



George Victor Kottwitz

August 28, 1919 - January 10, 2020

George Victor Kottwitz passed away peacefully on January 10, 2020, at the age of 100 at his home in Edwardsville. He was born on August 28, 1919, in Bland, MO. He was the youngest child of 4 born to Herman C. and Johanna M. (Liesemeyer) Kottwitz. His parents as well as his sister Ruth Greunke of Fremont, NE, brother Walter Kottwitz of St. Louis, MO, and sister Esther Sieber of St. Louis, MO preceded him in death. George's father died when he was 1 year old and he and his family moved to the farm of his uncle Ted Liesemeyer on 2nd Creek in Gasconade County, MO. He attended St. John Lutheran Church and School in Drake, MO, where he was baptized and confirmed. Later he worked as a farm hand in the Hamel, IL area until he entered the Army in 1942. He was awarded the Bronze Star for heroic and meritorious achievement during action in the Battle of the Bulge. He was honorably discharged in 1946 as a Staff Sargent. He lived in Staunton, IL when he returned from the war. He was employed as a conductor on the Illinois Terminal RR. As a conductor on the railroad, he traveled through Edwardsville and thought it looked like a nice town to settle in. He worked for several RR companies as ownership changed (Wabash, Norfolk & Western, Norfolk & Southern) and retired as a switchman in 1981. He worked several years as a part-time custodian at Trinity Lutheran School in Edwardsville. He married Martha (Fleischer) from Rockville, MO on July 14, 1951, and moved to Edwardsville. They were married 64 years until Martha's death in 2016. They were wonderful parents to 3 children: Ellen (Ron) Henschen of Edwardsville, Martin (Christine) Kottwitz of Edwardsville, and Carol (Charles) Byer of Calverton, NY. He had 8 grandchildren: Joshua Henschen (Vasi Dzhoeva) of Edwardsville & Amanda Henschen (Chris) Sansom of Green Valley, IL; Katrina Kottwitz (Matt) Galen of Kirkwood, MO, Michael (Kate) Kottwitz of Springfield, IL & Gregory Kottwitz of Edwardsville; Andrew (Megan) Byer of Sicklerville, NJ, Amy Byer (Ben) Riley of Altus AFB, OK, & Christopher (Charly) Byer of College Station, TX. He was blessed with 13 great-grandchildren: Eliya & Jacob Sansom; Camille & Lucille Galen; Eleanor Kottwitz; Madelyn, Lucas & Cameron Byer; Oliver, August & Hazel Riley; and Sophi & Lillian Byer. He is also survived by many nieces & nephews. George was a "journaler" of day to day life. He kept a diary since he was 20 years old and scrapbooked many events over the years. He loved photography and cataloging jokes in 13 collections he penned. He had jokes published in Readers

Digest, Lutheran Witness, and Reminiscence magazine. The Madison County Chronicle featured his "K-Corner" for years. He had jokes featured on KMOX, and Johnny Carson used his joke in a monologue in 1974. He coached Little League, followed the Cardinals, was an avid gardener and loved growing roses. He was a musician who played piano and organ in his home church and during his army years for field services. He also loved singing in several choirs at Trinity. He loved fishing and playing horseshoes. He was a member of Trinity Lutheran Ministries who daily witnessed his faith by word and action. He was a member of the St. Louis Gateway chapter of the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge. Visitation will be on Thursday, January 16, from 4-7 PM at Weber & Rodney Funeral Home, 304 North Main Street in Edwardsville. Funeral will be on Friday, January 17, at 10:00 AM at Trinity Lutheran Church, 600 Water Street, Edwardsville. Interment to follow at Valley View Cemetery. Memorials may be directed to Trinity Lutheran Ministries & Metro-East Lutheran High School.

