



## Wayne James Knieper, D.D.S.

February 7, 1942 - November 30, 2020

Wayne James Knieper, 78, of Oakland, Michigan, our loving husband, father, grandfather, brother and friend, was called home by the Lord on November 30, 2020.

Wayne was born February 7, 1942, in Flushing, Michigan, the son of the late William and Josephine (Bueche) Knieper. He enjoyed a wonderful childhood with his siblings, William (Marlene), Janet (Gary), and the late Jean, before heading to Chicago for college and dental school at Loyola University. While in Chicago, he met his future wife, Anita Dahl. The two were married for 51 years and were blessed with four children: Christopher Knieper (Michelle) of Holland; Sharon Knieper of Birch Run; Mary Brown (Jeff) of Macomb; Grace Burns (Adam) of Rochester Hills. The light of his life were his grandchildren, Kristen and Daniel Knieper, Adeline, Huxley, and Juniper Brown, and John, Isla, and Anna Burns.

After serving in the Army as a dentist at Fort Huachuca, Wayne served the Saginaw area as a dentist for over 34 years owning his own practice in Bridgeport, Michigan. He was a committed Catholic and Christian, and dedicated countless hours of volunteering to community organizations including the Lions Club, Knights of Columbus, soup kitchen, Blessed Trinity Church, and the Frankenmuth High School cross country team. He was passionate about helping those most in need, and traveled numerous times on medical mission trips to Haiti, Dominican Republic, and Guatemala.

Wayne thrived in his retirement years, never turning down the opportunity to try new hobbies or experiences. He loved traveling, bicycling, and walking his dog, Maizie, and tried fishing, kayaking, and keeping up with the latest technology. He was a frequent runner well into his later years, and loved the annual Volksäufe in Frankenmuth, where he often surprised himself by winning his age group. Throughout his life he gave loving attention to everything he encountered, and whether it was housing and feeding the local birds or looking after the family dogs, he did everything with a full heart.

Wayne was happiest when with family and friends. He loved family parties and visits and

was the biggest supporter for his children and grandchildren in all of their endeavors. He was a frequent caller, writer, and emailer to everyone he knew, and everyone who knew Wayne had a better vision of themselves when seen through his eyes.

Wayne's family and friends look forward to ensuring that his life and lessons of kindness, generosity, service, and love are a legacy that will carry on forever.

A Memorial Mass will be celebrated Saturday, December 12, 2020 10:00am at St. Andrew Catholic Church 1400 Inglewood, Rochester, MI. Friends may gather at 9:30am. Live stream is available for anyone unable to attend. <https://youtu.be/wOj6qR10pz8>

In lieu of flowers, donations to Fisher Center for Alzheimer's Research Foundation or Action Against Hunger are greatly appreciated. Arrangements entrusted to Wujek-Calcaterra & Sons (Shelby Township). Share memories with the family at their "On-Line Guest Book" @ [WujekCalcaterra.com](http://WujekCalcaterra.com)

# Events

---

**DEC**   **Memorial Mass**                      10:00AM  
**12**

---

St. Andrew Catholic Church

1400 Inglewood, Rochester, MI, US, 48307-1518

# Comments

---



“ Live steam of Service December 12, 2020



**Wujek ~ Calcaterra & Sons, Inc.** - December 09, 2020 at 03:48 PM

---



“ I just saw the bulletin at St Andrew's that showed Wayne had passed. I remember him coming to my spin classes when I lived in Frankenmuth. May he Rest In Peace and say hi in heaven to my husband who he know from The Fortress.

**kelly kuhlman** - December 24, 2020 at 05:02 PM

---



“ Beautiful memorial service for a great man. Our deepest sympathies to you all. With love, Jim, Margaret and Daniel Parks

**Margaret Parks** - December 12, 2020 at 10:58 AM

---



“ Anita and Family

We were deeply saddened to learn of Wayne's passing. He is now sharing all his wonderful qualities in heaven and his wings are glitter with gold and it's not left over from his days at Bronners, its the real thing. He always had a smile on his face and joy in his heart that he spread to everyone he met.

Rand and Gail Bye

**The Byes** - December 10, 2020 at 10:50 AM



“ Chris, I can guess by your posts that your father gave you plenty of sage advice over the years. I am deeply saddened by your loss and hope that you will unabashedly and unashamedly pass this advice onward to your own children and grandchildren. Please know that I will continually keep you and your family in my prayers.

Todd Steggall

**Todd Steggall** - December 11, 2020 at 08:12 AM

---



“ Dr. Kieper was my dentist for about 35 years or so. I remember when I got my first cavity. He and my mom laughed. He was always so gentle. Thank you Dr. for loving and caring for me and all your other patients.

