



Earl R. Gundlach

August 7, 1933 - September 20, 2018

Earl R. Gundlach, age 85, of Croswell, passed away Thursday, September 20, 2018 at Troy Beaumont Hospital.

He was born August 7, 1933 in Richmond, son of the late Elmer and Clara Gundlach. Earl married Pilar del Pilar on June 2, 1961 in Angeles City, Philippines. She preceded him in death August 26, 2009.

Earl's dream was to become a jet fighter pilot, and he lived that dream as a decorated member of the United States Air Force, flying F-100 Super Sabres and earning the rank of Lt. Colonel. The other joys of his life were family, church, dancing, hunting and gunsmithing. He was a member of St. John Lutheran Church in Port Sanilac.

He is survived by his son, Edward (Jane) of West Bloomfield; daughter, Gigi Hugo of Ferndale; brother, Theodore of Bad Axe; 6 grandchildren, Christina, Jessica, Harrison, Nathan, Sarah, and Ethan; and 5 great grandchildren.

Earl was preceded in death by his sisters, Lorraine and Frances; and brothers, Lawrence and Richard.

Funeral Services will be held 4 PM Sunday, September 23 at St. John Lutheran Church in Port Sanilac. Rev. Barry Sheldon will officiate. Burial will be in the Croswell Cemetery. Military Rites by the Croswell American Legion Post #255.

Friends may call from 2-4 PM Sunday at the church.

Memorials may be made to the church.

Cemetery Details

Croswell Cemetery

299 Davis Street
Croswell, MI 48422

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP 23. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

St. John Lutheran Church
244 N. Ridge St.
Port Sanilac, MI 48469
(810) 622-9653

Service

SEP 23. 4:00 PM (ET)

St. John Lutheran Church
244 N. Ridge St.
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Tribute Wall

FF

“ I have such good memories of dancing with Earl at Arthur Murray dance studio. What a true gentleman he was! I loved looking at his photo album with Him while he was showing me photos of his beloved wife.

Fran Firek - September 23, 2018 at 06:51 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Earl R. Gundlach.



September 22, 2018 at 09:09 PM

DW

“ Dumpy Wyrick purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Earl R. Gundlach.



Dumpy Wyrick - September 22, 2018 at 04:25 PM

DW

“Earl, aka "Big E", and I went through Aviation Cadets together in the same squadron at Harlingen, TX, James Connally AFB, Waco, TX, and were together again at Bartow, FL, for pilot training as well as Luke AFB, AZ, for F - 100 training, Stead AFB, Reno NV, for Survival Training, and then shared an assignment to the 510th Tac Fighter Squadron in the Philippine Islands at Clark AFB. Our friendship dates from 1953 to the present all -- 65 years of it. We shared a lot of good times that still brings great memories. My favorite was at Clark when he and I were ordered to report to the 405th Wing Commander one day at 1500 hours. We both racked our brains as to why two first lieutenants had been summoned and although we assumed that we were guilty of a lot of things there was no one thing we could put our finger on that would warrant such high level attention. We dutifully changed out of our flight gear and into the uniform of the day and reported as ordered.

Much to our surprise the Wing Commander informed us, while we were at attention, that we both had been promoted to Captain. I think he probably wondered how that happened but was gracious in his congratulations. This feat obviously called for a celebration so it was off to the Officer's Club and a party until the wee hours. The need for food and some several adult beverages later found us in the famous Ratsceller of the club where Polly, the hostess, greeted us and immediately recognized how absolutely brilliant we were! A few more beverages and "Big E" announced to me that he was going to marry Polly to which I immediately responded "In your wildest dreams"! He then proceeded to announce his intentions to Polly and was astounded that she recognized an inebriated fighter pilot when she saw one.

Time and persistent effort payed off though and after a few months and considerable red tape by the Philippine government there was a wedding between "Big E & Pilar del Pilar". This wonderful marriage lasted from 1962 until Polly's passing and produced wonderful children that they were both extremely proud of.

"Big E" was one of a kind, very giving of his time and talents, and always willing to lend a helping hand wherever necessary. I will always remember him, but even more I will always miss him -- he

was my friend!

Dumpy Wyrick

Donald Wyrick - September 22, 2018 at 03:17 PM



Thank you for sharing this memory of my grandpa ❤️

Chrissy Hugo - September 26, 2018 at 11:14 PM



“ *Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Earl R. Gundlach.*

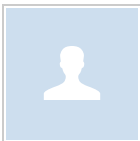


September 22, 2018 at 02:15 PM



“ *I give a final salute to Lt. Colonel Gundlach. I will remember him on the dancefloor. He was a fine man.*

Stella Wilder - September 22, 2018 at 02:12 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Earl R. Gundlach.*



September 22, 2018 at 10:33 AM



“ Garden Accent Stone - *"Wherever a Beautiful Soul..." was purchased for the family of Earl R. Gundlach.*



September 22, 2018 at 09:53 AM



“ Love, The Valovick and Rapadas Families purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Earl R. Gundlach.



Love, The Valovick and Rapadas Families - September 21, 2018 at 04:23 PM



“ Rapadas Family lit a candle in memory of Earl R. Gundlach



Rapadas family - September 21, 2018 at 03:46 PM



“ Sister in law Theresa and Ted purchased the Loving Lilies and Roses Bouquet for the family of Earl R. Gundlach.



Sister in law Theresa and Ted - September 21, 2018 at 07:18 AM