



## George A. Hetzler

December 26, 1932 - April 14, 2023

With a helpful hand and an infectious sense of humor, George Anthony Hetzler, 90, brightened the lives of those in both Livonia, NY and Sarasota, FL. On April 14, 2023, George set sail on his final adventure. Funeral arrangements are entrusted to Gendron Funeral & Cremation Services Inc.

Born to the late Herman and Rosamond Hetzler on December 26, 1932, in Rochester, NY. A proud graduate of Aquinas High School, George's life took a turn for the better when he met his future wife Patricia Knapp on her 16th birthday on Longboat Key. They exchanged vows in 1954 at St. Martha's Church in Sarasota and embarked on a 40-year journey together in Rochester and Livonia, NY. George and Patricia raised five children as members of St. Joseph's Catholic Church before returning to Sarasota in 1995, where they joined the Church of the Incarnation.

A thrifty man with a knack for fixing things, George was known for his resourcefulness and creativity. He had a zest for life and a love for the outdoors, relishing in sailing and duck hunting on Conesus Lake, NY. George was also passionate about farming, gardening, and sharing a good laugh with family and friends.

George is pre-deceased by his wife Patricia in 2015. His faith and commitment to her could not have been stronger. Also pre-deceased by son-in-law Stuart Riordan, and six siblings: Florence, Rosemary, Carol, Herman, Joe, and Steve. He is survived by his loving family: Mark (Shelley) Hetzler of Grand Junction, CO, Kathleen Riordan of Smith Mountain Lake, VA, Kevin (Connie) Hetzler of Fort Worth, TX, Gregory (Lisa) Hetzler of Weddington, NC, David (Candy) Hetzler of Powder Springs, GA, and dear sister-in-law Deirdre McKiernan Hetzler. His legacy lives on through his 12 grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren, and numerous nieces and nephews.

The family extends their heartfelt gratitude to the caregivers at Harbor Chase, The Springs at Lake Pointe Woods, and Tidewell Hospice. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Incarnation Catholic School Angel Fund, 2911 Bee Ridge Rd., Sarasota, FL 34239 or to Tidewell Hospice, 5965 Rand Blvd., Sarasota, FL 34238. George's memory will continue to enliven and bring joy to all that knew him.

George requested no funeral service in Florida. He requested that remembrances (Masses he hoped) be made in survivors' home towns, without traveling to Florida.

On Monday May 8th, 9:30 a.m. in Sarasota, family and close friends are invited to the garden at Incarnation Church on Bee Ridge Road where George's cremains will be laid to rest where his wife Patricia Hetzler was laid to rest, followed by lunch at Marina Jack restaurant.

# Tribute Wall



“ George A. Hetzler

October 09, 2023 at 02:01 AM



“ I just want to send the entire Hetzler Family prayers and to remind you that he is always with you in your hearts and beautiful memories. Now those memories will be treasures.



What a great person as well as Pat. I met them on one of our trips to Florida way back when visiting my parents (Jorge and Luisa Gama) such nice people. I believe my mom and Pat passed away the same year and the two guys kept in contact with one another with phone calls and George some how not sure drove to my dad to see him or if he wasn't home always left a note for my dad. He put a smile on my dads face. Funny thing is today I ran across some notes and a letter to my dad ..saying he was ok but getting over the flu but he was ok... just a quick letter he sent to my dad with the picture of his barn. Sadly that same time my dad was in rehabilitation for a short time.

George and Pat were a few years younger than my parents but they kept in contact with one another. These notes show he was a compassionate and caring person. I am so grateful he/they were in my parents life's. I strongly believe their paths will cross again.  
Marcy Gama-Weber

Marcy Weber - June 18, 2023 at 04:34 PM



“ love you grandpa

cam - April 18, 2023 at 10:54 AM

GH



Greg Hetzler - April 18, 2023 at 02:14 PM

PH

“ I am very sorry for your loss, Mark, Kathleen, Kevin, Greg and David. You're all in my thoughts.

*What comes immediately to mind when I think about Uncle George or see his picture, is his sense of humor. He was always making wise cracks, and loved a good joke.*

*Here's one he told me ages ago: "Why was the snowman smiling?" With a sidelong glance and a poker face, he delivered the punchline: "He saw the snowblower approaching." Sometimes a wee bit off-color, but always darned funny.*

Paul Hetzler - April 18, 2023 at 10:52 AM

GH

*Paul, I am ready for another "George-ism". Go again!*

Greg Hetzler - April 18, 2023 at 02:18 PM

KR

*Thank you Paul! He did love his jokes, I already miss sending him bad jokes!*

Kathleen Riordan - April 18, 2023 at 10:34 PM

SJ

“ Having warm memories of George and Pat Hetzler I offer my condolences to their whole family. With our parents being good friends our families shared so e good times together. My most vivid memories is of George setting up his movie projector at their Halloween barn party and showing "The Creature from the Black Lagoon". The gentle kindness George had for all us noisy kids that that party has stayed with me all my life. Rest in peace George

Samuel Cicero Jr. - April 18, 2023 at 06:28 AM

GH

Yes, he loved you loving what he could do for you, a circle of, love. Thanks for the memory.

Greg Hetzler - April 18, 2023 at 02:16 PM

KR

Thank you Sam for the memory of the Halloween barn parties! I remember Jerry Graf coming as a pregnant bride! I have good memories of your parents as well!

Kathleen Riordan - April 18, 2023 at 10:35 PM

BM

“ Jim and I are sending prayers to you, Kathleen, and Ben, Tim and Brian. Your dad was a very kind and friendly man.

Beth Mundell - April 17, 2023 at 11:33 PM

KR

Thank you Beth and Jim. Just thinking about the times when we all lived on Morgans Way!

Kathleen Riordan - April 18, 2023 at 10:37 PM

JA

“ *My heartfelt condolences to the family.*”



---

**Judith Asher** - April 17, 2023 at 05:11 PM

KR

*Thank you Judith!*

---

**Kathleen Riordan** - April 18, 2023 at 10:37 PM