH be fore he even got up to bat that day! Fortunately we went on to win the tournament and I was ever so in awe of All his accomplishments to bring that trophy home!

Dennis Culloty - April 14, 2020 at 08:22 PM

JC

“ I remember Greg when I was working at my Dads bar the Grandway. The guys from different softball teams came in after games. I remember looking at Greg and how he looked like an athlete. I had heard he was a ball player.

john j cronyn - April 14, 2020 at 08:03 PM

FH

“ Dear Sharon and family, my deepest love and sympathy at this time Greg's death! He was a great guy and he was a dear husband and father. I've been honored to know you over many years, and I thank you for your friendship! A friend from our visitation days, father Rick Hartmann

Father Rick Hartmann - April 14, 2020 at 06:18 PM

MM

“ I am so sorry for your loss. I played softball with Greg for St Michael (b) in the Northwest Catholic Softball League, and over the years he was one of the nicest individuals I have ever met. Our paths have crossed multiple times throughout the years, and one of my Great Uncles actually coached Greg in his youth little league days growing up on the Westside of Detroit. I can't say enough about him and his lovely bride Sharon. Your family is in our prayers, and has been in our prayers since we first found out of his hospitalization. I love you Greg Sr, and you will be missed, stay strong Knoph family. We will all see him again, in heaven.
Mark McCusker

Mark McCusker - April 14, 2020 at 05:58 PM

JD

“ Sharon, I am so very sorry to hear of Greg's passing. May your fond memories bring you peace. Gary will greet him. We buried him yesterday. Sending HUGS and prayers to you and your family.

Judy DePollo - April 14, 2020 at 05:46 PM