**Stacey Mason** - December 09, 2020 at 07:43 PM

---



“ I grew up with Dr. Kneiper as my dentist. At a young age I recognized how down to earth he was. My parents had foster children and Dr. would always accept what Medicaid would pay for their dental care, never charging my parents any copays for them which was a big help because my parents always spent more on the kids than the state would ever pay.

I continued being a patient of his even after I moved away after college, driving up from Kalamazoo for my dental visits. I continued this until I changed employers and my new dental plan would not pay unless I went in-network. My first visit with a different dentist confirmed for me what a great Dentist Dr. Kneiper was. The new dentist look in my mouth and said, "whoever has been doing your dental work does great work". Wow, I always thought that was the case, but here was unbiased proof. I was very saddened to hear the news.

Ron Merrow, Dexter, MI (and the whole Merrow Family)

**Rondell Merrow** - December 09, 2020 at 09:12 AM

---



“ Wayne was a wonderful human being that added much Joy to our area running club in Frankenmuth. His kindness and compassion for others most notable to our own family. He forever had kind words of all those encountered. His genuine character was indeed a role model for those he befriended. Wayne’s personal traits will be remembered and carried forward by many of us.  
Blessings to the entire Kneiper family as we know Wayne is at rest with our Lord and savior Jesus Christ.  
Bill & Janette Hart

**bill & janette hart** - December 08, 2020 at 11:18 AM

---



“ Jerry and Margaret Luczak always enjoyed their visits with Wayne and Anita at the dental meetings. Wayne was a great guy, we need more people like him.

**Margaret Luczak** - December 08, 2020 at 07:57 AM

---



“ Dr. Knieper and our family were very close and my oldest sister Brenda worked for him as a dental hygienist for several years. The Knieper family I’m very sorry for your loss and I will always cherish the times we spent with you and Wayne. God bless you all. Ken Katter Jr.

**Ken Katter** - December 07, 2020 at 07:50 AM



“ He considered all of you family.

**Sharon Knieper** - December 13, 2020 at 06:19 PM

---



“ I am a classmate of Wayne's from St. John Vianney School. We always enjoyed being around Wayne as he always had a smile on his face and a great sense of humor. After graduation he went on to become a successful dentist and his faith in God made him a wonderful humanitarian. On behalf of the class of "60", our condolences to his family. May they find comfort in knowing his legacy will live through his family and friends. We will miss him at our yearly class reunions. We was so faithful in attending them.  
Rita (Geary) Gordon

**Mary Rita Gordon** - December 05, 2020 at 11:49 PM

---



“ Terry & Denise Triplett & family. Our condolences to the family, such a humbling and caring person. It was a pleasure to have you for my dentist.. thank you for giving me my smile back. Wasn't long ago that I asked Dr. Benjamin Ruff how was he doing,they showed me a picture of him. I missed him doing his retirement i will surely miss him now.i will never forget him. To be absent from the body,is to be present with the lord.rest in peace my friend.May god bless the family and extended family



**Terry Triplett** - December 04, 2020 at 11:34 PM

---



“ Dr Knieper was our family dentist for years growing up in Bridgeport. What I remember most was how soft spoken he was and always made you feel comfortable. A very nice man. Prayers to his family and friends.

**Jill Malczewski** - December 03, 2020 at 11:06 PM

---



“ I was one of Dr. Knieper's youngest patients. I was only 15 years old with rotten teeth and ashamed to smile. I needed a prosthetic. Dr. Knieper was fresh out of medical school and had just begun his practice in Bridgeport. He was quite concerned. He had not encountered such a young patient with severely decayed teeth. Long story short, 47 years later, Dr. Knieper gave me a beautiful smile that to this day lights up a room. He was a very caring and gentle man. God bless, comfort and give all of you peace.



**Debra** - December 03, 2020 at 01:01 PM

---



“ It was an honor to have known Wayne. He and Anita raised their children in a loving home. From parish committee work to playing doubles in pickle ball, one knew Wayne as a very sensitive, kind man. My deepest condolences to all of you

Janie Ruhl

Janie Ruhl - December 03, 2020 at 09:22 AM

---



“ Dr Knieper became my dentist when I married in to the Feldotte family. I had a terrible fear of going to the dentist and he was always so kind and reassuring. He was truly one of a kind. God bless you and your family as you grieve the loss of a wonderful man!

Julie Feldotte - December 03, 2020 at 09:12 AM

---



“ Anita and family, what a wonderful tribute to someone who was obviously a wonderful man and so well loved by family and friends. I am SO sorry for your great loss!

