



Julius S. Szymczyk

January 25, 1933 - April 8, 2026

Julius S. Szymczyk passed away Wednesday, April 8, 2026, at the age of 93. He was born on January 25, 1933, in Detroit, Michigan, to the late Szymon and Katarzyna Szymczyk. Julius was the beloved husband of the late Barbara (née Romanow), dear brother of Patricia Butler, cherished father of Sharon, Greg, Cathy, and Joe, and a loving grandfather of 6.

Julius's life was shaped by a strong work ethic. He followed his passion for engineering, earning his degree in Mechanical Engineering at the General Motors Institute. He spent his career at the Fisher Body Division of General Motors, working as both a Tool and Die Engineer and a Production Engineer until he retired. Julius used these skills to serve with pride in the United States Army Motor Pool.

Julius's heart belonged to his heritage and was a proud son of Polonia. He was incredibly active and well-known throughout Metro Detroit's Polish community, championing Polish culture at every opportunity. He belonged to many Polish organizations, including the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America, the Polish American Central Citizens Committee, and the American Polish Engineering Association. His pride in his roots was infectious, and he made sure to carry on all of the Polish traditions for his children and grandchildren.

Faith played a central role in Julius's life, and he rarely missed attending Mass. With his late wife Barbara, he was a dedicated, active member of St. Josaphat Ukrainian Catholic Church in Warren—taking special pride in helping build the church. Julius also never missed the Sunflower Festival and looked forward to it every year. In later years, he continued to share that same spirit of community by becoming involved with other Catholic parishes and their festivals.

To know Julius was to have a friend. A true "social butterfly", he possessed a rare, effortless charm that made strangers feel like old companions within minutes. Julius was a dearly loved man and will be missed by all those who had the privilege to meet him.

Friends and family will gather on Monday, April 13, 2026, at St. Faustina Catholic Church, 14025 Twelve Mile (East of Schoenherr) Warren at 9 a.m. Julius will lie in state from 9 a.m. until a 10 a.m. funeral mass. Interment at Resurrection Cemetery.

Cemetery Details

Resurrection Cemetery

18201 Clinton River Road
Clinton Township, MI 48035

Previous Events

Instate in church

APR **13**. 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Faustina Catholic Church
14025 12 Mile Road
Warren, MI 48088

Funeral Mass

APR **13**. 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Faustina Catholic Church
14025 12 Mile Road
Warren, MI 48088

Tribute Wall

CK

“ *Celina K. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Julius S. Szymczyk.*

Celina K. - April 14 at 11:30 AM

MR

“ My sister Karen and I were very sad to hear about Uncle Julius's passing.

I'll always remember his booming voice and laugh at family events over the years. I remember him at the countless holidays we spent at his and Auntie Barbara's house and at Uncle Bill and Aunt Nellie's while we were growing up. We always looked forward to going to see everyone. I have many fond memories of watching him, grandma and grandpa, Uncle Bill, and our parents playing penny poker. I remember a right of passage for our generation was when cousins Greg and Craig were allowed to join the game. By the end of the night they were making up so many new rules that grandpa almost quit. Uncle Julius helped keep the peace and the game together. One Christmas at Aunt Nellie's the Ukrainian carolers showed up, and they all recognized Uncle Julius and he ended up speaking to them longer than they sang. He knew everyone and everyone knew him.

Uncle Julius was always there for us. He helped our mom out endlessly with grandpa when grandpa was older and less mobile. When our mom became sick he offered his help in any way he could, from taking her to appointments to helping out with meals. He once told my sister that he had come across a two-for-one baked ham deal and he had the extra ham for her, and when she showed up to pick it up not only did he have the ham, but he had cooked a full meal using his ham and made sure she ate before she left and took the leftovers with her. He did these things often.

When I planned a move cross-country from Boston to Minnesota for a job and a girl, Uncle Julius was there, giving me a Dodge Diplomat for a song. Not only did that old Dodge get me to Minnesota, but it made the near-daily 80-miles-each-way trips from there to Wisconsin and back while I was visiting my girlfriend. The German post-docs and fellows at the Mayo Clinic used to beg me to drive them everywhere so they could ride in a "real American car."

He never forgot his great nephews' (Christian and Shane) birthdays. Each birthday they'd receive a card with a handwritten note from Uncle Julius and a \$5 bill to buy themselves something. Over the years it became something they'd look forward to, and they'd ask each other if they'd received theirs yet.

Maybe the last time I saw Uncle Julius he had come over to my sister's house on Father's Day to spend time with our family. My dad was there, a rare event in his later years, and the two of them sat outside on the porch with us for hours talking, until the three of us had sunburned necks from sitting with the sun behind us for so long. It was great to just sit back and listen to the two of them tell stories of the old days.

To me, Uncle Julius was the glue of the family, making sure everyone was connected, everyone was in touch or up to date on family goings on. It seemed like he was always present at events large and small, and always with some sort of gift, endless jokes, and good humor. He made sure we all knew we were part of a family.

We will miss you, Uncle Julius.

Michael Rosol - April 13 at 12:44 AM

JK

“ Uncle Julius was a great guy. He often included my brother (Craig Komar) and me (Janice Komar) on outings with his family. Especially when our father was unavailable working nights. He was probably a better 'dad' to us than our own father. It's hard to forget 6 kids piled into that big old station wagon heading off to Cedar Point or Stoney Creek....Or maybe out to the cousin's farm to garden. It never perturbed him to take a whole carload of kids with him on some adventure. He was a lively man with a good heart and he will be missed. So long uncle Julius!

Janice Komar - April 11 at 04:19 PM

SH

Uncle J. Was an amazing man. He would often send cards and pictures of family and his grandkids. Living a few states away, I didn't get to see him as much as my cousins, but he always stayed in touch. When visiting as a kid I remember him always being a kind, loving, calm and happy man. Love you, Uncle Julius! Rest in peace.

Shelly Hagens - April 11 at 06:40 PM

MC

To the family of Julius Szymczyk, my deepest condolences on Julius's passing. I lived three doors down from him on Adler Drive from 1964 to 2018. The last time I saw Julius was at Saint Alberta's in Detroit, where he was at the monthly mass there. My my grandson's mother Sarah Grabowski had invited me. Julius was a good man, and he kept God's Commandments and now we know he is in the loving arms of Jesus. My deepest condolences to the family. I am now living in Florida in a very nice resort and only come up to Michigan for a short while to visit with my family. I will remember Sharon, Greg, Kathy, and Joey, as well as all the family members in my prayers that God will give you peace during the sorrowful time. Marge Cantu mc5393@aol.com

Marge Cantu - April 13 at 12:15 PM



“ *Sweet Liberty was purchased for the family of Julius S. Szymczyk.*



April 11 at 02:26 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Julius S. Szymczyk.

April 11 at 02:26 PM