



George W. Riess

November 13, 1930 - November 18, 2017

RIESS, George W., age 87 of Kettering passed away on Saturday, November 18, 2017. He was born on November 13, 1930 in Pawtucket, R.I. to the late, Warren A. and Irene (Cormier) Riess. Also preceding him in death is his daughter, Mary Riess; granddaughter, Rhiannon Riess and brothers, Gerard, John and Paul Riess. George is survived by his loving wife of 61 years, Joan A. (Payne); children, John (Kari) Riess, Mike (Rhonda) Riess, Sally Barney, Dan Riess, Joseph (Heidi) Riess; 8 grandchildren; 2 great-grandchildren; siblings, Jean, Claire, Rosemary, Karen, Peggy, Joseph, Charles, Robert and numerous nieces, nephews and friends. After graduating from West Point in 1954, George flew transport planes across the Atlantic as an Air Force pilot. Afterward, he worked at WPAFB for over 25 years as Director of Operations for the C5 Program. George was instrumental in founding the first crisis pregnancy center in eastern Russia. His passion for serving others guided his efforts to help refugees from Vietnam, Rwanda and Sudan transition into the Dayton community. George was an active member of Emmanuel Catholic Church for 30 years. Friends and family may visit from 5-7 pm on Friday, November 24 at Westbrock Funeral Home, Kettering. Mass of Christian Burial will be at 10:00 am on Saturday, November 25 at Emmanuel Catholic Church, Dayton. He will then be laid to rest in Calvary Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Emmanuel's St. Vincent DePaul or Pro-Life Organization.

Cemetery

Calvary Cemetery

1625 Calvary Drive
Dayton, OH, 45409

Events

NOV **Visitation** 05:00PM - 07:00PM

24

Westbrock Funeral Home

5980 Bigger Road, Kettering, OH, US, 45440

NOV **Mass of Christian Burial** 10:00AM

25

Emmanuel Catholic Church

149 Franklin Street, Dayton, OH, US, 45402

Comments



“ Dear Dad, I am not crying for you today because I know for sure that you are resting in peace in the arms of our savior Jesus Christ to whom you served all the days of your life

I will never forget you and Mom Joan welcoming us warmly as your own children in the USA Dayton Ohio, with our 3 young children Christella, Christian and Marie Magnificat who believed and were always proud to call you Grandpa and Grandma to Joan!

As the Bible says: " I was hungry and you fed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was crying and you consoled me, and when I was laughing you laughed with me!" Dad and Mom you both fulfilled more than 100% of this biblical statement!

Moreover, I am who I am in the USA because of your love , your assistance and your prayers. I dedicated to you and mom my master degree in Nursing Administration and Management. If you were not parenting me I couldn't make such higher achievement in my life!

Sam and I and all our children we can't thank you enough Dad and Mom! How can I forget you, when our last born Christopher Divinemeracy was born while you were the ones who accompanied me at the hospital and were beside me at the labor time, praying for me and supporting me even better than my own biological parents could do!

RIP Dad, get the crown for all the saints, you deserve it

See you in heaven! You will always be my role model in faith and Catholic devotion.

Much love Sam, Christine and kids.

Christine Mukama - November 25, 2017 at 03:05 AM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of George W. Riess.



November 24, 2017 at 02:38 PM



“ " I was a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, testy and hungry and you fed me" George, I am 100% sure you are in heaven. You are among the few true witness of Christ left in this world. A true light shinning in the darkness. You will be greatly missed.

Hubert Methode Matumaini.

Hubert Methode Matumaini - November 23, 2017 at 02:02 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Joe Riess - November 23, 2017 at 08:40 AM



“ George gave me this statue of St Joseph when I was 9yr old. He was at West Point and had traveled to the Azores where he found it at a church sale. It still sits on my desk. George is 13 yrs older than me. His baby brother, Joseph

Joe Riess - November 23, 2017 at 08:59 AM



“ Dad, you were such a father to so many, especially to all of the refugees in Dayton OH. I really saw and felt Jesus in you whenever I was around you. You must be in heaven. You and your beautiful wife have so much compassion and love, it's almost unreal but you made everyone feel loved.

