



## Lawrence Slepky

August 20, 1930 - January 23, 2016

Lawrence Slepky, 85, passed away quietly in his sleep, on January 23, 2016. He was preceded in death by his loving wife of 60 years, Lottie Slepky. Lawrence was born in 1930 to the late George and Caroline Slepky and resided in Melvindale, MI until he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps in 1948 at the age of 18.

As a United States Marine in King Battery, 4th Battalion, 11th Marines, First Marine Division in the Korean War in 1950, he was involved in the landing at Inchon, the liberation of Seoul Korea, and in one of the Marines most epic battles, the Battle at the Chosin Reservoir, at the North Korean and Chinese boarder near the Yalu River. There, in November/December of 1950, in a month of continuous sub-zero temperatures with -70 degree wind chill, in mile-high, snow-covered mountains, on a one-lane mountain road, without proper winter clothing, 12,000 U.S. Marines were totally surrounded by three Chinese Army Corps of 120,000 Chinese soldiers whose mission was total annihilation of the 1st Marine Division. The 1st Marine Division fought their way out of the mountains to the sea while nearly annihilating the three enemy Army Corps. King Battery veterans received five battle stars, two Presidential Unit Citations, and two Korean Presidential Unit Citations. Lawrence would often recant in his later years to his children, grandchildren and others that "They (the Chinese) never had a chance".

The United States Marine Corps motto *Semper fidelis*, meaning “always faithful”, “always loyal”, as well as their mantra of honor, commitment, and courage, went on to become his own. He passed this philosophy to his children and grandchildren, students, and athletes as he traversed his long life.

Lawrence attained three college degrees, in what was a unique and likely unduplicated manner in that all of the three college degrees he attained were from the same college with three different names. These included a Bachelor of Arts from Eastern Michigan Normal, a Master’s in Education from Eastern Michigan College, and a Specialist in Education from Eastern Michigan University.

Lawrence’s first education assignment was in Willow Run public schools where his impact on students was so profound and sustained that his former students continued to regularly call on him into his last years, with sincere appreciation and respect.

Later, Lawrence started and headed Washtenaw Community College’s Physical Education Department and became the first Athletic Director of Washtenaw Community College’s Collegiate Athletic Program. As a result of his influence on community college athletic programs and many years as coach of the Washtenaw Community College Baseball Team, countless numbers of athletes, whose initial and primary motivations were to compete in athletics, found themselves immersed in community college academics, attaining associate degrees, then bachelors degrees and beyond.

Lawrence was lifetime avid hunter and fisherman, and spent his retirement years in those endeavors at his favorite northern Michigan retreat on Houghton Lake (Michigan).

In retirement Lawrence and his beloved wife Lottie reconnected in yearly reunions with his fellow Marines of King Battery and the rest of the 1st Marine Division in a unique camaraderie that only those who have done battle and hardship together and depended on each other for their survival can understand.

Lawrence is survived by his four children, Peter and fiancé (June), Timothy, and Michael Slepsky, his daughter Ann Glover and husband (Tim), and five grandchildren Dana (Luke), Paige and Perrin Slepsky, and Matthew (Ashley) and Brian Glover.

A memorial graveside service with military honors for Lawrence and his late wife Lottie will be held at Great Lakes National Cemetery in Holly, MI, on Friday, February 26, 2016 from 12:30 P.M. to 1:00 P.M. A celebration of life luncheon will follow the service. Arrangements entrusted to Robison-Bahnmler Funeral Home of Saline. In lieu of flowers a contribution of a toy to the Marine Corps Toys For Tots in December may be made. Condolences and any anecdotes or stories (serious or otherwise) regarding either Lawrence or Lottie, would be deeply appreciated and cherished as well. They can be entered on his obituary tribute wall at [www.rbhfsaline.com](http://www.rbhfsaline.com) or sent to 299 Highland Dr. Saline, MI 48176.

Lawrence's final message to his family, friends, neighbors, students, baseball players, and especially to King Battery (K/4/11) is simply: SEMPER-FI

# Cemetery Details

## Great Lakes National Cemetery

4200 Belford Road  
Holly, MI 48442  
<http://www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/greatlakes.asp>

# Previous Events

## Honor Guard Presentation

FEB **26**. 12:30 AM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Great Lakes National Cemetery  
4200 Belford Road  
Holly, MI 48442  
<http://www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/greatlakes.asp>

## Graveside Service

FEB **26**. 12:30 PM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Great Lakes National Cemetery  
4200 Belford Road  
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# Tribute Wall



“ *Lawrence Slepsky*

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October 23, 2023 at 01:07 PM



