



John "Ray" Hunter

June 15, 1922 - November 3, 2009

John R. "Ray" Hunter, 87, a life-long Toledoan, passed away on November 3rd at Hospice of Northwest Ohio. Ray is survived by his wife Mary (Sutter) Hunter with whom he shared over 64 years of mutual devotion. He also leaves 13 children; Phil (Sue), Chris (Mary), Grace, Marty (Jane), Liz Dumas, John (Carol), Annette (Dennis) Lee, Tom (Kim), Kevin (Kathy), Nancy (Larry) Bauer, Paul (Pam), Donna Hunter Hall, and Maria 'Beanie' (Jeff) Denning. He will be especially missed by his brother Dick (Carole) Hunter. Also surviving are 52 grandchildren and 16 great grandchildren.

Ray was preceded in death by his parents, Chet and Agnes (Spalding) Hunter; brothers, Rev. Donald and George; sister, Marilyn Gstalder; grandsons, Ryan and Daniel Hunter; and son-in law, Marty Dumas.

Ray was a proud graduate of Central Catholic High School, class of 1940, and was a corporal in the United States Army, serving in the European theater during WW II. During the more than three years he was away from home, he wrote to Mary daily and they planned their wedding through the mail. He returned to Toledo just days before their August 25, 1945 wedding.

Ray attended the University of Toledo and the University of Detroit Law School. For 16 years, he worked for Mutual of Omaha Insurance Company, the last four as Toledo service manager. In 1964 he was recruited by his great friend Phil Skeldon to be the business manager of the Toledo Zoological Society. He retired from the Zoo in 1984 and owing to his immeasurable civic contributions, June 30, 1984 was declared "Ray Hunter Day" in Lucas County,

Ohio by resolution of the Board of County Commissioners.

Ray was a long time member and past-president of the Serra Club of Toledo and the first director of the Diocesan Development Fund initiated by then Bishop John A. Donovan. Ray and Mary were devoted to Rosary Cathedral and St. Patrick of Heatherdowns, the two parishes where they spent their married life, raised their family, and for many years attended daily Mass. Together with his friend Harold Knight, he helped to form the Rosary Cathedral Credit Union where many of his children followed his lead toward financial responsibility. He served as a lector and Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist at both parishes.

A man of great faith, he was an inspiration to his family and friends. He provided spiritually, financially and emotionally for Mary and all 13 children with grace and dignity, a smile on his face and a twinkle in his eye. We were always proud and honored to call him our dad.

Ray was the proverbial people person with an infectious laugh and warm, mischievous wit. He had a magnificent capacity for love and each of his numerous family members had a unique connection and understanding that often required no words. His brother, Dick, opined that he would light up a room when he entered it. Ray was a true gentleman.

Friends may call at the Coyle Funeral Home 1770 S. Reynolds Rd. on Thursday from 2-8:00p.m. where a Scripture Service will be held at 7pm. A Memorial Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Friday at 10:30 a.m. in St. Patrick of Heatherdowns Church. The family would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to the Elizabeth Scott Community for their exceptional care for Ray over the last 6 years. Memorials may take the form of contributions to Central City Ministry 1933 Spielbusch Ave. Toledo, OH 43604 (419) 244-6711 ext 216 or The Foundation for Life/Toledo Right to Life.

We send a great man to his just reward at the heavenly banquet. The victory is his.

Tribute Wall



“ To the Hunter family- I join my sister Connie in sending condolences and love. Ray Hunter was one of the kindest men I have ever known, and so much fun! I know you will miss him every day, as I miss my parents. But, wow! What a life, what a legacy he left for you. God bless you all.##imported-begin##Marybeth Knight Songbird53@aol.com##imported-end##

November 03, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Please take care Kevin. I am definitely thinking of you and your family!##imported-begin##Karen Zender##imported-end##

November 03, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ To All The Hunter Family: I loved your dad! He was the BEST & always will be! Growing up in the Old West End were some of the best memories. And, of course, the zoo! Riding to work with your dad &/or Mr. Skeldon, spending the day at a great place & having so much fun - wonderful memories. I know you are all very sad & only time can heal that empty space. And, I do know that my father rejoiced on seeing your father come to join in a beautiful place! My love & prayers to all of you
God Bless! Connie##imported-begin##connie knight carroll heartcare6@yahoo.com##imported-end##

November 03, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ To Kevin Hunter, my work colleague. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family in your time of loss. Sounds like he was a wonderful man that lived a long good life.##imported-begin##David Mogle##imported-end##

November 03, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Kevin: Please accept my condolence on the passing of your Dad. It sounds like he was a great man and a devout Catholic. I wish I could have met him. I know you and you family were blessed to have a husband and father like him. I know you all will miss him dearly. Please pass along my sympathy to your Mom and the rest of your family.

