



## Frederick C. Kuspa

December 18, 1937 - March 3, 2021

Frederick Carl Kuspa, 83, of Warren, Michigan passed away peacefully on Wednesday, March 3, 2021. He was born December 18, 1937.

Born in Detroit, Fred was the third of eight children and graduated from Cass Technical High School. After high school, he enlisted in the U.S. Air Force and was stationed at the now-closed Eufaula Air Force Station located in southeastern Alabama.

After President Kennedy was assassinated in 1963, Fred phoned his friend, Joyce Wierzbinski, to talk about the tragedy. That call turned into regular conversations for the couple – he was on a rotary-dial payphone, she was at home in Detroit. Fred was busy as a radar technician on the base, but also worked nights in a shoe factory to pay for an engagement ring.

When he returned to Detroit, service completed, the couple married in August 1965, and their daughter, Donna, was born a year later. A son, Karl, followed in 1970. The Kuspas raised their children in Warren where they continued to reside.

Fred worked his entire post-military career at Detroit Edison. He answered a newspaper ad for a job at the utility company and worked first as a fuse puncher, then as a debt collector and finally in consumer education before

retiring in 2000.

Part of the orientation for his Edison job included information about the Edison Boat Club, a sailing facility on the Detroit River where membership was available for employees. A visit to the now-raised clubhouse and Fred was hooked on sailing. He joined the Club in 1965 and began racing on the club-owned boats, always preferring shorter races on the river or Lake St. Clair to events like the Port-Huron-to-Mackinac race.

Over the decades, Fred brought both of his children into the sport and also introduced countless other family members, friends, co-workers and their friends and families by teaching formal classes and informally on outings. Kuspa especially liked to help women learn the sport – they had only been allowed to take sailing classes the year before he joined the club.

Fred was a multiple-time Flying Scot club champion. He also proudly served as Edison's commodore in 1981.

Another of his club projects included taking care of the Club's power boat that was used as a race committee boat, the EBC IV. (The vessel had been used in the building of the Mackinac Bridge before coming to Detroit.)

Fred also "commandeered" the Edison boat for tours of the Detroit River, having two preferred routes: one took a course downriver between Belle Isle and the Manoogian Mansion to the MacArthur Bridge, the other including a closer view of Belle Isle and a tour of the canals in Detroit's east side neighborhoods.

The EBC IV was restored under Fred's leadership and re-launched in 2014, when the Club renamed it the P/C Fred Kuspa.

After retirement from Detroit Edison, Fred spent more time playing tennis and traveling with his wife. They covered North America from Alaska to the

Panama Canal to Hawaii and points in between.

With his extended family, Fred was the event planner, convening gatherings of siblings, cousins, aunts, uncles where he insisted on dozens of photos at every occasion. The grandson of immigrants from Poland, Kuspa embraced his heritage by regularly attending events at the Polish Cultural Center and Detroit Tigers Polish Game Nights.

Loved by many, Fred is survived by his loving wife of 55 years, Joyce (Wierzbinski) Kuspa; his daughter, Donna (Kuspa) Gray and her husband Jason; his son, Karl Kuspa and his wife Nancy (Caldwell); his sister Carolyn (Kuspa) Swope and brothers Anthony Kuspa, Phil Kuspa (Carolyn), John Kuspa (Mia), Thomas Kuspa (Katha), and Joseph Kuspa (Kim); sister-in-law Marcia (Wierzbinski) Polancih; brother-in-law Richard Wierzbinski (Kathy); and dear friend Robert Zaleski.

Visitation Saturday 1-4 p.m. at the Wasik Funeral Home, Inc., 11470 Thirteen Mile Road (west of Hoover) Warren. Instate MONDAY 9 a.m. until time of Funeral Mass 9:30 a.m. at St. Blase Catholic Church, 12151 15 Mile Road (east of Dodge Park) Sterling Heights.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Capuchin Soup Kitchen, Detroit

\*\*Please be advised that in accordance with restrictions from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services we are limited to no more than 25 people at one time. Visitors are encouraged to keep their visits short to allow others the opportunity to pay their respects. Due to these capacity restrictions you may be asked to wait to pay your respects to the family until capacity numbers are within limits. In addition face coverings are required by all in attendance for the duration of their visit. Your cooperation is greatly

appreciated.\*\*

# Cemetery Details

## Resurrection Cemetery

18201 Clinton River Rd  
Clinton Township, MI 48038  
(586) 286-9020

# Previous Events

## Visitation

**MAR 6.** 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Wasik Funeral Home - Warren  
11470 Thirteen Mile Road  
Warren, MI 48093  
(586) 751-3131  
warren@wasikfuneralhome.com

