



Jerome "Curly" Messing

March 22, 1936 - December 30, 2024

Jerome "Curly" J. Messing, age 88 of Ubly, passed away on Monday, December 30, 2024.

He was born on March 22, 1936, in Harbor Beach, son of the late Roman and Clara (Kirsch) Messing. He married Judith Priemer on September 13, 1958, at Sts. Peter & Paul Catholic Church in Ruth.

He served in the United States Army from 1955-57. Upon returning home, he worked for a short period in the automotive industry in Flint and decided to return to his roots in the thumb. Curly became a rural letter carrier and was a member of the National Rural Letter Carrier Association for 64 years. Curly was first a faithful parishioner of Sts. Peter & Paul Catholic Church in Ruth before moving to Ubly in 1984 and joining St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church where he served as an usher for many years.

Beyond his family, Curly's dedication was fixed in his community. He was a volunteer fireman in Ruth, holding the position of Chief for his last five years of service. Curly was a loyal member and former secretary and Grand Knight of the Ruth Knights of Columbus Council #3823. His family was given the KOC Family of the Year award for 2013-2014. Curly's love of sports was beyond the usual avid. He loved watching the Detroit Tigers play. His sports passion always remained truest with the Ubly Bearcats. It was rare that he missed a

game. Curly coached basketball, football, baseball, softball and track at all levels for both Sts. Peter & Paul Catholic School and Ubly Community Schools for over 40 years. He also served as the athletic director at both schools for several years and is a retired member of the Michigan Interscholastic Athletic Administrator Association. In 1997, he received the honored title of Thumb Meet of Champions" "Thumb Friend of Youth" and in October of 2022, Curly was honored by the Ubly School for his dedication to the Ubly Bearcat Athletic Program. In 2001 he received the prestigious honor of being enshrined in the Michigan High School Athletic Coaches Hall of Fame. Curly was a registered athletic official for 47 years. He and his wife, Judy were the Grand Marshalls for the 2012 Ubly Homecoming Parade.

Curly loved to travel with his family and friends. He made it to 49 of the 50 states, always making sure to stop at any stadium he came across. He even made it to attend both the summer and winter Olympics. Curly loved to golf, especially with his sons and grandsons.

Curly is survived by his wife of 66 years, Judith Messing of Ubly; children, Timothy (Teresa) Messing, Terry (Carmen) Messing, Sue Messing, Kimberly (Alger) Lemke, Kerry (Sarah) Messing; son-in-law, Ernie Klee; grandchildren: Brian (Ashley) Klee, Evan (Alissa) Klee, Gabe Messing, Sylvia (Nicholas) Foeckler, Georgie (Stephen) Bertotti, John (Mary Margaret) Messing, Martin Messing, Joe (Grace) Messing, Michael, Mary, Timothy, and Peter Messing, Rachael (Daniel) Baker, Leah (Jeremy) Ruthko, David Messing, Shelby (Nathan) Trepkowski, Logan and Ethan Lemke, Luke, Jack, Abigail Messing; great grandchildren: Myla and Macie Klee, Roman, Cythia, Otto, and Katherine Klee, Bella and Richard Bertotti, and Lucy Trepkowski; siblings: Mary June Eidenberger, Richard (Jane) Messing, Willard (Diane) Messing, Estelle (Duke) Wagg, Elaine (Eugene "Yogi") Mazure, Erma (Marvin) Cook, Margie (Robert) Susalla, Janet (Jim) Thomas; sisters-in-law and brother-in-law, Margie Messing, Jake Cleary, Shirley Messing, Jean Kramer, Cheryl Hill,

Luann (Calvin) O'Berski.

He was preceded in death by his daughter, Catherine Klee, siblings Edward, Herbert and Allen Messing, Joann Cleary; sisters in law Sheila and Phyllis Messing, Karen Gornowicz brothers-in-law, Robert Eidenberger, Dan Kramer, Jim Hill.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 11 am on Saturday, January 4, 2025, at St. John Catholic Church, Good Shepherd Parish in Ubyly. Rev. Nate Harburg, pastor, will officiate. Curly will be laid to rest in the church cemetery.

Visitation will be held at the Kaufman Funeral Home in Bad Axe on Thursday, January 2, 2025, from 3 – 8 pm, Friday January 3, 2025 from 11 am-8 pm and Saturday at the church from 10 - 11 am.

