



Bernard E. Kuhn

December 5, 1920 - December 15, 2016

Bernard E. Kuhn, the last-surviving grandson of Aaron Mendelson, passed on December 15, 2016 at his St. Clair home. He was born December 5, 1920, to Gladys and Bernard E. Kuhn in Detroit. He married Margaret E, Friederichs, on January 11, 1941, and she predeceased him on March 25, 2015.

Mr. Kuhn was a life-long member of St. Mary's Catholic Church, of St. Clair; owned Kuhn Sales and Service, St. Clair, for 64 years; was President of the Blue Water Auto Dealers Association and served on the Chrysler Dealer Council; was chairman of St. Clair River District Hospital Board and served on the Board of St. John Hospital, Detroit; was chairman of the St. Clair Boat Harbor; was an original organizer of and served on the St. Clair Foundation; was Chairman of Catholic Social Services; served on the St. Clair Progress Corporation for the urban renewal of St. Clair. His service culminated as Mayor of St. Clair from 1988-2000.

Mr. Kuhn is survived by his three children: Bernard "Butch" (Suzanne), Barbara (James) Cleland, and Mary Joellyn (Norbert) Strzelecki; seven grandchildren: Margaret Kelly, Jennifer, James, Christine, Bernard, Angela, and Katherine; 13 great-grandchildren; his brother-in-law, Harry Winston, and many nieces and nephews.

The family gratefully acknowledges the caregivers and home assistants for their long-time dedication.

Visitation at L.C. Friederichs & Son Funeral Home, 214 Trumbull, St. Clair, Saturday from 2-5 and Sunday 1-6, and Monday, one hour prior to Mass at 11 at St. Mary's Catholic Church, St. Clair. Interment follows the Mass at St. Mary's Cemetery, 3039 Rattle Run Road.

In honor of Mr.Kuhn, memorial expressions may be considered to St. Mary's Cemetery Fund or to the donor's choice.

Cemetery

St. Mary's Cemetery

Clinton Ave.
St. Clair, MI,

Events

DEC **Visitation** 02:00PM - 05:00PM

17

L.C. Friederichs & Son Funeral Home
214 Trumbull, St. Clair, MI, US

DEC **Visitation** 01:00PM - 06:00PM

18

L.C. Friederichs & Son Funeral Home
214 Trumbull, St. Clair, MI, US, 48079

DEC **In State** 10:00AM - 11:00AM

19

St. Mary's Catholic Church
415 N. Sixth, St. Clair, MI, US

DEC **Funeral Mass** 11:00AM

19

St. Mary's Catholic Church
415 N. Sixth, St. Clair, MI, US

Comments



“ A tribute video has been added.



L.C. Friederichs Funeral Home - December 16, 2016 at 10:26 AM



“ I life well lived. Rest in peace Mr. Kuhn.

Renee - December 16, 2016 at 01:47 PM



“ You will be missed Mr. Kuhn, I have always respected you. My sympathy to your family.

Peter Standen - December 16, 2016 at 05:09 PM



“ I remember Mr. Kuhn from when we were in our teens and his hospitality to all of us. Our sympathy to all the family and friends for their loss.

Judy Landino - December 16, 2016 at 08:33 PM



“ We will miss you Bernie and the many good times we had together.

Harry Winston and family

Harry Winston - December 17, 2016 at 10:58 AM



“ A wonderful man who holds a special place in my heart.

cheryl hetherington - December 17, 2016 at 02:42 PM



“ Always a gentleman. He never missed the chance to shake your hand and greet you. We will miss you sir. RIP. Mike, Lynn, Adam Grover.

mike grover - December 17, 2016 at 02:43 PM



“ you will be missed you was a good man

Steve Ellery - December 17, 2016 at 03:07 PM



“ This was a man that truly cared for people. God bless you sir.

Brian chase - December 17, 2016 at 05:09 PM



“ Wish I could have worked for him he was so sweet and nice .first time I walked past him he reached out to shakemy hand and ttalk to me . He treated everyone so well . Such a great loss to all that knew him and his family

William van meter - December 17, 2016 at 06:43 PM



“ What a full wonderful life Mr. Kuhn... you were one of the most sincere person I ever met... true professional RIP

Gary Westrick - December 18, 2016 at 02:13 PM



“ I worked for Mr. Kuhn for several years. He always was kind and sweet man. He always respected everyone no matter who they were. Even after years went bye, he still remembered who I was and always waved and said hello. Saint Clair lost and great man and a generous benefactor. RIP Bernie



“ My cousin, Tim Hinkle, loves to tell about games of tag with Uncle Bernie on the hillside of the big house on North River Road. Despite Tim’s best efforts and running up and down the hillside repeatedly, he simply could not catch Uncle Bernie. Uncle Bern was just too fast and too elusive. Let’s be honest too; the game was played between an adult and a 10 year old, so it was not really a fair match. What sticks with Tim, however, was not the match-up, but the engagement. That an adult thought it important, even fun, to play tag with a young nephew at twilight on a summer’s eve bespoke a different attitude toward children.

