



Clair Alfred Stapish Jr.

March 10, 1943 - March 1, 2026

Clair Alfred Stapish Jr., age 82, passed away on March 1, 2026, surrounded by the love of his family, leaving behind a legacy of dedication, humor, and deep devotion to those he cherished most.

A man of deep and abiding faith, Clair lived his life grounded in strong values, compassion, and gratitude. He was a proud graduate of St. Thomas High School in Ann Arbor, where many of his lifelong friendships and love of sports first took root.

Clair is survived by his beloved wife, Sandra Stapish; his daughter, Deanna Stocker, and son-in-law, Stephen Stocker; his “best pal” and granddaughter, Alexandra Lopez (Stocker), and her husband, Gabriel Lopez; and his treasured great-granddaughter, Claire Lopez, who proudly carries on his name. He is also survived by his brother, James Stapish and his wife, Sally Stapish (Samantha / Joe) and his sister, Carolyn McCoy (Ruel).

He was preceded in death by his parents, Clair Stapish, Sr. and Jacquelyn (Mazzuco) Stapish, and his brother, Daniel Stapish.

Clair devoted his entire professional life to the banking industry, building a career marked by integrity, commitment, and hard work. After retiring in 2001, he continued to stay active and engaged, enjoying his time working at the

University of Michigan. Sandra also found joy greeting patrons at the beloved Hill Auditorium, where together they remained connected to the vibrant community they loved.

An avid sports enthusiast from an early age, Clair played nearly every sport imaginable—baseball, basketball, football, hockey, softball, and racquetball. Yet it was golf that truly captured his heart. There was hardly a golf course you couldn't find Clair on, enjoying the game he loved alongside his golf buddies, who became lifelong friends. The fairways and greens were among his happiest places.

Friends and family alike will remember Clair as a master storyteller with an uncanny ability to recall numbers of every kind. He could deliver a joke with perfect timing and had a gift for making others laugh. His quick wit, sharp mind, and warm spirit left a lasting impression on everyone he met.

Above all, family was Clair's pride and joy. He treasured every moment spent with his loved ones and took immense pride in watching the generations grow. It meant the world to him that his great-granddaughter will carry on his name—a living reminder of the love and legacy he leaves behind.

Clair will be deeply missed and forever remembered for his devotion to family, his steadfast faith, his passion for sports, his remarkable memory, and the laughter he so generously shared.

Friends may join the family for a time of gathering on Thursday, March 12, 2026 from 9:15–10:00 A.M. at St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church, 530 Elizabeth St., Ann Arbor. A Mass of Christian Burial will take place at 10:00 A.M. with the Rev. Fr. William Ashbaugh as Celebrant. A luncheon will follow the Mass and will be held in the Parish Hall.

The Service will be live streamed and can be viewed by visiting:

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/StThomastheApostleAnnArbor/live_videos

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@StThomasAnnArborMI/streams>

Vimeo: <https://vimeo.com/event/5785384>

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions in Clair's name encouraged to the American Heart Association, P.O. Box 840692, Dallas, TX 75284-0692 www.heart.org. Envelopes will also be available at the gathering.

To leave a memory you have of Clair, to sign his guestbook or for directions, please visit www.rbfhsaline.com Arrangements entrusted to Robison-Bahnmler Funeral Home.

Previous Events

Gathering of Family and Friends

MAR 12. 9:15 AM - 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church
530 Elizabeth St
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

Mass of Christian Burial

MAR 12. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church
530 Elizabeth St
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

Luncheon

MAR 12. 11:05 AM (ET)

St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church
530 Elizabeth St
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

Tribute Wall

DR

“ I met Clair in 1970, I transferred from Detroit 2 Ann Arbor, our office was on Broadway, his bank office was just across the street. We became good friends over the years. One super nice guy.

David I Rittinger - March 08 at 01:59 PM

DT

“ Sandy and family, I am so sorry for your loss. I can't express the enjoyment I have had over the past 50+ years having Clair as a friend and colleague. His quick wit, great sense of humor and calm demeanor made for enjoyable times.

I can assure you that every time I step on a golf course I will be thinking Clair and the many putting contests we had on practice green, many of which he won!

God bless you and your family at this time of sorrow!

With heavy heart, Dennis Ticknor

Dennis Ticknor - March 07 at 09:37 AM

SR

“ Dear Sandy, Deanna, and Family:

I am so sorry to learn of Clair's passing. I had feelings of both sadness and smiles when I heard the news. Although it's been years since I've been able to socialize with you, I remember fast pitch softball games, house parties, and much more. "Inky," as, of course, he was known, was a gentleman, a great host, a true professional, fun and funny, and not bad on the ballfield either. (smile)

Sandy and family, as you mourn your loss, take solise in knowing that God is always with you, giving you peace and comfort. My thoughts and prayers are with you

The world has lost a special person. Heaven has gained a super star.

Love, Judee Tice

Stephen Robison - March 06 at 07:12 PM

TT

Sandy and Deanna, my sister Dawn text me yesterday and let me know Inky had passed. My thoughts and prayers are with you both and your family and friends. May the strength of those around you give you strength at this difficult time. My sincerest condolences 🌸

Love and prayers, Tammie (Tomlinson) Taucer

Tammie Taucer - March 12 at 09:53 PM

MP

“ Clair was such a wonderful kind individual and feel blessed to call him my best friend. Over the past 50 plus years we shared many days on the golf course, softball fields and basketball courts and even more important were the conversations we shared about everything and nothing. Always with many laughs throughout. You will be missed and hope someday to see you again in Heaven.
Mike Piesko

Michael L Piesko - March 06 at 01:50 PM

PC

*Mike thank you so much. He loved you so much
As a great friend. He really really enjoyed all the
Wonderful things you did for him.*

Patty you were the best. Clair - March 16 at 09:07 PM

PA

“ I am smiling remembering all the wonderful times I had with Mr. Stapish. Our trips to Cedar Point, softball league tournaments, and hanging out in the family room were filled with love and laughter. Sending all my love to Sandy and Deanna.

Warmly,
Patty Corrigan

Patricia - March 05 at 05:45 PM

JA

*I never had the honor of meeting Clair. I listened to many stories told to me by his younger sister Carolyn. He was one wonderful man from what I was told. She talked so highly of him.
I will keep the family and friends in my thoughts and prayers for their hearts to be comforted. May Clair rest in peace. My Sincerest
Sympathy, Janet Anderson*

Janet Anderson - March 05 at 07:11 PM