God Bless,

Larry Laubscher##imported-begin##Larry Laubscher##imported-end##

November 03, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Tom, know that you and your family are in our thoughts and prayers during this very difficult time. We are here for you.##imported-begin##Kyle Pirkle and The Coca Cola Family##imported-end##

November 03, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ My deepest sympathy to all the Hunter family. I still have fond memories of growing up with many of you and the fun times we had at your house. Your dad was always kind to me and the other "random" kids in the neighborhood and welcomed us into your home. May God be with you in your sorrow and give you peace knowing that your dad is with Him.

Sincerely,

Judy Fadell (Lacure) Crocker###imported-begin##Judy Fadell (Lacure) Crocker crockermj@juno.com###imported-end##

November 03, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Paul, Pam, and Girls,
We wish to extend to you our heartfelt Sympathy. Sharon emailed us your Dad's obituary. WOW !! What an outstanding person. I was truly inspired by reading it. He is a lovely example of God's love within him. Now he leaves a legacy behind for all of you to imitate. The Lord can proudly say, " Job well done. Come Home.

###imported-begin##Jim and Joyce Steffen Family###imported-end##

November 03, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ I was so sad to hear about the passing of your father/husband. I remember all the work Ray put in to the the Zoo. I can still remember the special meaning of the the Music Under the Stars concerts with music from The Sound of Music. Your Dad made working in Wonder Valley really great. He was such a warm and friendly person who made you feel special.###imported-

begin##Penny Sanecki

Teachmanymoos1@excite.com###imported-end##

November 03, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ John: I was very sorry to hear about your dad. My thoughts and prayers will be with you and your family.##imported-begin##bill hively##imported-end##

November 03, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Kevin my heart goes out to you and your family. Let me say, I had no idea about how large your family is. It is amazing the legacy that your dad has left behind. Take the time to celebrate his life and grieve together. My condolences. Mark##imported-begin##Mark Seeley##imported-end##

November 03, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ My condolences to the Hunter family.
My thoughts are with you.

Fabio##imported-begin##Fabio Orozco
feo_tpa@yahoo.com##imported-end##

November 03, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Kevin and family,
Our deepest sympathy goes out to you all. You are in our thoughts and prayers.##imported-begin##Mike and Angela Tims Mike.Tims@mwv.com##imported-end##

November 03, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ *My sincere thoughts and prayers are with you.##imported-begin##Brandon Wilcox##imported-end##*

November 03, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ *Dear Kevin and family,
Your father clearly led a full life and made a positive impact in his community. I can only imagine that he has also left your family with many wonderful memories of happier times spend together. I hope that those memories will be of comfort to you as you celebrate his life and legacy.
Kindest regards-
Amy##imported-begin##Amy Glosh##imported-end##*

November 03, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ *Sorry to hear of you loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.##imported-begin##Teresa Novack##imported-end##*

November 03, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ *In the Loss of your Father...*

To every thing there is a season... With Sympathy in your time of sadness.

Kevin You and your family are in our thoughts and prayers.

Carlos and Sharon Murguia##imported-begin##Carlos and Sharon##imported-end##

November 03, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Mary, We are so sorry. We will be praying for you and your family.##imported-begin##Fran and Ann O'Connor##imported-end##

November 03, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Hunter Family,
My prayers and support during this time.
You dad was a very special man. I am sure God is having a wonderful time with his big smile.He was so good to our Ursulines. I remember having parties at your house for First Communion and birthdays.
God bless all
Sister Ann Marie Mc Manus##imported-begin##Sister Ann Marie Mc Manus##imported-end##

November 03, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Hunter Clan,

My deepest and heart felt sympathy to all of Hunters in this time of loss. If anyone is going to get through the gates of heaven quickly it will be your dad. He is a very special person.

