



## Stanley Kowalski

November 4, 1931 - June 25, 2026

Stanley M. Kowalski, who found joy in simple pleasures, satisfaction in hard work, and purpose in caring for those he loved. Whether under the hood of a car, wiring a project for a friend, or simply enjoying a drive through the countryside, Stan approached life with quiet determination, remarkable skill, and an unwavering devotion to his family.

Born and raised in Detroit, Stan grew up in an era when money was scarce and luxuries were few. Known to family and neighborhood friends as "Junior," he spent his childhood playing in the train yards near Mt. Elliott and Charles, where he and his friends built homemade scooters from discarded grocery crates and old roller skate wheels. Those humble beginnings taught him the value of hard work, ingenuity, and appreciating what you had.

Few things in life brought Stan more happiness than automobiles. Cars weren't simply a hobby—they were a lifelong passion. He had an incredible ability to identify virtually any vehicle by sight, effortlessly naming its year, make, and model. His first car was a 1941 Plymouth Business Coupe, beginning a lifelong love affair with automobiles. As a young man, he owned as many as three cars at once, even renting additional garage space to keep them all. He cherished every vehicle he owned, spending countless hours washing, polishing, and meticulously maintaining them.

Working on cars was made even more enjoyable alongside his brother, Len. While the two spent hours repairing and restoring vehicles, Stan's organized nature always shined through. Once the work was complete, he could usually be found putting every tool back in its proper place and tidying the garage before calling it a day.

Among his many beloved automobiles was a brand-new 1957 Ford equipped with a Thunderbird V-8 engine, but he often said the finest car he ever owned was his last; a Buick Lucerne. His enthusiasm for automobiles never faded. He remained fascinated by the evolution of automotive design and technology for as long as his eyesight allowed, and even into his later years he was always willing to line up for a friendly street race. It wasn't until the age of 89, when he voluntarily surrendered his driver's license, that he finally stepped away from behind the wheel.

Stan dedicated 43 years of his life to Detroit Edison, beginning his career there at just 15 years old while attending Wilbur Wright Vocational High School in Detroit. Through decades of faithful service, he built a career defined by dependability, dedication, and an exceptional work ethic. His retirement allowed him to enjoy the pension he had worked so hard to earn.

A gifted handyman, Stan rarely encountered a project he couldn't tackle. A self-taught electrician with an impressive collection of tools, he generously shared his knowledge with family and friends, wiring countless projects over the years. Perhaps his greatest lesson, however, was teaching each of his three sons the fundamentals of household electrical work, passing along not only practical skills but also confidence and self-reliance.

Stan found peace in the quiet places of life. He loved spending time at Uncle Martin's farm and at his parents' farm in Capac, where he appreciated the solitude of the countryside. Even mowing the grass brought him contentment.

Later in life, he especially enjoyed long drives through the country, discovering new roads while discussing current events and politics. Stan never disguised where he stood on political issues, and those spirited conversations became cherished memories for those fortunate enough to ride along.

He also enjoyed spending time at Gabriel's Bar in Roseville, where he could often be found sharing stories and drinks with local politicians, off-duty police officers, attorneys, and longtime friends. He loved bluegrass music, classic country songs, and visiting the gun range whenever his arthritis allowed.

In 1959, Stan married the love of his life, Margaret Zelmanski, after the two met at a church function. Like many young couples of their generation, they began married life with very little. Their wedding gifts just barely covered the cost of the celebration, and they started their life together while living with Stan's parents. They shared 30 wonderful years of marriage before Margaret's passing in 1989. Though he was still relatively young, Stan never desired to remarry. His heart remained with Margaret for the rest of his life.

A devout Catholic throughout his entire life, Stan's faith served as the foundation upon which he built his family. More importantly, he passed that faith along to his children by both word and example.

Above all else, Stan was a family man. He never wanted to become a burden to anyone, yet his sons lovingly cared for him in his later years with the same dedication he had shown them throughout their lives. He embodied what it meant to be a father, teaching his family that parenthood never ends, regardless of how old you become or how old your children grow. His love, guidance, and steady presence remained constant throughout his life and will continue to shape generations of his family for years to come.

Stan is the beloved husband of the late Margaret Kowalski. Loving father of Stanley (Charisse) Kowalski, Michael (Kimberly) Kowalski, and Thomas (Nancy) Kowalski. Dear grandpa of Aimée (Chad) Bishop, Cameron Kowalski, Jacob Kowalski, Joshua Kowalski, Joseph (Rebekah) Kowalski, and Jennifer (Garrett) Kowalski-Lang. Most cherished great-grandpa of Eliana Kowalski, Francis Kowalski, Henry Kowalski, and Lucia Lang. Dearest brother of the late Leonard (the late Joy) Kowalski, the late Elsie (the late George) Donneth, and the late Jerome (the late Judith) Kowalski.

Visitation Wednesday from 2:00 PM until 8:00 PM with a 7:00 PM Rosary at the Wasik Funeral Home, Inc., 49150 Schoenherr Road (north of 22 Mile Road), Shelby Township. Instate Thursday from 9:30 AM until the 10:00 AM Mass of Christian Burial at St. John Vianney Catholic Church, 51155 Schoenherr Road (north of 24 Mile Road), Shelby Township. Private interment will follow the Mass at Resurrection Cemetery in Clinton Township.

# Upcoming Events

## Visitation

JUL 1. 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Wasik Funeral Home, Shelby Township  
49150 Schoenherr Rd.  
Shelby Township, MI 48315  
(586) 532-8600  
shelby@wasikfuneralhome.com

## Rosary

JUL 1. 7:00 PM (ET)

Wasik Funeral Home, Shelby Township  
49150 Schoenherr Rd.  
Shelby Township, MI 48315  
(586) 532-8600  
shelby@wasikfuneralhome.com

## Instate in church

JUL 2. 9:30 AM - 10:00 AM (ET)

St. John Vianney Catholic Church  
54045 Schoenherr Rd.  
Shelby Township, MI 48316

## Funeral Mass

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JUL 2. 10:00 AM (ET)

St. John Vianney Catholic Church  
54045 Schoenherr Rd.  
Shelby Township, MI 48316