“ *So sorry to hear about Coach. I had the opportunity to play for him 1970 and 71 at WCC. He was very influential in my life. He contacted Coach Morley Fraser at Albion College about me playing baseball there. Because of coach Slepsky I played baseball there and was inducted to Albion College Hall of Fame in 1999 and graduated 1973. So grateful to to have known and played for such great coach and person. Prayers to the Slepsky family and thank you again Coach, J Baker*

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**John Baker** - October 30, 2021 at 04:02 PM



“ *Condolences to the Slepsky family. Always will remember the great sportsmanship and athleticism of the Slepsky kids! Inherited from their Dad and Mom. There's no replacement for great parenting! God bless! Tony Handy*

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**Tony Handy** - February 24, 2016 at 07:29 PM

CB

“ *My condolences to the children and family of Larry Slepsky. You are in the thoughts and prayers of his former students, athletes, co-workers and friends.*

*Larry was my Jr. High Baseball and Basketball coach in the late 1950's and we continued to stay in touch through the 1960's. Larry began his employment at W.C.C. as a faculty member, Athletic Director and coach. He encouraged me to return to Eastern Michigan University and pursue my Masters Degree in Physical Education. As a result of his guidance and mentoring, I was able to obtain a position as a faculty member at W.C.C. We worked together teaching Health related classes and coaching various intercollegiate sports until the mid 1980's when athletics and health programs were eliminated.*

*Larry will be remembered as a great competitor who loved his work and exhibited a positive and supportive attitude. He was an excellent teacher and coach. I'm sure he will be remembered by many whose lives he touched, few more than my own. Rest in Peace.*

*Clifford Bellers*

*Willow Run High School - Class of 1960*

*Washtenaw Community College - 1969-2002*

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**Clifford Bellers** - February 09, 2016 at 11:46 AM

RL

“ *He will truly be missed, deeply saddened to hear of his passing.*  
*Ron Lucas*

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**Ronald Lucas** - February 08, 2016 at 07:43 PM

TN

“ Larry had so much passion for the game of baseball. I played for him at WCC in 1973-74 and he taught us so much. I remember the infield he built on campus behind the practice barn. It consisted of perfect grass and dirt infield, dropping off to a swamp where the outfield would be! We would practice situations and plays there, then off to EMU to use their field. Larry would bring his lawnmower for home to manicure his field. The work he put into the program at WCC was impressive. He was my favorite coach in my baseball days, a yardstick I used to rate all other coaches I had. He always came out on top. R.I.P Larry.  
Tim Nickels WCC 73-74

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**Tim Nickels** - February 04, 2016 at 10:10 AM

MH

“ MY SYMPATHY TO PETE, TIM & FAMILY. WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER TALKING TO MR. SLEPSKY. AT PETE & TIM'S HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL GAMES. GROWING UP & PLAYING BASEBALL WITH TIM & GOING TO SCHOOL WITH PETE & TIM. ALWAYS WANTED TO TALK TO YOU. A GREAT CHEERLEADER!! PLAYED PONY LEAGUE BALL WITH TIM IN "69" (LEAGUE CHAMPS STILL HAVE PICTURE FROM PAPER). LARRY HOPE TO TALK AGAIN IN HEAVEN.

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**MARK HOEFT** - February 02, 2016 at 05:19 PM

CE

“ Coach, the Brothers of '62 hope you have a nice, smooth journey to be with God and Mrs. Slepisky. We know you're a devout Catholic and you paid your dues on more than one occasion while on this Earth. Being in the Corps and participating in the Chosin Reservoir Battle and teaching and coaching in the Willow Run School District more than qualifies you for a good seat with God. Sorry I can't be there for your memorial service, but, I've never been away from you, ever since I first made contact with you back at Edmonson Junior High. And, you know us Marines, especially the ones who experienced the battle field, are joined at the hip and the spirit. I want everyone to know that you absolutely caused me to be in the position that I am today as a college graduate, retired teacher/coach of 35 years, father of four and grandfather of eleven. I also know that there are many others whose lives you've touched in a similar way. Let it be known that I am trying to repay you by "paying it forward." Just want to say it one more time, without getting "mushy," because I know you don't like that, thanks for everything.

*Semper Fi*

*Clyde Ethington*

*Willow Run, 1962*

*USMC, 1965-69*



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**Clyde Ethington** - February 02, 2016 at 03:32 AM

JR

“ I remember trying to play racquetball against Mr. Slepisky. I never had a chance. He was a good man.

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**Jeff Reimold** - February 01, 2016 at 01:39 PM

EW

“ I'm so sorry to hear about the loss of your dad. My prayers are with you all. I grew up on Highland Drive and lived 2 doors away. I remember Mr. Slepisky always tan and in shape! I remember the hound dogs out back, the crawfish and muskrat traps at the Saline River and Mr. Slepisky's old station wagon (I think it was maroon??). Of course, I remember the rest of the family too! I had many good times hanging out with Mike when we were little kids. May your dad RIP and God bless his soul.



