

## EDWARD JOHN KLEIN



Of Friendship Village, Kalamazoo, MI, passed away surrounded by the love of family on July 31, 2023, after an extended illness. Ed was born in Detroit, Michigan on October 31, 1931. He was the son of the late Frank and Magdalena (Malik) Klein. The love he had for his family, and his strong faith, were at the center of Ed's life. In 1958, Ed met Jane Elizabeth (Condon) Klein, a nursing graduate of the University of Michigan,

and they were married at Saint Ambrose Church, Grosse Pointe, Michigan on May 2, 1959. Together, they raised five children in Sewickley, PA. He is preceded in death by his beloved wife, Jane (2009), and is survived by their children: Kathryn L. (Klein) Hamann and her husband, Norman L. Hamann, Jr. of Kalamazoo, MI; Eric J. Klein and his wife, Elizabeth (Muller) Klein of Wimberley, TX; Suzanne M. (Klein) Murphy and her husband, Theodore C. Murphy of North Smithfield, RI; Thomas E. Klein and his wife, Shannon M. (Beaudin) Klein of St. Paul, MN; and William A. Klein and his wife, Shauna L. (Lindquist) Klein of Mebane, NC, grandchildren: Katrina Hamann-Azanov and their wife, Sasha Hamann-Azanov, Peter Hamann, Alysia (Klein) Rogers and her husband, Jonah Rogers, Meagan Murphy, Clare (Murphy) Whitney and her husband, Colin Whitney, and Brigid Murphy, Robert, and Julia Klein, Abigail, and Zoe Klein and his great-grandchild, Asher Rogers. Ed is preceded in death by his siblings: Elizabeth (Klein) Herrington, Joseph Klein, Ann (Klein) O'Malley, Frank Klein, and Joan (Klein) Louwers. On March 1, 2013, Ed married Elizabeth "Joy" (Compter) Klein. They resided in Hendersonville, NC for five years until she returned to her native Louisiana to receive health care for an extended illness. Joy passed peacefully on June 11, 2020. Ed is survived by his step-children: Sherry (Barry) Maykut and Robert Barry, Jr., and predeceased by Belinda (Barry) Casey and her husband, Michael Casey. He is survived by his step-grandchildren: Michael Casey, Jr., Elizabeth Barry, and Ashley M. Maykut. Ed was educated at Saint Martin School, Detroit, and received a BA in Journalism and Business from Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI, in 1953. Serving with an ROTC commission, Ed was assigned to the 325th Infantry Battalion, Tank Company, 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, receiving an Honorable discharge as 1st Lieutenant. Ed's 40-year career began in the advertising department at General Motors Diesel Engine Division before joining the Stran-Steel Division of National Steel Corporation as Advertising Manager in Houston, TX. The remainder of his career was spent as Director of Communications for National Steel Corporation in Pittsburgh, PA until he retired in 1990. He was a member of the Pittsburgh Press Club. In Sewickley, he was active as a parishioner and parish council member at St. James Catholic Church. He was a member of the Edgeworth Club and Sewickley Heights Golf Club. Ed and Jane built a home in Hendersonville, NC, where they enjoyed their retirement years; hiking the Blue Ridge Mountains of Western North Carolina and designing and tending the gardens surrounding their home. He was a volunteer with Trout Unlimited, a member of the Hendersonville Racquet Club, and a parishioner at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church where he served as a Eucharistic Minister. He was a member of the Hendersonville Knights of Columbus, Council #7184. He took great joy in growing dahlia flowers in the community garden at Friendship Village, where he lived the final years of his life. A self-taught painter, Ed transformed many blank canvasses into magnificent travel scenes, florals, and landscapes. Once framed, he often gifted them, to the delight of family and friends. Ed was a gentleman. His kindness, sense of humor, and storytelling gifts will be missed by those who knew and loved him. Ed's zest for life and boundless curiosity led to many adventures—from chartering seaplanes to remote Canadian islands to camp and fish with his sons, to enjoying a scenic helicopter ride at age 90. An aspirational motto displayed in his home office said, "Life's journey is not to arrive at the grave safely in a well-preserved body, but rather to skid in sideways, totally worn out, shouting "What a ride!" Ed did this, living each day to the fullest. Please join us at a Life Story Visitation on Friday, August 4 from 6-8 PM at **BETZLER LIFE STORY FUNERAL HOME**, 6080 Stadium Drive, Kalamazoo. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at St. Thomas More Catholic Church, 421 Monroe Street, Kalamazoo, on Saturday, August 5th at 2 PM. The service will be live-streamed via the Facebook link found on the church website: [www.sttomskazoo.org](http://www.sttomskazoo.org). A reception for family and friends will be held immediately following. Interment will be private at the Western Carolina State Veterans Cemetery, Black Mountain, NC, where he will be reunited in burial with Jane. In lieu of flowers, the family asks those wishing to make a memorial tribute, to consider Centrica Care Navigators - [www.centricacare.org](http://www.centricacare.org) - The American Cancer Society - [www.cancer.org](http://www.cancer.org) - or Friendship Village Senior Living Community - Garden Fund under "Our Current Funds" - [www.friendshipvillagemi.com](http://www.friendshipvillagemi.com). Please visit Ed's webpage at [BetzlerLifeStory.com](http://BetzlerLifeStory.com) to archive favorite memories, photos, or sign his guestbook.

Send condolences [post-gazette.com/gb](http://post-gazette.com/gb)