

Kirsch, Donald W.

Donald W. Kirsch, 70, of Highland Township and a former resident of Milford, died after a two-year battle with cancer on Sunday, May 20, 2007, at Canterbury on the Lake in Waterford. Born on May 21, 1936, the son of Wilbert and Margaret (nee Messing) Kirsch, Don grew up in Sand Beach before going to Detroit in 1956 to begin his work with Malloy Manufacturing. In the early 1970s, he and numerous other stockholders from the company went westward to open Uniflow, an automotive fitting and special parts company in Novi. Don's children were raised in Troy and years after his divorce, he met Karen Reck in 1987 while polka dancing. They later married on June 3, 1987 and have been dancing ever since that day. Don enjoyed being active. His and Karen's love for polka dancing afforded them many memorable times while traveling to cities throughout Michigan or taking cruises abroad; enjoying the camaraderie with other polka dancers that in turn began many lasting friendships. Unforgettable memories were also shared during family deer hunting trips to Houghton, where Don kept a mobile home for the season. Back home, he enjoyed gardening with his wife and was especially handy around the home. He maintained and rented two condominiums in Royal Oak, also serving as chair on the board of directors with condominium management. After his retirement from Uniflow in 1998, Don began his work with his local parish - St. Mary's Catholic Church in Milford, assisting in the organization of the church's annual fair, helping with luncheon gatherings following funeral and memorial Masses and keeping up on the church's daily maintenance. He was always friendly and welcoming to anyone who came through the church's doors needing a hand. In addition to his wife, Karen, he is survived by his children, Kathy (Jim) Brinker, Larry (Julie) Kirsch, Karen (Phil) Krason, Connie (Dave) McLaughlin, Dennis (Jan) Kirsch, Lisa (Kevin) Kasak; stepchildren, John (Christine) Strong, Barrett (Karen) Strong; 11 beloved grandchildren; brother, Richard (Linda) Kirsch; sisters, Delores (Ken) Arndt and Joyce (Ray) Puvalowski; many dear friends, fellow parishioners, colleagues and neighbors who join to mourn his passing while giving thanks to God for his life among them. A Funeral Mass will be at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, May 23, 2007, at St. Mary's Catholic Church, 1955 E. Commerce Road, Milford, with Fr. Ron Anderson officiating. Burial will be at the Christian Memorial Cemetery in Rochester. Visitation will be from 5 to 9 p.m. today at the Lynch & Sons Funeral Home, 404 E. Liberty, Milford. For further information, call (248) 684-6645 or visit www.LynchFuneralDirectors.com. Local information provided by Zinger-Smigielski Funeral Home, Ubly.