## Instate at Church

**MAR 8.** 9:00 AM - 9:30 AM (ET)

St. Blase Catholic Church  
12151 15 Mile Road  
Sterling Heights, MI 48312  
(586) 268-2244

## Funeral Mass

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MAR 8. 9:30 AM (ET)

St. Blase Catholic Church  
12151 15 Mile Road  
Sterling Heights, MI 48312  
(586) 268-2244

# Tribute Wall



“ *Cheeseboard Complete was purchased for the family of Frederick C. Kuspa.*



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March 17, 2021 at 10:53 AM



“ *I was saddened to hear of the passing of my friend PC Fred Kuspa. PC Kuspa was a jewel at the Edison Boat Club. I am so thankful that God orchestrated our steps and our paths crossed over the years.*

*My condolences to his lovely wife Mrs Joyce and the Kuspa Family!*

*Respectfully,  
PC Alberta Curry*

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**Alberta Curry** - March 08, 2021 at 09:08 AM



“ *Alberta Curry lit a candle in memory of Frederick C. Kuspa*



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**Alberta Curry** - March 08, 2021 at 08:58 AM

PG

“ *All of my family has fond memories of family gatherings where Fred was such a central part of the visit. On behalf of the Garkos and Bourgaults, we offer our sincere condolences. Rest in peace Fred.*



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**PAUL J GARKO** - March 07, 2021 at 03:20 PM

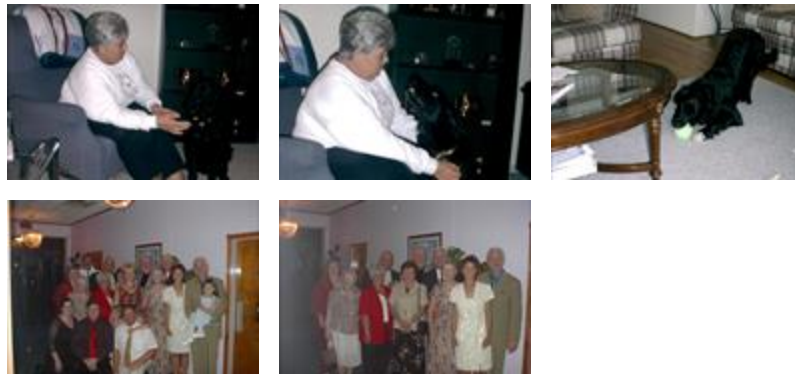
BC

“ *On behalf of the Capuchin brothers I offer my deepest sympathies on the passing of Frederick. It is truly humbling to receive memorial donations in honor of his life. Please be assured of the brother's prayers for the entire Kuspa family during this great time of grief. May perpetual light shine upon Frederick.*

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**Br Nick Blattner Ofm Capuchin** - March 06, 2021 at 11:10 AM

BZ

“ *10 files added to the album Memories Album*



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**Bob Zaleski** - March 05, 2021 at 08:00 PM

JR

“ We were so sorry to hear of Fred's passing. Our hearts go out to Fred's family and his many friends in this sad time.

*With great respect,*

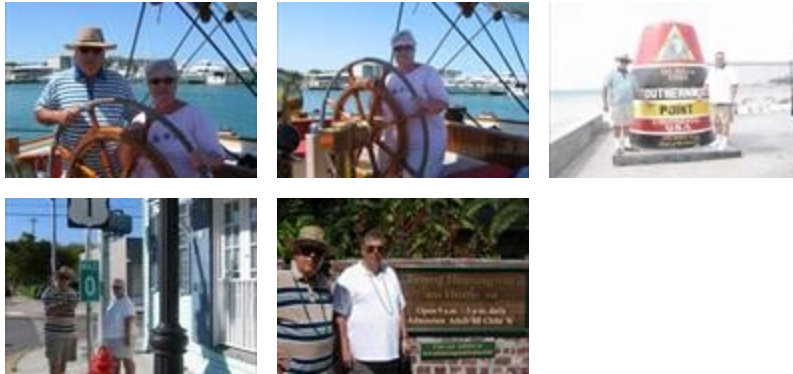
*-Jason, Sara, Frank, and Rianna Rasizzi*

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**Jason Rasizzi** - March 05, 2021 at 07:56 PM

BZ

“ 22 files added to the tribute wall



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**Bob Zaleski** - March 05, 2021 at 07:55 PM

KK

*Bob... Thank you so much for posting all of these wonderful memories of dad. You were a true friend.- Karl*

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**Karl Kuspa** - March 06, 2021 at 12:28 AM

