



## Herman J. Kohler Jr.

May 21, 1926 - December 23, 2013

Age 87, passed away on Monday, December 23, 2013 at Premier Senior Living Center in Ann Arbor. He was born May 21, 1926 in Saline, MI, the son of Herman John, Sr and Amanda (Hertler) Kohler. Dusty received his diploma from the Benton School in Saline in 1941. The nickname, Dusty, stuck with him while working at the Bridgewater Mill. He was drafted into the United States Army at the age of 18 and served his country for 2 years traveling from Chicago to California and many states in between. He worked at Central Specialty in Ypsilanti; Motor Wheel in Ypsilanti, Washtenaw Asphalt in Ann Arbor and the Saline Ford Motor Company where he retired after 30 years. Dusty was a member of the St. James United Church of Christ of Saline Twp. He was very proud of acquiring his pilot's license from the Ann Arbor Airport. He enjoyed traveling to Canada, fishing, deer hunting, playing Euchre, listening to country music, and working in his yard. He especially enjoyed spending time with his daughters and their husbands. Survivors include his first wife Esther Mae Buss (Carrillo) and their 2 daughters: Gail Elaine (Phelix) Smiotowicz of Milan and Cindy Lee (Jim) Noble of Azalia, Granddaughters, Lacey (Matthew) Miron of Fitchburg, WI, Ashley (Dan) Bellenbaum of Fitchburg, WI, great grandson, Nathaniel Carter Miron, brother, Willard Kohler of Saline, sisters, Florence Everly of Westland, MI and Wilma Bailey of Tucson, Arizona. He was preceded in death by his daughter, Carol Lynn Lynch in 1985, his second wife, Norinne (Phelps) Kohler and sisters, Mildred Klager, Dorothy Girbach and Hermina Feldkamp. The family would like to

thank Meals on Wheels of Ypsilanti, the staff of Arbor Hospice and Heartland Hospice of Ann Arbor and a special thank you to Premier Senior Living in Ann Arbor where he was for the last 4 months. Dusty's daughters would also like to thank family members and friends for their visits, phone calls and prayers during his illness. Visitation will be on Friday, January 3, 2014 from 11:00 A.M. until the time of the service at 1:00 P.M. at the Robison-Bahnmler Funeral Home in Saline, with Rev. Wallace Tatara, officiating. Burial will follow at St. James United Church of Christ Cemetery in Saline Twp., MI with Military Honors conducted under the auspices of the Veterans Honor Guard of Washtenaw County. To sign Dusty's guestbook, to leave a memory, or for more information or directions please visit [www.rbfhsaline.com](http://www.rbfhsaline.com).

# Cemetery Details

## St. James Church Cemetery

11005 W Michigan Ave  
Saline, MI 48176

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN 3. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Robison-Bahnmler Funeral Home & Cremation Services  
301 E Michigan Ave  
Saline, MI 48176  
(734) 429-9760  
rbfhsaline@hotmail.com  
<https://www.rbfhsaline.com>

## Funeral Service

JAN 3. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Robison-Bahnmler Funeral Home & Cremation Services  
301 E Michigan Ave  
Saline, MI 48176  
(734) 429-9760  
rbfhsaline@hotmail.com  
<https://www.rbfhsaline.com>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Herman J. Kohler Jr.*

October 23, 2023 at 01:07 PM



“ *I hope I have the right family... My father, Harold Ernst passed away last month at the age of 94. In going through his things I came across a black and white photo of a handsome young man in uniform leaning against a fence. Written on the back is "Herman Kohler Jr. July 1945". I know that we have only a few of this type of photo of my dad and would love for this photo of Herman to be in the hands of his loved ones if they would like it. My name is Mary Ernst Larson. email me at [releaseandrelax@comcast.net](mailto:releaseandrelax@comcast.net)*

**Maary Larson** - April 14, 2015 at 07:36 AM



“ *Inspirational Poetry of Comfort & Hope for the Grieving was purchased for the family of Herman J. Kohler Jr..*