Best wishes,

Jim Forrester##imported-begin##The Forrester Family jimforrester@bex.net##imported-end##

November 03, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Hunter family,
I am so sorry for the loss of your dad. You got it right when you told of the "twinkle in his eye". I saw your dad when I was at Elizabeth Scott some time ago and said hello, not knowing if he would know know me. His eyes twinkled and he put up one finger and said "You are the oldest". God bless you all as you celebrate his life.##imported-begin##Karen (Lacure) Welter##imported-end##

November 03, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Hunter Family,

On behalf of the Notre Dame Academy community, I extend our sincere sympathy to all of you at the loss of your Dad, father-in-law, grandpa and friend. While I did not have the privilege of knowing him personally, as I read his obituary, it is evident to me that his legacy is lived out in his large, generous and loving family. Please know you are in our thoughts and prayers.

Sr. Mary Ann Culpert, SND, President, and the Notre Dame Academy community##imported-begin##Sr. Mary Ann Culpert##imported-end##

November 03, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Hunter Family,
I have known you all for many years. The school days at Rosary Cathedral. The parties at your house. The wedding of Jane and Marty.
Ray was very special to the Ursulines and we love him very much. I am sure he will be missed by the family. The Good Lord is telling Ray how happy He is to have his smiling face up with Him. Your family is in my prayers and you have my support at this time.
God bless you all,
Sister Ann Marie Mc Manus##imported-begin##Sister Ann Marie Mc Manus irishmcmanus@yahoo.com##imported-end##

November 03, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ We would like to extend our coldolence to the Hunter family. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.##imported-begin##The Loxcreen Company##imported-end##

November 03, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear ones, I will bet that Jack is so happy to see your father. They were such great friends and had so much in common. You children are to be congratulated for your outstanding love and loyalty. However, you learned from the best. Love and prayers. Nancy S.##imported-begin##Nancy Schlageter##imported-end##

November 03, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ John and Family,
We are sorry for your loss. You are in our thoughts and prayers.##imported-begin##FMC Friends##imported-end##

November 03, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Tom, Kevin and the rest of the Hunters:

You are in my thoughts and prayers during this time of loss. I have many fond memories of your Dad and hold him in the highest regard. As you know, he gave me my first job at the Toledo Zoo and your family took me and some of my brothers in when our dad was so sick. With 13 of your own to take care of, a couple more "Lacure kids" was a huge extension of kindness by your Mom & Dad. I remember lots of fun times with your dad at your home: the races down the sidewalks in front, basketball, baseball in your backyard; he was a good referee and coach to the neighborhood gang. We always appreciated getting a sucker from the kitchen after having some fun outside!

You are blessed to have had him so long and heaven will now benefit from his presence. Thanks for so much love and support to our family over the years.

Chip Lacure, Rochester, NY.##imported-begin##James "Chipper" Lacure Jr. clacure@cmiav.com##imported-end##

November 03, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ So sorry to hear about your Dad. You are in our thoughts and prayers.##imported-begin##Rick and Ruth LaPoint##imported-end##

November 03, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Kevin and Family,
We are sorry to hear about the passing of your father. It sounds like he was a wonderful father and grandfather and such a devoted husband. His legacy will continue on.

You're in our thoughts and prayers.

Love,

J.R. Carol, Ryan, and Rachel##imported-begin##Fraher Family##imported-end##

November 03, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ To All of Ray and Mary's Children & Family,

What A wonderful memory he has left behind for all of us that knew him. He and your Mom were two real special people. We loved them both. Our prayers are with you and yours.

