



## Otto A. Horger, Jr.

August 30, 1945 - February 20, 2023

Otto Alfred Horger, Jr., 77, passed away Monday, February 20, 2023. Otto was born August 30, 1945 to the late Otto Alfred and Ida Regine "Pitzi" (nee Meister) Horger. Beloved husband of Debra. Adored father of Sherry (David) Laitinen, Erica (Andrew) Lewandowski, and Lisa (Joshua) Bovia. Proud grandfather of Jonathan Horger-Carver, Taylor Laitinen, Jordan Laitinen, Jacob Lewandowski, Cole Lewandowski, Finlay Bovia and Mirielle Bovia. Dear brother of Anneliese (Barry) Macdonald and the late Heide (Donald) Grego and brother-in-law of Michael (Carol) Sollman. Loving uncle, great-uncle, and great-great-uncle to to Chrissi (Jeff), Adam (Melissa), Abbe, Doug (Char), Ashlee (Anthony), Josh, Anna, Maddie, Sebastian, Clare and Luna.

Otto was born in Bistritz, Siebenbürgen/Transylvania, Romania. In July 1956, at the age of nine, he immigrated to America with his parents and older sisters. The family initially settled in Detroit, MI and later moved to Sterling Heights, MI. Otto spent the majority of his career as a dental technician and the owner of local dental labs. He was an inventor, a U.S. patent holder, a metals artist, and a skilled woodworker. Otto was known as a man who could repair anything and never hesitated to help his family, neighbors and friends with their projects. He loved spending time outdoors and especially enjoyed fishing, boating, and downhill skiing. His love of nature extended to animals, both great and small, and he recognized the beauty and value of every creature, even insects. In his later years, Otto became a passionate

photographer and was never seen without a camera in his hand.

Above all else, Otto's top priority and greatest source of joy was his family and friends. He was never too busy for the people he loved and as a result, he was the first person everyone called when they needed help. He enjoyed holidays and big family gatherings. Nothing delighted him more than spending time with his grandchildren and watching them grow up. Otto was also proud of his three sons-in-law and considered each to be the sons he never had. Otto was an amazing husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle, friend and neighbor. He was dearly loved by all who knew him and will be deeply missed by all those he shared his life with.

Visitation Friday 4 - 8 p.m. with a 7 p.m. funeral service at the Wasik Funeral Home, Inc., 11470 Thirteen Mile Road (West of Hoover) Warren. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to 4 Paws 1 Heart, an animal rescue group, at <https://4paws1heart.org/>

# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB **24.** 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

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

## Funeral Service

FEB **24.** 7:00 PM (ET)

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

# Tribute Wall

TE

“ *Otto was my first teacher in the dental technology field. At Martinez Dental Lab, 47 years ago, he took me under his wing. His perfectionism and attention to detail has enabled me to have a life long career. I still use some of his techniques to this day. He was a generous teacher and an inspiration. Sorry for you loss. Tom Eickhoff*

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**Thomas Eickhoff** - February 24, 2023 at 04:39 PM

SL

*Tom,*

*Thank you for sharing your memories & your kind words! You are so right that my dad was a perfectionist & a he was great teacher. It makes me very happy that he enabled you to have a life long career.*

*xoxo  
Sherry*

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**Sherry Laitinen** - February 25, 2023 at 02:50 PM

IH

“ Oh Boy, we are going to Detroit!

*I will always remember my excitement to see the Horger family.*

*Otto was a Hunk! Ladies man.*

*He had a boat. What a deal.*

*Otto was a gentleman and always took care of me,  
his little cousin.*

*I will miss him.*

*Ilse Hamers*

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**Ilse Hamers** - February 24, 2023 at 04:36 PM

SL

*Ilse,*

*Thank you for sharing those memories! My dad did always take care of you and watched over you being his younger cousin. I recall you two water skiing when he had his 1st boat. It was a big deal! You are so right that he was a ladies' man, especially in his younger years. He cared about his whole family & you were a big part of his life! I remember both of our families coming together whether it was your family coming from Cleveland or ours visiting from Detroit. We will always cherish those memories!*

*Even though you were not able to be with us in person yesterday, you were there in pictures, discussion & spirit!*

*Love,  
Sherry  
xoxo*

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**Sherry Laitinen** - February 25, 2023 at 04:50 PM

CR

“ Otto you are in my head each and every day when I work. You are the best teacher anyone could ever have. But you are also the best friend anyone could ever have. We all consider you our family. You will be missed by us all. You made our world a better place with faith in loyalty and love. You will be missed so much. We love you.  
Michael, Carol, Matthew and Jenna Raetzel ❤️🙏🌈

Carol Raetzel - February 24, 2023 at 01:20 PM

SL

Michael, Carol, Matthew & Jenna,

I have so many great memories of your friendship with my dad! You will forever be considered family to us. Thank you for sharing more memories with me yesterday!

xoxo  
Sherry

Sherry Laitinen - February 25, 2023 at 01:12 PM

RD

“ We have made a donation in memory of Otto to  
4 Paws 1 Heart.

Our deepest condolences  
Roxanne, Patrice and Darlene



Roxanne Demerjian - February 23, 2023 at 06:59 PM

SL

Roxanne, Patrice & Darlene,

Thank you so much for donating to 4 Paws 1 Heart in his memory!

xoxo  
Sherry

Sherry Laitinen - February 23, 2023 at 09:11 PM

RD

“ My deepest sympathy on the passing of Otto. I am so very sorry for your loss. Sending my love and prayers 🙏❤️. Roxanne Demerjian



Roxanne Demerjian - February 23, 2023 at 06:56 PM

SL

Roxanne,  
Thank you so much for the love & prayers!

xoxo  
Sherry

Sherry Laitinen - February 23, 2023 at 09:07 PM

PD

“ My deepest sympathy  
Debbie, Sherry, Erica, Lisa and family. It was a  
pleasure working for Otto, and glad we are  
friends.  
My thoughts and prayers are with you.



patrice demerjian - February 23, 2023 at 11:21 AM

SL

Trice, Thank you so much for your thoughts & prayers! I have so many  
great memories of your friendship.

xoxo  
Sherry

Sherry Laitinen - February 23, 2023 at 09:06 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Otto A. Horger, Jr..



February 23, 2023 at 10:59 AM



“ Sherry sent a virtual gift in memory of Otto A. Horger, Jr.



Sherry - February 22, 2023 at 03:45 PM



“ 339 files added to the album LifeTributes



Wasik Funeral Home, Inc. - February 22, 2023 at 02:43 PM

WG

“ Otto was my first "best friend." We lived in a refugee camp in Viechtwang, Austria and palled around together. We were just young boys, barely in grade school, when the Horgers moved to Ried, Austria, a half day's train ride away. We visited about half a dozen times after that and I excitedly looked forward to those visits. The Horgers immigrated to America in 1955, and we followed in 1956, but due to different sponsors, the Horgers ended up in Detroit and the Gondosches in Cleveland. We maintained our close relationship and visited whenever possible. My sister Ilse met her future husband Nick Hamers though Otto, who was a close friend. Whenever I think of Otto it longingly brings me back to our early years.

*In loving memory,  
Werner Gondosch*

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**Werner Gondosch** - February 22, 2023 at 01:12 PM

SL

*Werner, Thank you for sharing your memories! It was very touching & means a lot to our family.*

*xoxo  
Sherry Laitinen*

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**Sherry Laitinen** - February 22, 2023 at 04:45 PM



“ *Small Garden Dish was purchased for the family of Otto A. Horger, Jr..*



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February 21, 2023 at 05:48 PM