Wanda Gorte - December 02, 2020 at 11:24 PM

---



“ The world truly lost a great, generous, kind and wonderful man! Most of my memories are of growing up with Mr. Knieper being the kind and sometimes silly dad of my best friend Grace. He is also to thank for my husbands great smile as it turns out the future love of my life also had a Mr. Knieper involved in his life growing up too as his family dentist:) I'm so thankful he and Anita got to spend so many of the past few years with there grandkids and children cause I know that is what made them happiest. His gift from God was serving and he definitely used that gift here on earth to the fullest. I can't think of one memory or story I hear about him that doesn't involve him serving others in ways that truly inspire me to want to do more in my own life. My deepest condolences to the family and Anita. I hope you find comfort in all the love shared for your husband, father, grandfather and it helps ease your grief. Sending love and prayers from Shanna and Joe Wesolek

Shanna Wesolek - December 02, 2020 at 09:51 PM

---



“ Dr. Knieper was such a kind man and good Dentist. He was truly a blessing, he was my dentist for over 25 years.



**Mrs. Jerry Hall** - December 02, 2020 at 06:54 PM



“ Thank you for your kind words. He had great pride in his work and cared so much for his patients.

**Grace Burns** - December 02, 2020 at 08:44 PM

---



“ SHELLIE A BELL lit a candle in memory of Wayne James Knieper, D.D.S.



**SHELLIE A BELL** - December 02, 2020 at 09:51 AM



“ Dr. Knieper was my Dentist here in Bridgeport Twp. He was very good at his work. I never felt any pain when he did my fillings.

**SHELLIE A BELL** - December 02, 2020 at 09:52 AM



“ That is wonderful to hear as my dad was very proud of his work.

**Grace Burns** - December 02, 2020 at 08:46 PM

---



“ A sympathy card was purchased for the family of Wayne James Knieper.



December 02, 2020 at 08:59 AM

---



“ Dear Anita and family, We are sending our sincere sympathies to you all. We knew Wayne, not only in the community, but he was our family dentist for many years. We would always catch up on the latest news about our kids when we were in the office. He was so proud of his family. We remember always seeing their school photos displayed at the front desk. Our entire family thought he was a wonderful, sweet man and we are all saddened by his passing. Mike and Jane Alsgaard

**Jane alsgaard** - December 01, 2020 at 08:07 PM



“ Thank you. He loved displaying photos of his family his whole life. His wall at home barely has any room left. We were blessed to have him.

**Grace Burns** - December 02, 2020 at 08:48 PM

---



“ We will always remember Wayne and Anita as two of our favorite cousins! They always made you feel so welcome when we came to visit in Frankenmuth! The first time we came up from springfield and Jacksonvill illinois! We were fascinated by the humming bird feeder under the window in the living room! We all went home and got humming bird feeders! I will always remember Wayne as the sweet man who gave us the joy of the hummingbirds! He will be a joy to all in heaven! We will miss him! We send our deepest sympathies to the family! Paul and Mary Davis

**mary Davis** - December 01, 2020 at 07:42 PM



“ He loved birds! Hummingbirds, orioles, bluebirds....he even got them to follow him to his home in Oakland Township somehow.

**Grace Burns** - December 02, 2020 at 08:50 PM

---



“ There are simply no words for this profound loss. All of my thoughts and prayers are with you all

**Christine Meldrum** - December 01, 2020 at 06:40 PM



“ There's never a right time to lose a parent and I know you know that. Dad was never good at long goodbyes, but this one is certainly harder than anticipated.

**Grace Burns** - December 02, 2020 at 08:52 PM

---



“ Anita, Chris, Sharon, Mary, Grace and families,  
Our deep sympathy to you all. We fondly remember neighborhood get togethers and the stop over visits during Wayne's bike rides. You are all in our thoughts and prayers. May God give you His comfort.  
Neil & Ruth Herzog

**Neil & Ruth Herzog** - December 01, 2020 at 06:05 PM



“ We were always asking Dad if we could go down to the Herzog's because we knew he'd let us. So many great memories on Maple Road.

**Grace Burns** - December 02, 2020 at 08:53 PM

---



“ Anita and family Wayne was a wonderful person to talk to I just seen him in June at my cousin Adam and Grace house for Anna birthday party he was talking to me about all the beautiful post I put on Facebook! My deepest condolences to you and your family love you all. Love Bethany



**Bethany Lynne VandeVorde** - December 01, 2020 at 06:02 PM



“ Thanks for your kind words. My Dad had an appreciation for everyone and seemed to see God's gifts in them. I'm glad he talked to you this summer.

**Grace Burns** - December 02, 2020 at 08:55 PM



“ Wayne and I were high school classmates at St. John Vianney in Flint. We have enjoyed sharing at recent high school reunions. I was so pleased to hear of his career and relationship with the Good Lord. We even read the same Catholic daily devotional, TWAU. It was very rewarding to hear his good news each time. He is where he was aiming for, a Heavenly reward with his friend Jesus. Mike Luea

**Michael Luea** - December 05, 2020 at 04:10 PM