BZ

“ 8 files added to the album EBC



Bob Zaleski - March 05, 2021 at 07:03 PM

BZ

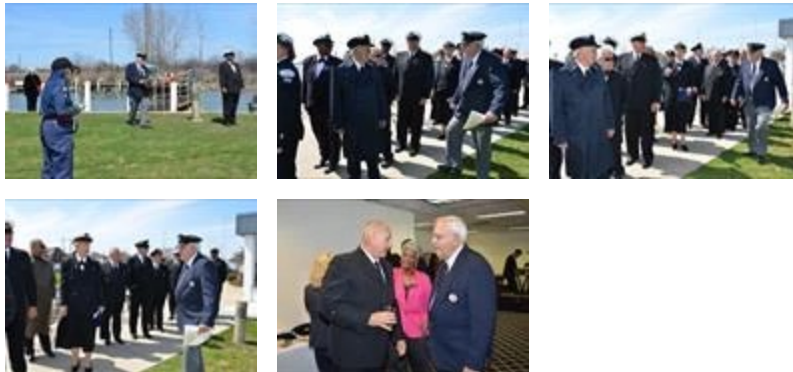
“ Bob Zaleski sent a virtual gift in memory of Frederick C. Kuspa



Bob Zaleski - March 05, 2021 at 06:25 PM

BZ

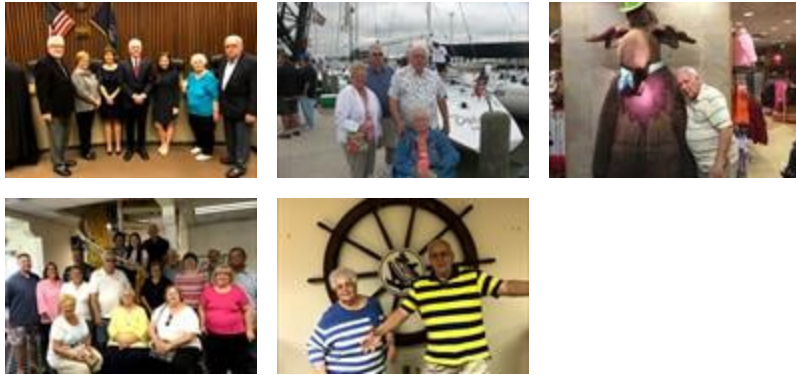
“ 5 files added to the tribute wall



Bob Zaleski - March 05, 2021 at 05:29 PM

BZ

“ Thank you, Fred, for being the best friend a person could have. From the hours we spent working on EBC “activities” (you never considered it work) to traveling the country and beyond with you and Joyce, I have been truly fortunate. You had a gift for living that you shared with me and I will dearly miss you, however, the thoughts of your kindness and friendship will stay on with me forever. I love you dear friend, “Rest in Peace”.



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**Bob Zaleski** - March 05, 2021 at 05:11 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Frederick C. Kuspa.

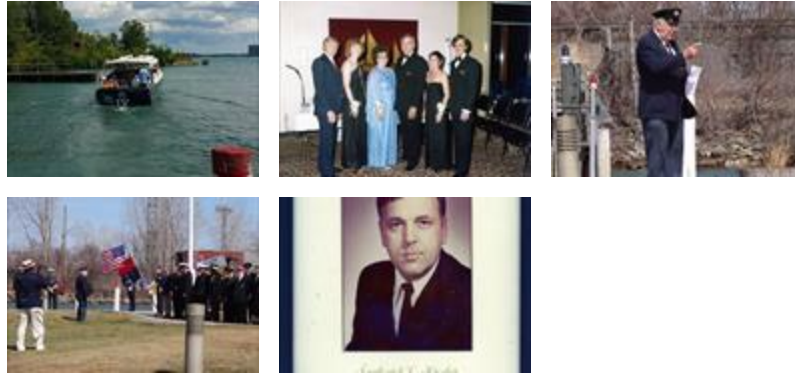


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March 05, 2021 at 04:04 PM

JM

“ 5 files added to the album Memories Album



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**Julie Moore** - March 05, 2021 at 03:43 PM

CN

“ We are so sorry about your loss. Fred was a great person, husband and father. Our hearts go out to you Joyce, Donna and Karl. You will be in our thoughts and prayers. Sorry we cannot be there for you.

*Paul and Carol Necker*

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**carol necker** - March 04, 2021 at 09:19 PM

SK

“ Sending deeply sincere sympathy and prayers as you mourn the loss of your wonderful husband and father. Sue Savage Kochanowicz

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**Suzanne Kochoawicz** - March 04, 2021 at 08:55 PM