



## Maurice T. "Jake" Gutzler

February 5, 1928 - June 17, 2025

Maurice Thomas "Jake" Gutzler, age 97 years, 4 months and 12 days, died Tuesday, June 17, 2025, at Cedarhurst of Highland, IL. Maurice was born on February 5, 1928, in Highland, IL, the son of Jacob and Ottilie Mary (nee Welchlen) Gutzler (both deceased). Maurice's older brothers Reverend James Jacob Gutzler and Wayne William "Jake" Gutzler are deceased.

Maurice graduated from St. Paul Catholic High School in 1946 and was a member of the basketball team, band and choir. He was also a member of St. Paul Catholic Church where he served as an usher for 30 years. Maurice served on the Finance Committee of the Board for St. Paul Parish and was a member of the St. Paul Holy Name Society where he served as President.

A member of the Knights of Columbus for 79 years, Maurice served as Grand Knight for three terms (1954, 1955 and 1956) and was a member of the Highland Fourth Degree Assembly. Maurice joined the Highland Rotary Club in 1980 serving in several capacities on various committees including President (from 1989-1990) and Assistant to the Governor of Rotary District 6460 (from 1991-1992). He is a Paul Harris Fellow of the Highland Rotary and a Rotary International Benefactor. He enjoyed perfect attendance for over three consecutive decades in the Highland Rotary Club.

In his early years following high school graduation, Maurice had a paper route

with Suppiger News Agency and worked at Steiner's Men's Wear in Highland. He enjoyed playing softball for the Knights of Columbus Softball Team and was an avid bowler. In 1950, Maurice joined his brother, Wayne, working at Kinnie Tom-Boy Market located on the Highland Square. On May 1, 1957, Maurice and Wayne bought the business from C. Kinnie & Co. operating the grocery store on the town Square for the next seven years. On June 22, 1964, Maurice and Wayne opened Gutzler's Tom-Boy Market at its new location at the corner of Broadway and Cypress in Highland. After 42 years in the grocery business, Maurice retired on April 1, 1992, selling his interest in Gutzler's Tom-Boy Market to Wayne. After his brother Wayne passed in 2001, Maurice at the age of 73 began helping his nephews and nieces at Highland's Tru-Buy (which Wayne opened in the summer of 1978). Maurice stocked shelves and assisted customers until he was 88 years old. Maurice resided at the Highland Home for three decades and served on the Board of Directors there for 13 years. He moved to Cedarhurst of Highland in August 2024.

Maurice is survived by eight nieces and nephews, Thomas (Cynthia) Gutzler, William (Barb) Gutzler, Mary Jo (Ronald) Moss, all of Highland, Kathleen (Douglas) Hastings of Edwardsville, Jean (RJ) Milano of Los Angeles, James (Lori) Gutzler, Janet Laney (Brad Rench), Joseph (Gail) Gutzler, all of Highland.

He is also survived by 22 great nieces and nephews, Christopher (Mary) Gutzler, Jacob (Heather) Gutzler, Zachary (Ashley Bollman) Gutzler, Shana (Charles) Hepner, Chris Harbison, Emily Gutzler, Corey Moss, Chad (Emily) Moss, Analisa (Russell) Eilers, Alexa (Matthew) Huelsmann, Nicole (Craig) Potthast, Meghann (Jim) Stotlar, Nathan (Katie) Hastings, Hillary (Dan) Newman, Brett Gutzler, Ali Milano (fiancé Kyle Awtry), Tyler (Ryen) Milano, Adam Laney, Madeline (fiancé Andrew Sorrell) Laney, Natalie (Robert) Hamm, Andrea (AJ) Burns and Samantha Gutzler. Also surviving are 31 great-great nieces and nephews, 7 great-great-great nieces and nephews, friend Ron

Laney as well as special caregivers Paula Henson and Diane Krydinski.

Maurice was preceded in death by his parents, two brothers, sister-in-law Josephine E. "Joey" Gutzler, niece Nancy (nee Graham) Gutzler, and great niece Melissa (nee Moss) Brown.

Visitation will be held from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM on Sunday, June 22, 2025, at Spengel-Boulanger Funeral Home in Highland, IL and from 8:00 AM to 9:30 AM on Monday, June 23, 2025, at Spengel-Boulanger Funeral Home in Highland, IL.