January 03, 2014 at 02:36 PM

CB

“ In the 1950's, as a young teenager, Esther & Dusty's house was my home away from home (My home at the time being a sleeping room at a farm on Stony Creek Rd.) I have fond memories in regards to those days. I along with my friends were always made to feel welcome at their home. I recall fishing and hunting trips with Dusty which I always enjoyed. I recall helping him paint their house on Crane Rd. one or two times, which surprisingly, I also enjoyed. On the other hand I remember Dusty talking me into going ice fishing, said it would be good for me. However, for a 17 year-old, sitting in the middle of a frozen lake looking through a hole in the ice, waiting for a fish to swim through, well not too much fun, but Dusty laughed all the way home, while I was trying to thaw out. I believe he probably laughed himself to sleep that night, thinking of my displeasure. In the mid-1960's I got Dusty a job on Construction and was amazed at how fast he caught on to operating heavy equipment. Those were also some good days and I enjoyed working with him, and not just because he always brought extra banana bread to share with me (That my sister had made) And so another member of the "Greatest Generation" has left us. Rest in Peace my old Friend, Love & Condolences, to Cindy, Gail & Families. Uncle Chuck & Aunt Pat

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**Chuck and Pat Buss** - December 30, 2013 at 11:09 PM

RB

“ To Cindy and Gail my prayers are with you and yours in this time of need. It sounds like your dad had lots of good people around him at his time of need. My thoughts are with you, and may God bless you. Your old neighbor from Crane Road.

*Renee (Mercier) Bergstrom*

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**Renee Bergstrom** - December 30, 2013 at 04:54 AM



AH

“ I only met him a few times, but felt I knew him better as his daughter Cindy is a dear friend of mine. She will always be grateful for the time she shared with her Dad, especially in the last few years. He seemed to care more about making his last few months here easier on his girls than to be concerned with his needs. For those who have cared for an aging parent, that is truly a gift. May God rest his soul and comfort his family.

All our love to you, Cindy and Jim, and to all your family  
Love Ann and Rick

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**Ann Herbert** - December 28, 2013 at 11:37 AM

SM

“ I got to meet dusty about 4 months ago when he moved into premier senior living. In that 4 months i enjoyed coming to work every morning to see him and to talk with him about anything we shared stories of our families and our children. I learned a lot about dusty i knew he loved his girls very much and the rest of his family. He accomplished several things throughout his lifetime he was very proud of, he was very outspoken and wouldn't hide anything from you he would tell you how he felt i am so glad i had the chance to meet dusty and make his time here comfortable and enjoyable for him i will miss him very much and i will never forget what a great friend he was to me and his smile when i walked in and let him know i was at work and he was stuck with me for 8 hours..to his family thank you for giving me the chance to work with your dad he will be missed greatly by me, my deepest condolences.

stacy meyer



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**stacy meyer** - December 27, 2013 at 01:43 PM

SM

“ I'd like to extend my condolences to the family and friends.  
Stephen Mendenhall

Stephen Mendenhall - December 25, 2013 at 08:09 AM

CI

Thank you, Stephen...Cindy

Cindy - December 25, 2013 at 10:20 AM

SF

“ Sincerely, Ron and Pat Wixson - Florida  
purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the  
family of Herman J. Kohler Jr..



Sincerely, Ron and Pat Wixson - Florida - December 25, 2013  
at 03:40 AM

DN

“ Denise G ( Neighbor) lit a candle in memory  
of Herman J. Kohler Jr.



Denise G ( Neighbor) - December 24, 2013 at 01:36 PM

KM

“ It was a honor meeting Dusty this past summer, I will always  
remember his very strong hand shake & quick wit, my thoughts are  
with you Cindy & Jim, and the rest of your special family. Love,  
Kathy & Mike

Kathy Messner - December 24, 2013 at 01:24 PM



*Thank you, Mike and Kay*

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**Cindy** - December 25, 2013 at 10:19 AM