



Sigfried Charow

August 17, 1938 - April 18, 2026

Sigfried was born in the village of Beckersdorf on August 17, 1938, and grew up in Kalefeld. He immigrated to the United States on July 4, 1955, arriving in New York harbor on the S.S. America with his father Walter, grandmother Anna, and younger brother Rudolph.

In 1956, at the request of Dr. Baum from the International Institute of Detroit, he started a youth group. He also joined the Folk Dance Group under the direction of Mrs. Erika Brenner, performing at various Michigan ceremonies including Frankenmuth, the Strauss Ball, and the Harmony at the Michigan State Fair. An avid soccer player, Sigfried was a member of the Kolping Society until 1958 and subsequently played for Sports Club 24 for eight years.

On August 1, 1964, Sigfried married Elsa Knoerzer. They shared 44 wonderful years together until her passing in 2008. Together they raised three children: Alex, Peter, and Gloria. In 1982, through hard work and dedication, the family started I & G Tool Company. The business ran for over 34 years with all three children working at the facility. Sigfried's professional motto was "Work smarter, not harder."

Sigfried was also a Cub Scout Master for his sons and was known for playing sports with his children and neighborhood kids after work; his time playing catch with Gloria remains an especially fond memory. He cherished every

chance to play cards, especially pinochle with family and friends, bringing a mix of spirited competition and genuine joy to every game. He was a founding member and ten-year leader of the German American Cultural Center (G.A.C.C.) Tisch Tennis Club, as well as a member of the Austrian Society and the Austrian Ski Club. For the past 30 years, he was active in organizing and supervising festivals for the G.A.C.C., where he was a proud member for over 50 years. He was also a supporting member and active singer with the GBU Saxonia/Rheingold Choir.

Sigfried was most proud of his family: Alex (Teresa), Peter (Kelly), Gloria (Brian), and his grandchildren, Gabriel and Hannah.

A Celebration of Life will be held in August of this year. Location and date will be shared once confirmed.

In lieu of flowers, please consider honoring him by planting trees through The Arbor Day Foundation at <https://shop.arborday.org/commemorative-trees-for-others?producttype=TIM>

Our dad loved the outdoors and the beauty of Michigan's forests, and nothing would have meant more to him than helping those forests continue to grow.

Tribute Wall

JF

“ My wife and I were blessed to meet Ziggy a few years ago, He immediately became part of our and the Tillson Street family, A true gentleman; kind, courteous and compassionate. Ziggy loved attending our neighborhood get togethers, a great storyteller, sharing his life's adventures with insightful wisdom and humor.R.I.P. Ziggy, we miss you terribly. Susan and Jim

James Folkl - April 23 at 11:57 AM

BH

“ Alex, Peter, Gloria and family I am so sorry for your loss, so many years have gone by since we all have seen each other but my childhood memories of our family hanging out in the basement or at a cottage I don't remember were? I have always asked my family when they see Uncle Ziggy say Hi!! and they did. at one of my family events there was a big PAW on my shoulder and a voice that said you don't remember me , I didn't even turn around and said Uncle Ziggy, Got my hug and chatted like we had lunch last week. Your Father as you know was a great man and is deeply missed please let us know when the memorial is I would LOVE to see you all. Sorry again Bobby Hermann.

Bobby Hermann - April 22 at 07:58 PM

DJ

“ To the family of "Ziggy" Charow; Please accept my most heartfelt sorrow for your loss. I knew Ziggy through my dealings with I & G Tool. As an Engineer at Ford Motor Co. we were always looking for companies that could provide accurate tools and tooling at a reasonable price and in a timely manner, I & G Tool was that company. Many orders confirmed with trust and a handshake, paperwork to follow. A man large in stature and heart, his handshake a testament to his strength. OH, and don't forget his golf outings always fun no matter what your ability. May Ziggys' soul and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace. Amen.
Dan Jendza (retired Ford injuneerring).

Dan Jendza - April 22 at 08:14 AM

LC

Alex, Pete and Gloria I know that you are heartbroken over the passing of Ziggy. Your grief is shared by many of us that truly loved and respected your dad. He always had a kind word and always tried to make others feel important. He will be missed and remembered for years to come.

larry coffee - May 27 at 03:28 PM