



John L. Erford Sr.

April 29, 1922 - December 6, 2008

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John L. Erford, Sr., the world's biggest Detroit Tigers' baseball fan, passed away on December 6, 2008 at UTMC. He was born April 29, 1922 to Henry and Mary (Mack) Erford of Hamler, Ohio.

A veteran of WWII he was an Army Supply Sergeant in the 1269th Regiment, which took part in the liberation of Dachau. For most of his working career he was an exterminator for Keystone Exterminating Co., retiring in 1987.

John was a 53-year member of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish, where he faithfully ushered for 50 of those years. He was also a 4th Degree Member of the St. Jude Council Knights of Columbus and a long-time member of Beyond Grief. Next to his family his greatest enjoyment in life was armchair coaching his beloved Detroit Tigers-win or lose. He also enjoyed golf, cards, dancing, and, of course, singing.

He is survived by his daughters Carol Ann, Colette (Danny) Leyland, Mary (Don) Ford, Marge (Larry) Leyland, Julie and son Jeffrey (Laurie), 13 grandchildren, 4 great-grandchildren, brother Art (Mary Ann), sisters, Lenore

Gerschutz, Marvelle Clausen, Margaret Zacharich, Jean Hammer, Eileen Reese, Mary Ann (James) Gebers, and special friend Lois Ries. He was preceded in death by his wife Ann, son John, Jr., brothers, Reynold and Mack.

Thanks, Dad, for filling our lives with love and laughter!

Family and friends may visit on Tuesday, December 9, from 2-8 p.m. at Coyle Funeral Home, 1770 S. Reynolds Rd., with a scripture service at 7:00 p.m. The funeral will begin in the mortuary Wednesday, December 10 at 9:45 a.m. followed by a Mass of Christian Burial in Our Lady of Perpetual Help on, at 10:30 a.m. Interment Calvary Cemetery.

The family wishes to thank Dr. Stephen Bazeley and Dr. Peter Temesy-Armos and the staff at UTMC for their kind and compassionate care. Memorial contributions may be made to Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church.