



Cerel Merritt Fritz, Jr.

January 3, 1946 - September 27, 2020

Cerel Merritt Fritz, Jr., 74, of Charlotte, died Sunday, September 27, 2020 in Lansing. Cerel was born January 3, 1946, in Charlotte, MI, the son of Cerel and Helen (Foster) Fritz. He enlisted in the U.S. Air Force in 1966 and served one year at Oxnard AFB, California, first with the 432nd TFS, then in Form IV Section, finally as Base Aircraft Dispatcher. He spent the rest of the 4 year tour serving as an Air Operation Spec at Royal Air Force Base in Woodbridge, England with 78th TFS; TDY-141 days at Wheelus AFB, Libya; and 49 days at Incerlik AFB, Turkey. He was honorably discharged in 1970 with the rank of SSGT. Upon his return, he worked 14 years as a tool and die operator at Lundberg Screw Products in Lansing, followed by various time spent at Harris Machine and Tool Co. in Marne, MI, TRW Mission in Houston, TX, and Capital Tool and Die Co. in Williamston, MI. He briefly co-owned and operated Fritz's Hook-Line and Sinker bait shop and later owned CMF Tackle in Lansing and Charlotte. He also worked at several other companies, including Dart Container in Mason, Novex Tool Co. in Howell, Lindell Drop Forge, Robert R. Campbell, Inc., Jet Die-Barnes Group Inc., and Wohler Corp., all in Lansing. In the meantime he enjoyed watching NASCAR, Fishing, jigsaw puzzles, making fishing tackle, stamp and coin collecting, and reading science fiction.

Cerel is survived by his sister, Margaret Lumbert; niece, Heather Church; nephew, Zakk Lumbert; grand-nephew, Kollin Perpignani; grand-niece, Mikaylin Perpignani; great-grandniece, Abigail Perpignani; great-grandnephew, Konner Perpignani; and his best friends, Mike "Ernie" Keehn, Phil Thompson, and Terry Reddish. He was predeceased by his parents and his brother, David Fritz.

A graveside service for both Cerel and David will take place in the Spring of 2021. If desired, the family suggests memorial contributions to the American Cancer Society. Friends and family are encouraged to share memories of Cerel on his Tribute Page at www.PrayFuneral.com. The family is in the care of Pray Funeral Home, Charlotte.

Comments



“ So very sorry to hear of JRs passing .David use to keep me informed on what was happing with you And JR . When we ran into him at the store before I moved out of state ; just wanted you to know your in my thoughts at this sad moment in your life sending hugs to you and yours from the ol neighbor that lived on Church st hugs To y'all Millie (Van Den Driessche) Zakora

Millie Zakora - October 01 at 09:52 PM



“ Margaret, I am so sorry to hear about Junior. I first met him, and you and David, when our mothers were in a women's club together when we were children, and went to "Club" with our mothers. Your dad was our meter reader. I also remember your mother taking a trip to England when I was a teenager, when travel abroad was less common. My mother asked her to choose a charm for my charm bracelet. She chose the most beautiful sterling silver carrigage that opens to display the Queen. Mother said she reimbursed \$15 for that lovely piece, which was a lot that many years ago, but Mother absolutely loved her choice, as did I. I am thinking of you.
Ann Slaughter Catchick

Ann Slaughter Catchick - September 29 at 01:31 PM



“ I am so very sorry. I had talked to him just before he went to the rehab. Cerel was a classmate and always a sweet soul. From the girl he sat next to in typing. Merry Jo Kerekes

Merry Jo Kerekes - September 28 at 11:46 PM