Funeral Mass will be at 10:00 AM on Monday, June 23, 2025, at St. Paul Catholic Church in Highland, IL, with Fr. Charles Edwards, Chaplain of the Illinois Veterans Home in Quincy, Illinois, officiating.

Interment will be at Saint Joseph Catholic Cemetery in Highland, IL.

Memorial contributions may be made to St. Paul Education Foundation or Donor's Choice of Charity.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUN **22**. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Spengel-Boulanger Funeral Home - Highland  
1501 9th Street  
P.O. Box 187  
Highland, IL 62249  
(618) 654-2133  
info@spengel-boulanger.com

## Visitation

JUN **23**. 8:00 AM - 9:30 AM (CT)

Spengel-Boulanger Funeral Home - Highland  
1501 9th Street  
P.O. Box 187  
Highland, IL 62249  
(618) 654-2133  
info@spengel-boulanger.com

## Funeral Mass

JUN **23**. 10:00 AM (CT)

St. Paul Catholic Church  
1412 9th St  
Highland, IL 62249  
(618) 654-2339

# Tribute Wall

PS

“ Maurice was such a gracious man and he had great respect for the priesthood. We have been gone from the Highland area for seven years now, but we still received a Christmas card from Maurice every year and until this year, Father received a card on the anniversary of his ordination. No doubt he will be received into heaven with this greeting, "Well done, good and faithful servant."  
~ Father Scott and Pam Snider

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**Pamela Snider** - June 25, 2025 at 01:08 PM

TF

“ He was always a friendly face to see in Tom Boy and also Tru Buy. I shopped with my mom at Tom Boy many years ago as a child. While shopping at Tru Buy a few years ago, with our own children, it was great to see him working and offering more smiles. He made a point to say hello to everyone. Two generations appreciated his kindness and will think of him each time I shop at Tru Buy.

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**Timmermann family** - June 23, 2025 at 08:52 AM

SM

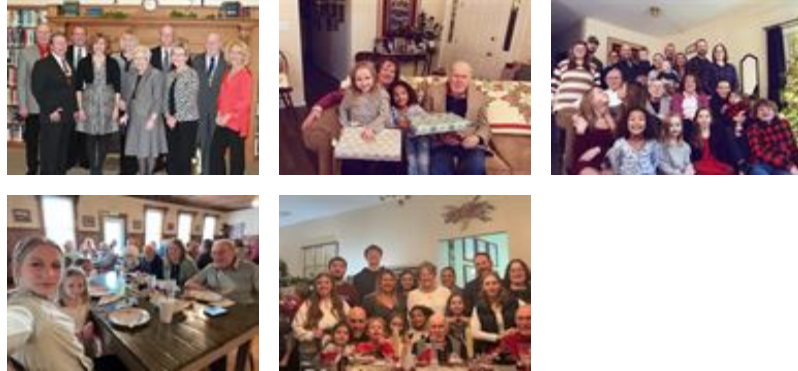
“ Like many in Highland I will always remember Maurice stocking shelves with the infamous knee pads. He always took a moment from his job to smile and say hi to the customers!

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**Sue Messerli** - June 22, 2025 at 04:09 PM



“ 85 files added to the album LifeTributes



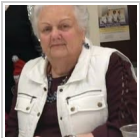
Spengel-Boulanger Funeral Home - June 20, 2025 at 02:52 PM



“ I am sure nobody in Highland knows me but I was born there in 1935 to Sophie and Oliver Frey. I was to be named James but my cousin came two weeks earlier so they changed my name to Maurice after one of my parents favorite people, Maurice Gutzler. I could not drive but Maurice used to take me for a ride in his car often to get ice cream - many times.

Rest in peace, Maurice  
Maurice (Moose) Frey  
Janesville, Wisconsin

maury frey - June 19, 2025 at 08:22 PM



“ Rita Rinderer lit a candle in memory of Maurice Gutzler



Rita Rinderer - June 19, 2025 at 02:10 PM

MM

“ I have many fond memories of Maurice. Playing bingo or just taking time to make others feel special. Hey Morris, when is Christmas? He always knew how many days.

Mae McNamee - June 19, 2025 at 12:22 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Maurice T. "Jake" Gutzler.



June 19, 2025 at 11:33 AM

JH

“ I worked at Tomboy during my highschool years. Always liked Maurice and he always made people smile.

John Haenny - June 19, 2025 at 11:28 AM