



## Mitchell Szafranski

July 5, 1923 - July 5, 2009

MITCHELL MITCHJ. SZAFRANSKI age 86 of Hobart formerly of Merrillville passed away Sunday July 5 2009. Survived by his wife of 56 years Harriet (Nalewski) three sons: Joseph of TN Dr. John of FL Robert (Donna) of Lowell two daughters: Geralyn Lynn(Derek) Heafey of HI Michele (Michael) Kirksey of Merrillville grandchildren: Malissa (James) Conley Christina Michael and Sydney Szafranski Joshua Kirksey great grandchildren: Aubrey and Jimmy Conley former daughter-in-law Shelly Szafranski sister-in-law Bobbie Czajkowski brothers-in-law: Stanley (Iona) Nalewski Joseph (Dolly) Neal Alex Czajkowski many much beloved nieces and nephews great nieces and nephews great-great nieces and nephews extended family: foster daughter Susan (Martin) Logan Zachery Sean and Alyssa Engstrom Bernadette Stacy Hayden and Gage Iliff Tom T.J. Chad and Cassie Pruzin Steve Georgeann Nick and Tony Pangere. Preceded in death by brother Stanley Szafranski. Mitch was a member of S.S. Peter & Paul Catholic Church Merrillville and was an usher at the 9:00 a.m. Mass. He was a member of American Legion Post 207 Knights of Columbus Msgr. Ryder Council 4047 a 4th Degree member of Abraham Lincoln Assembly. Mitch was a former soccer league coach and manager a Boy Scout troop leader of Troop 11 Gary. He was a graduate of Emerson High School Class of 1940 an Army veteran of WWII and an Air Force reservist. Mitch was the foster Father of 26 children. Friends may call at Pruzin Brothers Funeral Service 6360 Broadway Merrillville Wednesday from 2:00 to 8:00 p.m. Prayer Service at 2:00 p.m. Legion service at 4:00 p.m. K of

C Rosary 7:00 p.m. and K of C Honor Guard 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. Funeral service will be Thursday July 9 2009 at 9:30 a.m. at Pruzin Brothers Chapel and 10:00 a.m. at SS. Peter & Paul Catholic Church 5885 Harrison Merrillville with Rev. Roy Beeching officiating. At rest Calumet Park Cemetery Merrillville.

# Tribute Wall

SN

“ Stan and I were so very sorry to hear about Uncle Mitchs passing. He was a wonderful man and will be dearly missed. Our thoughts and prayers are with you at this difficult time. Love Sharon & Stan

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**Sharon & Stan Nalewski** - July 12, 2009 at 12:00 AM

DJ

“ Dear Dr. John So sorry to hear of your fathers passing. We didnt see the notice until 7:30 the evening of his funeral and thus were unable to attend and offer our support. Jim and I will keep you in our prayers--we miss you. When youre here again please call. Jim and Mary Ann

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**Dr. Mary Ann Jones and Jim Jones** - July 10, 2009 at 12:00 AM

KH

“ Like a bird singing in the rain let grateful memories survive in time of sorrow. You are in our thoughts and prayers. Love Kursten & Ryan

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**Kursten Heafey** - July 10, 2009 at 12:00 AM

MS

“ Aunt Harriet and family Have not seen you in many years but still have fond memories of you and Uncle Mitch. Sorry I could not make it to the wake. May God bless you and help you through your time of sorrow.

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**Mr. and Mrs. Greg Szewka** - July 09, 2009 at 12:00 AM

R(

“ Dear Harriet & Family Our most sincere condolences on Mitchs passing. It was with deep sadness that we heard of it and we wanted to let you know that while we were unable to attend due to distance/time constraints our thoughts and prayers are with you all at this most difficult time. We truly wish that we could have been there and we hope you will find peace in knowing that the Lord will take you in his loving arms and ease your pain with time. With deepest Sorrow The Welch Family Rick Debbie Jesse & Ryann

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RichardDeborah Welch Family (Ashby) - July 09, 2009 at 12:00 AM

SF

“ Kathy and I are truly sorry that we could not be there in person. Our love and hearts are with you Joe John Lynn and Michele and all the rest of your extended family. I wrote a little something in honor of my Uncle my friend. As Uncles go theres always one Stays with you through your life. From my earliest childhood memrys And the Reunions last hug and good-byes. With his talking coin purse Always quick with a verse Sometimes stern But always was gentle. All my memories are fond of this man for so long Great moment I always will treasure. His passings not right but its not ours to fight Where he sits now is where we all want him. Our hearts are not glad though clich cant be sad Hes catchin up now with best new Old friends. While we grieve for our Mitch Theres some solace to wish For our friend . . . please celebrate me (him) home . . Hes finally home! All our best to all of you! Stan & Kathy Nalewski & family

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Stan & Kathy Nalewski & Family - July 09, 2009 at 12:00 AM

BM

“ Dear Harriet my heart and my prayers are with you and your family.all my love. Mitch my beloved friend I know God has new angel on his team but I will miss my hugs and smiles and love that you gave so freely and frequently. our precious gift from the Lord will always be loved.