*Eileen Wagner-Mallory*

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**Eileen Wagner-Mallory** - January 31, 2016 at 04:02 PM

DM

“ Larry was one of the most quality people I have ever known. We (Ed & Jim Chandler) have shared good memories of him over the years many times. I know you will be missed greatly. Praying for the family.



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**Dave Moore** - January 31, 2016 at 07:46 AM

RR

“ Thoughts and prayers to you Tim and your family.

*Rick and Jean Rybka (polka Friends)*

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**Rick and Jean Rybka** - January 30, 2016 at 08:40 PM

SG

“ A truly great man. Had him as a teacher at Edmondson Jr. High in the early 60's and also at Washtenaw CC in late 70's. He would jog to WCC from home and jog back from work. He will be missed by many of the Willow Run Family. God Bless him and may he R.I.P. and prayers and comfort to the family. Steve Godfrey, WRHS 1969!

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**Stephen Godfrey** - January 29, 2016 at 09:36 AM

TS

“ Sorry to hear about your loss. Sending prayers to Mr. Slepsky (my old neighbor) and his family. Mr. Slepsky always had a kind hello whenever I passed by on my walks. In his obituary I smiled when I read SEMPER-FI because I remembered it on his bumper sticker on his car/truck. Once while I was in his family home I saw a chart as I exited the bathroom. When I asked him about it he said he recorded his weight every morning. I was impressed and tried doing it myself for a while but I wasn't as disciplined as he was to keep up with it. Theresa Schmidt

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**Theresa Schmidt** - January 28, 2016 at 06:59 PM

MM

“ Larry was a great man, a great Marine. He shared his album of the Korean War with me. I loved to kid him. I would always ask him who the best Marine was? He would say, "I am". I would say the best Marine, is a Submarine.... he loved his kids, and was a tough good guy.

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**Michael Morast** - January 27, 2016 at 05:51 AM

MM

“ 2 files added to the album *New Album Name*

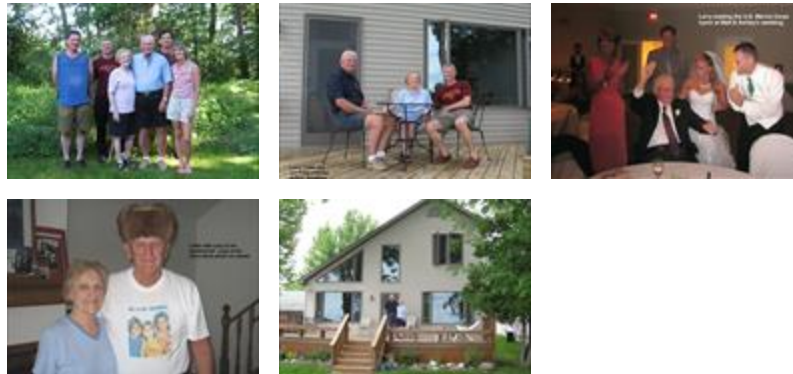


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**Michael Morast** - January 27, 2016 at 05:46 AM

SR

“ 5 files added to the album *Photos provided by the family.*



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**Stephen Robison** - January 26, 2016 at 08:32 PM

JS

“ Farewell MHS student (one year ahead of me); farewell WCC co-worker; farewell Saline neighbor; farewell friend.

*I remember us walking on campus, you whistling the Marine Corp hymn, and me letting you know the marines were part of the U.S. Navy. Nonetheless: Semper-Fi.*

*Jim Spickard  
Betty (Machurski) Spickard*

*note: I tried posting earlier and don't think it went through. If it posts twice, I apologize.*

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**james spickard** - January 26, 2016 at 07:33 PM

DC

“ Larry and Lottie were our neighbors for 40 years and we enjoyed the time. there. Larry was a delight to discuss baseball or fishing and most any other issue that was hot at the time. I even enjoyed the sound of basketballs bouncing at 7am on a saturday by the kids.

*Don and Shirley Clary*

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**donald clary** - January 26, 2016 at 03:03 PM

CH

“ Sad news, great man. I sure enjoyed my trips to the lake in the station wagon with the windows rolled up and the heat on to see who could last the longest. Good memories.

*Craig and Patty Hoeft*

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**Craig Hoeft** - January 26, 2016 at 01:45 PM



“ *Kaitlyn Batson lit a candle in memory of Lawrence Slepsky*



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**Kaitlyn Batson** - January 23, 2016 at 06:23 PM