



## Daniel A. Zmuda

September 4, 1926 - November 17, 2014

Daniel A. Zmuda, age 88, passed away Monday, November 17 at St. Vincent Mercy Medical Center after a lengthy illness. Looking illness right in the eye, he was determined to fight, but always saw the light at the end of the tunnel. This followed his belief that everything has a reason behind it, a belief he instilled in his children and grandchildren.

He was born September 4, 1926 to Walter and Bertha (Korecki) Zmuda and was raised as a devout Catholic in North Toledo. He met Janette Robideau at a block rosary and she became his beloved wife on May 10, 1952. She preceded him in death on December 27, 2000. Throughout his adult life, he was a longtime parishioner at St. Clement Church and then St. Joseph Church, Toledo.

Dan served in the United States Army and was stationed in the Philippines during World War II where he was the Voice of America on Armed Forces Radio. He also worked many years as a Systems Engineer and used his analytical skills for finding the best, most logical or most economical way to do everything. Daniel gained notoriety in the manufacturing industry, where he received patents in technical development for which he was most proud.

He was an entertainer with a life-long passion for music. He taught himself to play the piano at an early age and began performing professionally as a teenager, gaining notoriety as the "Boogie-Woogie" piano player of Toledo. He also performed professionally in a band called The Four Keys under the stage name of Danny O'Day. As he raised his family, the music from his piano

regularly filled their home and influenced his children. Another love was baseball, especially the Detroit Tigers. He would talk to anyone about the game the night before and explain things such as why players shouldn't chew gum when they batted, all in his unique, dry, yet light-hearted way.

His biggest pride was by far his family. He is survived by his 6 children: Gary (Becky) Zmuda, Judy (Ben) Tancinco, Greg (Bev) Zmuda, Gene (Terri) Zmuda, Jayne (Don) Nachtrab, and Joel (Jenny) Zmuda, 14 grandchildren: BJ and Jon Tancinco, Victoria (Tyson) Wyant, Natalie (Thomas) Peters, Jack and Irene Nachtrab, Zach, Brad, Alexa, Eric, Matthew, Zohn, Meghann, and Aubrey Zmuda, 2 great-grandchildren Alexander and Adaryn Wyant, sister Corrine (John) Sedlar, and special cousin Dave. In addition to his parents and his wife, he was preceded in death by brothers Leonard and Robert Zmuda, sister Margaret Burke, and first grandson Matthew J. Zmuda.

The family would like to extend their sincere appreciation to Dr. Ameer Kabour, Dr. Steven Selman, Dr. Syed Abidi, Dr. David Zack, nurses and staff at the Cardiovascular Center at St. Vincent Mercy Medical Center for their loving care.

Friends may visit at the Coyle Funeral Home, 1770 S Reynolds Rd; on Friday Nov. 21, 2014 from 2-8:00 pm where the Rosary will be recited at 7:00 pm. Visitation will continue at St Clement Catholic Church, 3030 Tremainsville Rd. Toledo Ohio 43613, on Saturday Nov., 22 from 10:00 am until the time of the funeral Mass at 11:00 am. Interment will follow at St. Joseph's Cemetery, Erie, MI. Memorials may be made to 1-Heart, 2409 Cherry St. Suite 100D Toledo, OH 43608 , a local charitable organization created to provide the best care to every heart patient "using the power of volunteers and the generosity of donors", or to the American Kidney Fund.

# Cemetery Details

## St. Joseph Cemetery

Erie, MI

# Previous Events

## Visitation

NOV 21. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Coyle Funeral and Cremation Services  
1770 S. Reynolds Road  
Toledo, OH 43614  
(419) 865-1295  
<https://www.coylefuneralhome.com>

## Rosary Service

NOV 21. 7:00 PM (ET)

Coyle Funeral and Cremation Services  
1770 S. Reynolds Road  
Toledo, OH 43614  
(419) 865-1295  
<https://www.coylefuneralhome.com>

## Funeral

NOV **22**. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Clement Church  
3030 Tremainsville  
Toledo, OH 43613

# Tribute Wall

MB

“ *Monroe Big Band purchased the Fall Fantasia for the family of Daniel A. Zmuda.*



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**Monroe Big Band** - November 21, 2014 at 11:32 AM

KA

“ *Our deepest sympathies to you and your family.*

*The Smoyer's*

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**Karen** - November 21, 2014 at 11:13 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Daniel A. Zmuda.*



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November 20, 2014 at 06:21 PM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Daniel A. Zmuda.*



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November 20, 2014 at 04:33 PM

YS

“ Although we haven't seen Dan in many years at our reunions, we remember him well as a warm, friendly person and a loving and proud dad. Our sincerest sympathies to all his family.  
*Bob & Yvette Souchereau*

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**Yvette Souchereau** - November 20, 2014 at 12:41 PM

“ News article) Daniel A. Zmuda, an analyst of manufacturing and other systems and an inventor, who was a pianist and onetime professional entertainer, died Monday in Mercy St. Vincent Medical Center. He was 88. He had multiple illnesses - bladder cancer, a heart condition, kidney failure - yet exuded optimism, his son Gene Zmuda said. "His outlook on life was always upbeat and positive," said Gene Zmuda, a judge of Lucas County Common Pleas Court. "He always looked to the next day." Mr. Zmuda worked for years at Wabash-Lagrange Steel Co. and retired from O'Neal Inc., which bought the family-owned firm. He knew its computer systems, but had a grasp on how all the systems fit together. While with Questor, the former Toledo-based conglomerate that owned muffler maker AP Parts, Mr. Zmuda invented an efficient way to bend tubing. "He was brilliant in how to look at things in a different way to make them easier for people," said his son Joel, an automotive quality engineer best known as a singer with local big bands. As a teen, Mr. Zmuda taught himself to play piano and from a book learned boogie woogie. He made money playing downtown. After Army service in World War II - he was on the air for Voice Of America in the Philippines - Mr. Zmuda and his friends formed the Four Keys, which had a long run at Thompson's Inn in Point Place. He left the music business to marry and provide for his family. He played most days, even when ill, and still studied chord progressions and how to play songs in various keys. He taught his children about music and wrote each a song. He was born Sept. 4, 1926, to Bertha and Walter Zmuda and grew up in North Toledo. He attended Central Catholic High School and audited engineering classes at the University of Toledo. Mr. Zmuda and Janette Robideau married May 10, 1952. She died Dec. 27, 2000. Surviving are his sons, Gary, Greg, Gene, and Joel Zmuda; daughters, Judy Tancinco and Jayne Nachtrab; sister, Corrine Sedlar; 14 grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. Visitation will be from 2-8 p.m. Friday in the Coyle Funeral Home, where the Rosary will be recited at 7 p.m. Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday in St. Clement Church, where visitation is to begin at 10 a.m. The family suggests tributes to 1-Heart, a Toledo-based charity, or the American Kidney

*Fund.Contact Blade Staff Writer Mark Zaborney at: [mzaborney@theblade.com](mailto:mzaborney@theblade.com) or 419-724-6182.*

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**Coyle** - November 20, 2014 at 08:34 AM