Throughout his life, Uncle Bernie developed a multitude of deep and abiding interests that he pursued with passion and inventiveness and, as the game of tag demonstrates, family was one of them. He also adored an old jalopy in which he ferried my mother to and from St. Clair High, relegating her to the rumble seat on the way home so that he could woo Margaret Friederichs in the passenger seat. More generally, he thought the City of St. Clair was just terrific, and being out on it’s river in the summertime even better. And undergirding it all, he had a deep commitment to daily Mass at St. Mary’s.

His great gift lay in combining his pursuits and, on another level, divining opportunities for service in them. His dates with his beloved Margaret developed into a marriage that endured more than 70 years and begat 3 children, 7 grandchildren, and 13 great-grandchildren. After the war, he parlayed his interest cars from the jalopy into a Chrysler dealership, Kuhn Sales & Service, where the emphasis was more on service that led to a sale. Somewhat embarrassingly for any St. Mary’s student, after a school year, he would take a cruiser full of Dominican nuns from the faculty for an afternoon excursion on the river around Stag Island- they still wearing their habits! Out of his commitment to the City of St. Clair, emerged his service as Harbor Commissioner and, eventually, that as Mayor from 1988-2000.

When someone is so passionate about their interests; they are bound to give rise to problems and tensions and conflicts with others who have different or even opposing views. You can’t be an ardent fan of Notre Dame football and not expect to have problems around Thanksgiving with a host of nieces and nephews who became USC Trojans. But as adamant as he could be about his views, he recognized that whatever the differences; what you shared was vastly more important.

When I was in fourth grade, I was to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation at Holy Name Catholic Church in Birmingham. Most of the kids were pretty skeptical about the prospects and you had to recruit a sponsor, not your parents, to answer for you as part of the sacrament. My birthday happens to fall on the feast day of St. Bernard of Clairvaux, so my choice of sponsor was pretty evident. I was amazed when Uncle Bernie agreed to stand up for me. Here he was ready to publicly and fearlessly affirm his faith and answer for me, while I feebly acquiesced in the proceedings. It was a profound lesson in personal integrity that still resonates.

“So, finally, Uncle Bern, wait up, old buddy! You had a wonderful 35,074 days, but they rocketed by in a flash. And like those long-ago games of tag on the hillside of the big house, you leave us all gasping and grasping after your example.”

J, Kevin Murphy

J. Kevin Murphy - December 19, 2016 at 03:19 PM



“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Bernard E. Kuhn.



December 18, 2016 at 07:12 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Bernard E. Kuhn.



December 18, 2016 at 12:09 PM



“ Members of The American Legion Charles J. Fulton Post 382 in St. Clair express their deep sympathy to the family and friends of our fellow Legionnaire, Bernie. We are grateful for his military and community service.

Chaplain David Gillis - December 17, 2016 at 04:41 AM



“ Sapphire Skies Bouquet was purchased for the family of Bernard E. Kuhn.



December 16, 2016 at 10:32 PM



“ Bernie Kuhn was a wonderful friend of my late husband, Ed Steinmetz, and a devoted fellow River District Hospital Board Trustee. Bernie was beloved in the community and highly regarded and respected by our family. May God grant him eternal rest.

Shirley Steinmetz, Marine City, by her children

Jack Steinmetz - December 16, 2016 at 08:41 PM



“ What one does for themselves alone die's with them. What one does for others, remains forever and becomes immortal.

What an honor, to live during the lifetime of Bernie and be able to observe him as an example of how a devoted and honorable, Catholic, Husband, Father, Grandfather, business person and friend should live their life.

The souls of the just are in the hand of God. "Book of Wisdom"

Truly, Bernie's soul is in the hand of God.

Joan & Jim McTevia

Jim McTevia - December 16, 2016 at 07:36 PM



“ Lynne Yaws lit a candle in memory of Bernard E. Kuhn



lynne yaws - December 16, 2016 at 06:09 PM



“ Mr. Kuhn will surely be missed. One of my favorite memories of him is during the Kindergarten Fire Truck ride waving to Mr. Kuhn out front of the dealership. Rest in peace Mr. Kuhn. Love and prayers, the Beaudua Family

Karen Beaudua - December 16, 2016 at 01:09 PM



“ My Mom was a classmate of Mr. Kuhn and a friend of his late sister. He was very generous to the people of St. Clair. A very civic minded man. He will,be missed by all

Georgina Closs Burns. - December 16, 2016 at 03:13 PM



“ 2 files added to the album LifeTributes



L.C. Friederichs Funeral Home - December 16, 2016 at 11:59 AM



“ 55 files added to the album LifeTributes



L.C. Friederichs Funeral Home - December 16, 2016 at 10:06 AM