The Knights of Columbus Council #3823 will recite a rosary on Thursday at 4 pm at the funeral home.

Please consider directing donations for the family's choice of charity to Curly's daughter, Kimberly Lemke.

Cemetery Details

St. John Church Cemetery

Ubly, MI

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 2. 3:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Kaufman & Co. Funeral Home, Inc.
84 Westland Dr
Bad Axe, MI 48413
(989) 269-3000
kaufmanfuneralhome@gmail.com

Knights of Columbus rosary at 4:00 PM

Visitation

JAN 3. 11:00 AM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Kaufman & Co. Funeral Home, Inc.
84 Westland Dr
Bad Axe, MI 48413
(989) 269-3000
kaufmanfuneralhome@gmail.com

Visitation

JAN 4. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church (Good Shepherd Parish)
4470 N Washington St
Ubly, MI 48475-9792
(989) 658-8824

Funeral Mass

JAN 4. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Good Shepherd Parish - St. John Catholic Church
4470 North Washington St.
Ubly, MI 48475

Tribute Wall

CF

“ *Clint & Melissa Hagen Family purchased the Treasured Lilies Spray for the family of Jerome "Curly" Messing.*



Clint & Melissa Hagen Family - January 03, 2025 at 03:44 PM

CF

“ *Clint & Melissa Hagen Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Jerome "Curly" Messing.*

Clint & Melissa Hagen Family - January 03, 2025 at 03:44 PM

KM

“ *Kevin Messing purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Jerome "Curly" Messing.*



Kevin Messing - January 02, 2025 at 12:10 PM

KM

“ *Kevin Messing planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Jerome "Curly" Messing.*

Kevin Messing - January 02, 2025 at 12:10 PM

HB

“ Our sympathy to all of Curly's family. I grew up watching him play and coach basketball . Although I went to O.L.L.H High School , I had great respect for his skills. His career in sports is remarkable. Two of my sisters married two of his brothers, so we shared many gatherings talking about sports. He has been a good friend of mine for many, many years.

Harry and Verna Booms

Harry Booms - January 01, 2025 at 11:31 PM

LZ

“ Sending condolences to the family. You are in our thoughts and prayers.

Always

Jim and Luann (Kubacki) Zellar family

Luann Zellar - January 01, 2025 at 06:45 PM

FB

“ Judy & family,

It was with sadness that I saw of the passing of Curly. He was always a delight to be with and visit with. Know of my prayers and sympathies. May he rest in peace.

Fr Rick Bokinskie

Fr Rick Bokinskie - January 01, 2025 at 06:44 PM

FN

“ From Lynn & John (new neighbor) planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Jerome "Curly" Messing.

From Lynn & John (new neighbor) - January 01, 2025 at 11:24 AM

FN

“ From Lynn & John (new neighbor) purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Jerome "Curly" Messing.



From Lynn & John (new neighbor) - January 01, 2025 at 11:24 AM

MO

“ Curly was a dedicated man to youth sports in the rural thumb. I would have never had an opportunity to play basketball in a gymnasium rather than a barn hay mow as a 10 year old if it wasn't for Curly. He had a basketball program on Saturday mornings in the Ruth gym in the 60's. I learned a lot of plays and skills from him and I had the privilege of using those same plays to coach basketball with him in Ubly. As I moved out of the thumb to St Clair and coached basketball there I continued to use what he taught me during game situations and his advice never failed. He was a wonderful man and Ubly and Huron county was blessed to have him!
Judy and family so sorry for your loss!
Mike and Judy Oberski

Mike Oberski - December 31, 2024 at 08:18 PM

FF

“ From June, Estelle, Janet & families purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Jerome "Curly" Messing.



From June, Estelle, Janet & families - December 31, 2024 at 01:59 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Jerome "Curly" Messing.*



December 31, 2024 at 12:31 PM



“ *Curly delivered our mail rain or shine for many years. I asked him to be a pall bearer for my dad which he graciously accepted. He and Jake Cleary actually dug my mother's grave. He was my basketball, baseball, and track coach. He also assisted "Doc" Roger's in football. He was a part of my life for all of my high school years.*

Tom Pokora - December 31, 2024 at 11:02 AM