Bert and Lila Martinez - July 08, 2009 at 12:00 AM

DS

“ All our heart felt prayers are with you Harriet and your entire family. We will truly miss Mitch. He was a joy to treat and to be around. All of us here enjoyed when the two of you were in our office. Sincerely Dr. Coleman and Staff

Dr. Brian E. Coleman and Staff - July 08, 2009 at 12:00 AM

GH

“ With Aloha From Daddys Little Girl All children should be as fortunate as the Szafranski children. We had the type of father that God envisioned. My Dad was loving selfless good natured humorous intelligent and humble. He lived by example a life of honest and integrity thus providing the best role model for me and my siblings. I will never forget a trip to Chicago when we were young children. We went into Long John Silvers to eat lunch and there was a homeless man begging for food. Most people walk by homeless people. Not my Dad (and Mom). My Dad not only bought the man a meal but invited him inside the restaurant to eat. He lived by example. I thank God for my Dad and for giving him a long healthy life to share with us. He enriched my life my daughter and his first grandchilds life (Malissa) my grandchildren and his first great grandchildrens lives (Aubrey and Jimmy) and my new husbands life (Derek). I cant imagine a life without my Dads empathy humor and love. Through tears and sorrow all my love Geralyn

Geralyn Heafey - July 08, 2009 at 12:00 AM

AM

“ Mitch always joked about how he physically had to look up to all of us but it was us who looked up to him. He was always the biggest man in the room. Never at a loss for a good joke or story Mitch was a wonderful person just to be around. We will miss his joyful smile and warm hugs. We thank God he was a part of our life!

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**AJ & Sue Anne Mathewson** - July 08, 2009 at 12:00 AM

MC

“ Grandpa and Great Papa We enjoyed spending time with you at the 4th of July picnic. I will always remember watching you play with Aubrey and hold Jimmy in your lap. You will be greatly missed. Love Malissa Aubrey and Jimmy

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**Malissa Conley** - July 07, 2009 at 12:00 AM

MS

“ I will miss you very much Uncle Mitch. You were my wine drinking buddy when I came home from a long day while attending my last years of college. Even though you are now with the angels in heaven I will cherish you and all those memories forever in my heart. Love always Mickie

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**Mickie Stur** - July 07, 2009 at 12:00 AM

EF

“ Harriet & family: May God keep you in His care at this difficult time. Mitch was a very special person. We are blessed to have had him as our friend. We will miss him. Sympathy & Prayers Ed Jeanette Krol & family

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**Ed & Jeanette Krol & fam.** - July 07, 2009 at 12:00 AM

BF

“ All of us Knights will miss Mitch. He was always upbeat and with a smile. We shared comments about us both being foster parents. Our Ryder Council 4047 has lost a great Catholic gentleman and a great friend. Bob Falcone Past Grand Knight 4047

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**Bob & Gloria Falcone** - July 07, 2009 at 12:00 AM

CA

“ Mitch was beloved by our family and I would have to honestly say I have never known a better man. He was never to be seen without a twinkle in his eye and a kind word or a joke. He will be missed by so many. Harriet you and your family are in our prayers.

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**Cate Amador** - July 07, 2009 at 12:00 AM

PM

“ To the Entire Family - We send our love and prayers to all of you not just for today but always! Uncle Mitch was a wonderful man/uncle - always happy never without a smile. Always ready with a loving hug and kiss and some funny joke to share. He will truly be missed!  
Love You All!

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**Patti Eddy April & Mathew** - July 07, 2009 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ To Aunt Harriet and Family of beloved Mitch. May all the wonderful memories you have of this man who never had an unkind word to say about anyone help you through this difficult time. He may have been short in height but his enormous heart and love he shared with us all will remain in our hearts forever. We are proud to have had him as our uncle and will cherish all the wonderful memories. Love forever Jeff Mickie Jeffrey Heather & Jay Erica Dave & Charlotte

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**Jeff & Mickie Stur & Family** - July 07, 2009 at 12:00 AM