May you Rest In Peace.

Mom, I know this must be a difficult time for you so we are praying for you. Dad is in heaven watching over his lovely beautiful wife.

Love you.
Clementine Bihiga.

Clementine Bihiga - November 22, 2017 at 09:28 PM



“ I don't even know where to begin but one thing I'll never forget is the day he booted (literally) our cat Snowball down the basement stairs after Snowball somehow caught and ate our pet bird, Perry the Parakeet. Jodee and I took all of Perry's bird-food and buried it, box and all, with the few feathers that were all that remained of Perry, in the backyard, crying our eyes out and praying that God would make the birdseed grow into a whole tree of Perrys. Unsurprisingly, he didn't.

Or, in kinda the same vein, there was the time that he was headed for the rabbit hutch with a club in his hand because he thought that rats had somehow managed to get inside the hutch and he was gonna get 'em. Auntie Joan stopped him literally in the nick of time and pointed out that the "rats" were, in fact, baby rabbits.

But the one memory that is most indelible of all is the image of him out in the backyard of our house in Magnolia, Delaware with a shovel, digging an in-ground, child-size swimming pool for my Jodee and I. It was about 6 or 7 feet square and three feet deep. He dug it by hand, poured the cement, and built a roof for it himself so that my little sister and I would have a place to play.

I'm normally pretty good with words but there aren't any I can find that are even close to adequate to express how very much I owe Uncle George.

Bill Kirchner - November 20, 2017 at 01:51 PM



“ That's beautiful, Bill. Thanks for writing.

Kari - November 20, 2017 at 06:51 PM



“ Joanie and family just want to say how sorry i am about George. I can't ever remember meeting him but from his obit it sounds like he was a good & giving man. May he RIP.

Stephanie Payne-Triplett - November 21, 2017 at 10:00 AM



“ From the time he was a young lad and studying hard for the priesthood, all the way up until he entered hospice about a week ago, George continued to be a wonderful Christian and Catholic man and I have no doubt that he was welcomed home with the words “well done good and faithful servant.”

Charles Riess - November 22, 2017 at 07:41 AM



“ My husband and I use to call Him DAD, my kids called Him Grandpa, I felt sooo good when He was telling me some stories about America, our sweet home. I can't forget for the first time they took me to the restaurant. He asked me what I likie, and I had no clue , and I didn't know much that time. Mom and Dad read my face and orded scrambled eggs, bacons, and wheat toast. That was my first American breakfast. I am very sure now that He is playing with many kids in Heaven. GOD love Him!

Beatrice Icyimpaye - November 22, 2017 at 08:34 PM



“ George was a wonderful man, a man of God, with deep faith and a love for Jesus and his Church. He cared deeply for the poor and the immigrants. I remember when we came to Dayton as refugees from Rwanda, George and Joan introduced us to Emmanuel Church where we become members and attended mass every Sunday. We even celebrated our wedding at Emmanuel Church. George and Joan took us to Saint Vincent de Paul where to

receive clothing and other basic items that we needed to start life in America. They gave us access to the Church pantry where we would get food as needed. Their help when we were new to this country gave us a good foundation to start life in America. We were able to go to college and earn a good living in this country in part because of their great support. May the Lord receive George's soul in His kingdom.

Eric Nshimiye - November 22, 2017 at 08:39 PM



“ George was a giant in stature and at heart here on earth, and is standing tall in heaven. He touched so many lives with his passion for helping others. He and his surviving wife Joan went to the trenches for early Rwandans in Dayton when the going was tough. He was an outstanding dad and grand dad for many of us within the refugee communities in Dayton, especially Rwandans. We will dearly miss the warmth of his presence and bear hugs, his booming voice and hearty laughs, and the soft touch of his large hands. What a void to lose you now, big man, but what a blessing to have gotten to know you! Until next time.

Pio Ngilik - November 23, 2017 at 01:43 PM