



Harold E. Koats

October 12, 1924 - July 6, 2019

Harold Eugene Koats passed away peacefully at the home he was born in at the age of 94. He was born October 12, 1924 in Spring Lake, MI to Frederick A. & Adeline F. (Mergener) Koats. His ancestors have resided in the area for over 150 years. Harold's only sister Mary Lou (Koats) Zysk preceded him in death on December 25, 2012.

Harold married the love of his life the former Shirley Ann Veldman from Fruitport on Sept 14, 1959 and sadly she passed away on October 6, 1968 at 32 years old, they had one child Cynthia.

Harold drove a semi-truck for 48 years for Michigan Express of Muskegon and then Central Transport and retired in 1984. Even at 94 he would enjoy talking about his past trucks, the people he would meet and his deliveries around Western Michigan. He met many people over the years and had a great sense of humor and enjoyed telling stories and reminiscing on local history.

In his youth Harold was also a skate boy at the Grand Haven Skate Barn and remembers delivering cookies on the Braaks Bakery wagon as a child in summers to the Eastmanville Poor Farm. One of his family chores as a child was getting the ice block from the Grand Haven Ice House for the refrigerator. The walk to the ice house was 3 blocks from his home on Jackson Street and even at this short distance the ice block would be 1/2 melted because he would play along the way. He also walked from Grand Haven to Muskegon at 12 years old to trade in tin foil he had collect in 1936 to buy his first bicycle.

Harold enjoyed visiting with friends at the Rendezvous Restaurant in Grand Haven and rarely missed a day over the last 50 years. In his younger days he would buy a new Ford every three years and also owned several motorcycles. In retirement he enjoyed watching baseball and football on TV and every morning he would talk to one of the family cats while waiting for the Harbor Transit.

Harold is survived by his daughter Cynthia Evelyn Schindlbeck, son in law Troy M. Schindlbeck and one grandson Ian Sebastian Schindlbeck as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

Arrangements by The Spring Lake Chapel of Sytsema Funeral & Cremation Services, 213 E. Savidge St., Spring Lake, MI 49456. Memorial contributions in Harold's name may be directed to Harbor Hospice, 1050 West Western Ave, Suite 400, Muskegon, Michigan.

Please feel free to sign the family's online guestbook at www.sytsemafh.com.

A private grave side ceremony honoring Harold's wishes will take place at a later date.

Comments



“ Harold was always so kind. I often saw him in the rendezvous and he knew my grandpa. He would also ride on harbor transit...and so did my younger daughter Anuhea...he was always so kind to her and gave her candy. She is pretty sad today. Harold was a great man who will be missed by all that were lucky enough to know him. My condolences to the family

Angela Gardner - July 11 at 10:14 PM



“ Cindi,& family. Sorry for your loss .We would sit with your dad quite ofen at the Rendezvous and he would occasionally pull out a pic of our Daughter Veronica that she had given him when she was in H.S. Although we would like to forget our birthdays he never did. Always a card. And, yes a walking Encyclopedia of the area. If we needed to know something it was like. Let's ask Harold.He will be missed. God Bless



Patty & Fred Shear - July 11 at 03:21 PM



“ Cyndi, Troy and Ian -- I am sorry to hear of Harold's passing. He was such a wonderful neighbor. After I moved from Prospect Street I frequently encountered him at, of course, the Rendezvous! He was always so quick to greet me and take a moment to chat. I am sure that you miss him so much, but hope you can find some comfort that he has now moved on to the next great road trip. You are in my thoughts and prayers.

Phil Sielski

Phil Sielski - July 10 at 03:29 PM



“ Your father was an amazing man. He was friends with my husbands grand father who sat with him everyday at the Rendezvous, Vern has been gone for 20 years though. I met Harold when i was a waitress at rendezvous at 16 i am now 44 and your father has continued to send my family a Christmas Card every year! I just seen him at Walmart a few months ago i am so glad i was able to see him. Our deepest condolences! The King Family



Ericka King - July 09 at 10:53 AM



“ 15 files added to the album Memories Album



Cindi Schindlbeck - July 07 at 06:07 PM



“ So sorry for your loss...Harold was a good friend and neighbor throughout the years... I was born on Adams St., GH...My family knew all the Koats over the years...and Joe and I have been neighbors to you for 48 years. one memory that sticks out is when Robert found baby squirrels by your house on Prospect St. Your dad watched Robert play with them...letting them climb all over him...then told him they had lice....boy did Robert remove them and his sweater immediately.....joke on Rob via Harold.....

Joe and Bonnie Scarbrough - July 11 at 09:16 PM



“ I am so sorry for your loss. Harold was quite the character and well loved at the Rendezvous. I, too, met him when I started waitressing there at the age of 16 (I am now 38 and still wait tables there one night a week). For the longest time he sat with a guy we affectionately called Crabby Bob. The two of them were like the real life version of Statler and Waldorf from The Muppets. It was never a dull moment with those two :) Recently he would come in alone, drink Rootbeer or Green Tea, and end up carrying on a conversation with several people around him. He was well known for sharing a smile, cracking a joke, and leaving a piece of candy at the end of the meal. He will be deeply missed. Thank you so much for sharing the fantastic photos!

-Stephanie Wheeler

Stephanie Wheeler - July 16 at 12:10 PM