



Donald Keith Bessler

JUL 13, 1935 - FEB 3, 2020



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HOPCROFT
FUNERAL HOMES

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Donald Keith Bessler

JUL 13, 1935 - FEB 3, 2020

Donald Keith Bessler, “Don” age 84, of Madison Heights, MI passed away peacefully on Monday, February 3rd, 2020, at St. John Macomb Hospital in Warren. He was born July 13, 1935, in Lake George, MN to the late Carl and Agnes (Johannsen) Bessler. He was a 1953 graduate of LaPorte High School with a perfect attendance record and as the highest ranking male graduate in the state of MN for that year. He served in the Army during the Korean War, and after proudly working as a trim carpenter on historical Detroit buildings such as the St. Regis Hotel, The Pontchartrain and more, he started his successful home improvement business, Don Mar Modernization.

Don was actively involved in local government since making their home in Madison Heights in 1958, on the Tax Board of Review since 1965, on the Charter and Ordinance Review Board in 1967, member of the Lion’s Club, Knights of Columbus, and lifetime member of the Detroit Sportsman’s Club. He was an avid - meaning plan vacations around seasons - bowler and golfer. In his earlier years he hunted and competed in trap shooting. He was a Breweriana and antique collector/dealer with a weekend booth at the Royal Oak Farmer’s Market where he was known as “Derby Don” for over 40 years. Don enjoyed just about any sports, traveling, cooking (he was the pancake man at church & made the BEST gravy for every family holiday), playing cards/games/pinochle (and was always fiercely competitive, even with UNO!), political debates, sharing stories from his life, and family time.

He is lovingly remembered by his devoted wife, Marie, his children, Victor Bessler of Clinton Township, MI, Vikki (Patrick) Gailunas of Lake Worth, FL, Denise (Rick) Klecker of Milford, MI, Kurt (Freda) Bessler of Greenbrier, TN, and Amy Bessler of Madison Heights, MI, 12 grandchildren, 24 great-grandchildren, sister-in-law Rita (Dave) Ryall, numerous extended family and many friends. Brother of Larry (Kim) Bessler, Clarence (Sylvia) Bessler and Betty (Ron) Beard. He is predeceased by his brothers Mike, Wayne and Harold Bessler, and his daughter-in-law Patti (Victor) Bessler.



Obituary

Donald Keith Bessler

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Memorial Visitation will be held on Sunday, February 16th from 3:00 pm – 7:00 pm. Military Honors at 7 pm followed by the Rosary being recited and lead by the Knights of Columbus at Hopcroft Funeral Home, 31145 John R. Road, Madison Heights, Michigan. Memorial visitation at 9:30 am with a Memorial Mass at 10 am Monday, February 17th at St. Vincent Ferrer

Any donations made in lieu of flowers will be contributed to a charitable organization and the purchase of a memorial tree/bench.



Events

Donald Keith Bessler

JUL 13, 1935 - FEB 3, 2020

Memorial Visitation

Sunday, February 16, 2020

3:00 PM - 7:00 PM ET

Hopcroft Funeral Home-Madison Heights
31145 John R. Road, Madison Heights MI 48071

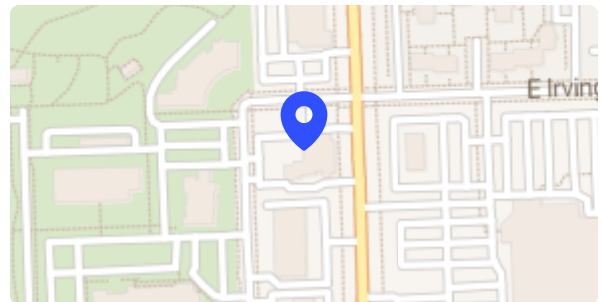


Military Honors

Sunday, February 16, 2020

7:00 PM ET

Hopcroft Funeral Home-Madison Heights
31145 John R. Road, Madison Heights MI 48071

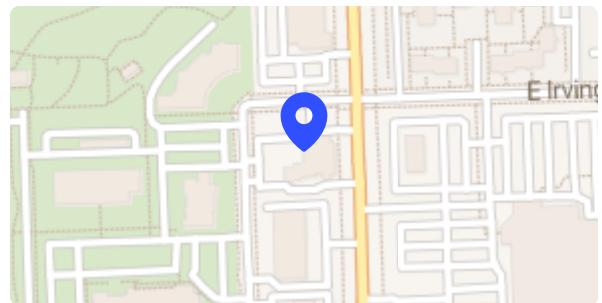


Rosary

Sunday, February 16, 2020

7:00 PM ET

Hopcroft Funeral Home-Madison Heights
31145 John R. Road, Madison Heights MI 48071

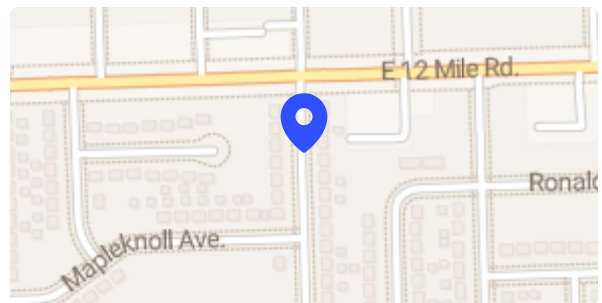


Memorial Visitation

Monday, February 17, 2020

9:30 AM ET

St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Church
On Herbert St., South of 12 Mile Road, between
John R. and Dequindre, Madison Heights MI






Events


Donald Keith Bessler

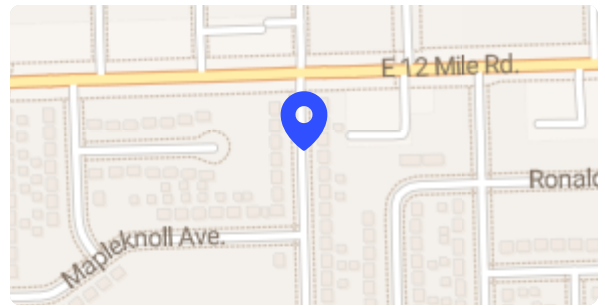
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Funeral Mass

 **Monday**, February 17, 2020

 10:00 AM ET

 **St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Church**
On Herbert St., South of 12 Mile Road, between
John R. and Dequindre, Madison Heights MI





Tribute Wall

Donald Keith Bessler

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Anonymous sent a Sweet Tranquility Basket to the Bessler family.

February 16 at 4:27 AM



Anonymous sent a Full Of Love Bouquet to the Bessler family.

February 15 at 4:07 AM



MI

Marylou Ignasiak lit a candle in honor of Donald.

February 11 at 9:43 AM



Anonymous sent a Serene Retreat to the Bessler family.

February 10 at 9:33 AM



Paul D. Perry posted:

Besides being the very best neighbor and mentor, I remember at a very young age he dressed as Santa Clause and came into our bedroom and I recognized his eyes behind the beard. He denied it, saying he WAS Santa. So I dropped it for my younger brothers sake. Don was more like a father to me than a neighbor, and he will be missed Paul D. Perry

February 7 at 5:47 PM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Donald by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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