Cemetery

Valley View Cemetery

1564 Lewis

Edwardsville, IL, 62025

Events

JAN **Visitation** 04:00PM - 07:00PM

16

Weber & Rodney Funeral Home

304 N. Main Street., Edwardsville,, IL, US, 62025

JAN **Service** 10:00AM

17

Trinity Lutheran Church

600 Water Street, Edwardsville, IL, US, 62025

Comments



“ Dear Martin and family,
I was so sorry to hear of George's passing, but I'm sure he is thrilled to be reunited with Martha. I was one of his caregivers thru Home Instead. He was a wonderful man, always telling jokes and sharing his scrapbooks with me. He even played the organ for me. It was a pleasure spending time with him. Thank you for giving me the chance to meet and spend time with him.
Laura Morgan

Laura Morgan - February 10 at 07:37 PM



“ What a life! I remember interviewing "Grandpa Kottwitz" in the early 90s while a student at Trinity for a WWII project. And I remember his jokes too! One time he told me, and this had to have been almost 30 years ago but that's how much of an impact it had on me- "Some people are like a river; small at the head and big at the mouth."
Amazing man.

Ben Shashack - January 21 at 07:59 AM



“ My deepest condolences for the loss of your father. I heard about his passing yesterday on the radio and knew immediately we were related somehow. My grandmother was Alma Wehrend-Illig. She would have been his cousin I believe. I just wanted to say how sorry I was and let you know our prayers are with your family. What a great man. Gods blessings, Morgan Luter

Elizabeth Morgan Luter - January 18 at 07:56 AM



“ Cousin Ellen, Cousin Martin, Cousin Carol,
The Ella and William Altevogt family offer our sympathy on the loss of your father, our uncle George. We were blessed through the life of Uncle George. A memorial in his honor has been given to the Trinity Lutheran School.
Rodger, Delmar, Marilyn (Helmer), Lester, and Orville

Lester Altevogt - January 16 at 06:23 PM



“ 51 files added to the album LifeTributes



Weber & Rodney Funeral Homes - January 15 at 01:37 PM



“ My sincere condolences to the Kottwitz family. I saw this on facebook and it brought such wonderful memories back to me of your family. During my years as a teacher at Trinity, George and Martha were always so supportive of me and the school. I can only imagine how much they are missed. May God give you peace as celebrate his life and entrance into his new life in heaven. God be with you!

Wanda Mundt Gusewelle - January 14 at 10:33 PM



“ Dear Kottwitz Family; what a wonderful man your father was and such an interesting and long, enriched life he had. You don't know me, but my husband, Craig, and I lived next door to George and Martha on Old Poag Road from 1980-1984. They were wonderful neighbors and George would often come out when we were out working in our garden to talk about our gardens. George and Craig talked quite a bit about difficulties with lawnmowers; one of his favorite topics!
I didn't know him well, and learned a lot from his interesting obituary. I do know that we enjoyed knowing George and over the years we have remembered him and laughed with each other over old stories we have recalled.
Our deepest sympathies to you, from Jane and Craig Louer.

Jane Louer - January 14 at 09:52 PM



“ Martin and Chris, our deepest sympathy to you on the passing of your dad. He lived a good, long life. Now he rests in the arms of his Savior, whom dearly loved. May our gracious Lord surround you with His love and give you His everlasting peace.

Mark and Leann McClain - January 13 at 08:30 PM



“ Crystal Cross Bouquet was purchased for the family of George Victor Kottwitz.



January 13 at 07:11 PM



“ 5 files added to the album LifeTributes



Weber & Rodney Funeral Homes - January 13 at 05:03 PM



“ Dear family of George Kottwitz,

We send you our heartfelt sympathy at the passing of your dear loved one from this life to his heavenly home to be with his Lord & Savior and his lovely wife Martha. We loved watching the Tributes and especially the one where Carol was singing with her Dad. We loved knowing your parents and treasure the joke books of your Dad's.

With much love & sympathy,

Tim & Nancy Meyer

Tim & Nancy Meyer - January 14 at 06:11 PM