Our Love, George and Nancy##imported-begin##George & Nancy Zitzelberger##imported-end##

November 03, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Our condolences to your family on the loss of another Hero of the Greatest Generation. For a good part of the fifties I delivered a Sunday Blade to that big brick house on Glenwood. When I came to collect for the paper, I was always greeted by the man with the soft warm smile. It seemed like for a long, long, long time if I pointed to a kid I didn't know and said "Who's that?" odds got good the answer was going to be "A Hunter". We've had the privilege to know many of you as adults and know what a great model your Dad was. May he rest in peace. Our prayers are with you all.##imported-begin##John and Ann Mackley##imported-end##

November 03, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ On behalf of all of the Mahoneys, I would like to extend our condolences to all of the Hunter clan. The tribute to Ray was right on target...what a warm and welcoming gentleman. Our family memories of growing up in the Old West End will always include Ray and Mary and the dynamic Hunter kids (a certain fire engine and roof top rescue comes to mind!!) You are all in our thoughts and prayers....Pat Mahoney##imported-begin##The Mahoneys pmahoneyuapt@aol.com##imported-end##

November 03, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ To John, Tom, Kevin, and the rest of the Hunter family,
My heart goes out to all of you at this time of sorrow. I didn't really
get to know your father when we were growing up but saw him the
last few years when I would inspect his nursing home. He always
had a smile on his face and something sweet and kind to say. I
know that he had to have been a terrific man, and a wonderful
father and husband to have raised thirteen great kids. What a
wonderful example he and your mother set for all of you to live up
to. You are all in my thoughts and prayers through this difficult
time.##imported-begin##Janet Jacoby Skidmore##imported-end##

November 03, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ To: Donna, Beanie, Paul, Liz, Grace, Mrs. Hunter and the rest of
your siblings and extended families.

Victory is his. Victory is His. Great Obit.

Our Sincere condolences for your loss.

Pax Vobiscum,

*Rich and Juli Vogel##imported-begin##Rich and Juli Vogel richard_
vogelrv@yahoo.com##imported-end##*

November 03, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Annette and family,
I was so very sorry to learn of your Dad's passing. I can only imagine the depth of your loss. I still remember the times I met your father and the kindness and joy he embodied. He lives on in all of you! May your memories give you comfort and peace.##imported-begin##Claudia (Liebrecht) Beutler
cabeutler@comcast.net##imported-end##

November 03, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ My sympathy to the Hunter family. I remember your dad to be very welcoming, genuine and good humored. You have all been in my thoughts and prayers.##imported-begin##Sandy Ruhe##imported-end##

November 03, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ We watched the Video- Truly a Great man who has had many great Memories and life filled with Family/Happiness and much Love!!! Thinking of you guys- as it will never be right to lose a Parent , but we belevie in the ever after and will see them again! See you Soon!##imported-begin##Jack##imported-end##

November 03, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ *To all the Hunter children. I feel your loss as I've known it myself. Grace, please know that I am thinking of you and praying for all of you. Much love comes your way.*

Blessings,

*Susan##imported-begin##Susan Lechlak
Qlinesue2@aol.com##imported-end##*

November 03, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ *We are so sorry that we were unable to extend our sympathies in person for such a wonderful man as Ray. He was such a giving man, and a wonderful example to all of what it means to serve with a smile on your face. We pray that all your family may be comforted by your many memories of happy times together. Bob and Sue##imported-begin##Bob and Sue Savage##imported-end##*

November 03, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Grandpa Raymond...

To the man that had everything... Loving family (understatement), friends, Catholic community relations... I learned so much from you more than you can imagine. The way you lit up the room with that ear- to-ear smile, that always firm handshake, and Sunday lamb dinners at your house.. (which I hated lamb) lol.. It was a pleasure seeing you and grandma (grandma Heini too) last year before I left the states for my 2nd tour) I'm so sorry I missed your funeral! Would've been nice to see the whole Hunter crew... There but for the grace of God.. Hows your martini ?? (extra dry of course) Much love Grandpa/Grandma xxxo###imported-begin###Gregory Hunter gregoryhunter16@yahoo.com###imported-end##

November 03, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Our best thoughts for Kevin & Kathy and all the children and family for your loss. What a wonderful family that John I'm sure enjoyed over his long life. Best wishes to all .###imported-begin###Bob & Glenda Crandall boba ndglenda@verizon.net###imported-end##

November 03, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Thoughts and prayers are with the entire family. So sorry for your tremendous loss!

Mike and Pate Rudolph###imported-begin###Mike Rudolph (Oxford) mrudo200@aol.com###imported-end##

November 03, 2009 at 12:00 AM