



## Joe "Squeaky" Kulik

June 24, 1947 - May 16, 2026

Joe "Squeaky" Kulik, age 78, passed away on Saturday, May 16, 2026, surrounded by the love of his family. Joe was born on June 24, 1947, and will be remembered not only for his accomplishments, but for the kind of person he was to everyone around him.

Joe was the beloved husband of Sandi Kulik for 60 years and a proud father to Jeff Kulik (Paula) and Jody Kulik (Kirsten). He was a loving grandfather to Destinee, Jacob, Chase, and Skye, and great-grandfather to Aireeyona, Kannin and Kendall, all of whom brought tremendous joy to his life.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Ted and Theresa Kulik and his uncle, Chester Blaszcik.

Joe dedicated 42 years as a Millwright at the Ford Motor Company before retiring, but his life was defined far more by his willingness to help others. If you were lucky enough for Joe to call you a friend, then you knew he would always have your back. He was the kind of person who always had advice, knew exactly who to call, or could point you in the right direction no matter what you needed. Somehow, Joe had a special gift for connecting people together and making everyone feel welcome.

Whether it was family, lifelong friends, coworkers, or someone he had just

met, Joe treated people like they mattered. Walking into the local bar with Joe felt like a scene from the Cheers television show, everybody knew him, and everyone had a story about him.

Outside of work, Joe had a lifelong passion for cars and drag racing. A talented and dedicated racer, he earned numerous national titles through the National Hot Rod Association and International Hot Rod Association, Multiple track championships at both Milan and Detroit Dragway's, and set multiple world records throughout his racing career.

Joe will be deeply missed for his loyalty, generosity, humor, and larger-than-life presence. The memories, friendships, and connections he created throughout his life will continue to live on in all who knew and loved him.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Friday, June 5th from 4:00 P.M. to 10:00 P.M. at the Van Buren Eagles, 9961 Beck Road, Belleville, MI 48111. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions in Joe's name may be made to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation <https://www.cff.org/donate> To leave a memory you have of Joe or to sign his guestbook please visit [www.rbfhsaline.com](http://www.rbfhsaline.com)

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life Gathering

JUN 5. 4:00 PM - 10:00 PM (ET)

Van Buren Eagles  
9961 Beck Road  
Belleville, MI 48111

# Tribute Wall



“ Going to Milan Dragway in 1966 until now I remember Squeaky the 57 Ford and his arch rival El Cheapo 57 Ford. Why? First because I'm a Ford guy and a 57 Ford was the best looking car in 57 and the best selling. Second I remember going with my parents to look at new Fords in the fall of 57 and coming home with a 57 Ford. I had the luck and honor of working with Bob Z the owner driver of El Cheapo and meeting Squeaky Joe at Sesi Lincoln Mercury when he would stop in to talk to Bob. I talked to Joe and the Squeaky family in the staging lanes at Milan several times over the years. Race In Peace Joe.

Fred Hermans - May 24 at 11:50 PM



What is left of El Cheapo is still sitting behind Dad's garage.

Jody Kulik - May 28 at 10:07 AM

DN

“ Condolences to the Kulik family and his many friends. Knew Joe from back in our times in Ypsilanti. He was a true friend and will be missed by many but will be remembered forever. Not only as a race but as a friend.

Don Novak - May 24 at 09:51 PM

JP

“ Sandi, I am so sorry to hear of Joe's passing. I have such fond memories of all the times we spent at Milan and other tracks. What a wonderful guy Joe was. I sent a gift of trees as I think it represents the strength of Joe as they grow stronger and straighter. Love to you and all your family, Janet Pushies

janet pushies - May 22 at 12:39 PM



*I'm sure Dad and Push are hanging out! ❤️*

**Jody Kulik** - May 28 at 10:09 AM

JE

“ Janet E. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Joe "Squeaky" Kulik.

**Janet E.** - May 22 at 12:31 PM

MM

“ Although 13 years younger, I grew up next to Joe. I always admired his 57' When I was a young teenager Joe showed me how to polish valve seats, and gave me a few bucks for helping him. He also showed me a couple of drafting techniques that I still use today. Always enjoyed our conversations at the Rooster. Joe will be well remembered. Our condolences to the family.

**Mark Mellinger** - May 22 at 09:01 AM

JL

“ Squeaky touched many of us at his second job at Gene Butman Ford. The customers loved him and did all his fellow workers. Hopefully Squeak is still racing in the afterlife and may I see him again with his smile and happy demeanor.

**jeff lounsberry** - May 21 at 07:17 PM

D(

“ So many wonderful memories from the days at Milan - keeping your entire family in my thoughts and prayers during this time. Denise Renee (Notar)

**Denise Renee (Notar)** - May 20 at 03:05 PM

SR

“ 1 file added to the album *Family Pictures*



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**Stephen Robison** - May 18 at 11:02 AM