



Joseph Kalasz

February 3, 1916 - December 20, 2011

Obituary of Joseph Kalasz

After a brief respiratory illness, Joseph J. Kalasz, passed away peacefully at the Villages hospital, December 20, 2011. He was born February 3, 1916, in Toledo, Ohio, one of six children born to Robert and Theresa (Torkas) Kalasz, both of whom emigrated from Hungary.

Following high school graduation, in the throes of the Great Depression, Joe spent two years in the Civilian Conservation Corps. He was able to send \$20.00 of his \$25.00 monthly salary home to help his parents through the bad times, and at the same time develop a life long love of adventure and travel. He then enlisted in the U.S. Navy. In addition to time at sea, he visited New York City, Puerto Rico, Martinique, the Virgin Islands, France, England, Portugal, and Spain. He had a ball! His last assignment was as a Navy Recruiter in Detroit, Michigan, just close enough to Toledo to allow him to pursue his interest in Kathryn Mercereau Bartley.

He married Katie, the love of his life, in 1946; they were rarely apart until her death in 2002. Together, they raised four children, Sharon, Robert, James and Stephen. Joe continued in government work, first at Rossford Ordinance, near

Toledo, Ohio, pursuing a career in the developing computer technology field. This led to moves to Huntsville, Alabama; Orlando, Florida; St. Louis, Missouri and Tucson Arizona.

After retirement in 1973, he and Katie spent a year touring the U.S. in a Winnebago before resettling in Florida. He avidly pursued his interest in gardening, golf, bridge, poker, and following his favorite football teams, U. of Florida, and Notre Dame. He visited his large extended family and many close friends.

Joe was very proud of his Hungarian heritage. He mastered some of his mothers' recipes and passed on traditions to family and friends. We all enjoyed his stuffed cabbage, chicken paprika, pastries and "Hungarian turkey". Joe enjoyed entertaining friends and family, especially when they joined him in having a martini or two!

Survivors include Mary Zigray his much loved sister. Children, Sharon, Robert, James, and Stephen; grandchildren, Lynne, Kathleen, Brian, Robert, John, Christine, and Rosemary; great grandchildren, Ryan, Reid, Jaci, Kendall, Leah, and John Thomas., as well as many nieces, nephews, and supportive friends.

The funeral service will be held at Beyers Funeral Home, 134 North Highway 27/441, Lady Lake, FL, December 29, 2011, at noon. Burial will be at the Florida National Cemetery following the service.

Services

The funeral service will be held at Beyers Funeral Home, 134 North Highway 27/441, Lady Lake, FL, December 29, 2011, at noon.

Interment

Burial will be at the Florida National Cemetery following the service.

Tribute Wall

JZ

“ *My condolence on the passing of your dad. My mother always expressed warmth and love when talking about him and I enjoyed my visits with him in these recent years especially the week he spent at our house a few years ago. He was a joy to be with.*

Joe Zigray - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

KT

“ *I was sorry to hear of his passing. I had always planned to come to Florida to visit him. There was so much i wanted to ask him about his growing up years with my dad, his brother Frank. The last time i visited was when i lived in Florida in 1974 & remember their white living room with white carpeting & furniture. I wished i had been closer to him. To My cousins; treasure your memories & hope to see you sometime in the future. cousin Kathy*

Kathy Kalasz Taylor - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

FZ

“ *Dear Sharon, Robert, James & Stephen, We always wished that we had lived closer to Uncle Joe so we could get to know him better and enjoy his company. The several times he visited our home for dinner, we found him to be such a delightful and fun person. We are very sorry of his passing, but he has now joined the company of his wife Katie, family and friends. Expressing our sincerest sympathies, Nephew Frank & wife Joan In his memory, we are sending a memorial to The Little Sisters of the Poor, Oregon, Ohio - who have so faithfully cared for his sister Helen and still do care for his sister Mary,*

Frank & Joan Zigray - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ *My fondest memories of my Uncle Joe was that he always had a bright disposition and a smile on his face. He was the only one of the "kids" who got a h.s. education and it obviously paid off with a successful career. As a child I remember meeting Kay and Sharon, and , I think, Jim, at my Kalasz Grandmas. My deepest condolences to My Uncle Joe's family. He was a wonderful man.*

John Vass (sister Helen's son) - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM