



## Mr. Francis D. Kempel

February 28, 1935 - March 29, 2021

Francis “Donald” Kempel 86, of Church Hill, Maryland passed away peacefully at his home surrounded by his loving family on Monday, March 29, 2021. Born February 28, 1935 in Baltimore, Don grew up as the youngest of five children. He spent his time around church serving as an altar boy, delivering newspapers with his brother, playing sports, cheering on the Baltimore Colts, and growing up with his cousins, nephews and nieces. He was offered a football scholarship to the University of Maryland but opted instead to join the Air Force when he was 17, earning his GED while serving. He loved the Air Force and would fondly recall stories of his time in service.

In 1957 he met the love of his life, Catherine Joyce (Cass) and they were married on February 8, 1958. Don and Cass spent the next 63 years happily married. They moved a couple of times before buying a home on Orchard Avenue in Brooklyn, where Don remodeled the entire house by himself. Don worked as a mechanical engineer technician with the David Taylor Research Center, a job he enjoyed because he was able to visit many places. He retired from the federal government in 1994.

In 1977, Don moved his family out of Baltimore to the Eastern Shore. Full of energy and able to do anything he set his mind to, Don loved life and lived it to the fullest. He especially loved his family. When his children were younger, he would take them sledding, camping, and vacationing in Ocean City. He enjoyed family parties, golfing with his nephews, going to church on Sundays, decorating his house for Christmas, eating a dandy meal, gardening, taking

care of his home and working on many different projects for his children and grandchildren. He was a perfectionist and put much care and detail into everything he did. He and his many hugs will be dearly missed by everyone. He is survived by his loving wife Catherine, his children: Donald Joseph Kempel, Beth Remesch (Ray), Matthew J. Kempel (Kimberly), and Jill Marie King (Kenneth). He was Granddad to 18 grandchildren: Raymond Remesch, Rebecca Remesch, Adam Remesch (Gabriela), Gregory Remesch, Megan Irwin (Peter), Matthew Kempel (Casey), Michael Kempel (Jessica), Pamela King, Donald King, Elizabeth Waters (Kyle), David King (Alyssa), Julia King, Helen King (Erik), Brigid King, Daniel King, Brennan King, Stephen King and Lydia King; 12 great grandchildren and many beloved nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents Albert and Helen Kempel, his sisters, Constance Conley, Catherine Kempel, Mary McGahagan and his brother Albert Kempel. Don genuinely enjoyed his family and he never hesitated to tell them how much he loved them and was proud of them all. A visitation will be held on Monday, April 5,, 2021 from 6-8pm at Fleegle Helfenbein Funeral Home, 106 W. Sunset Ave., Greensboro, Maryland. A Mass of Christian burial will be held at St. Benedict's Catholic Church, Ridgely, Maryland. Interment will be at St. Joseph's Cemetery in Cordova, Maryland. In lieu of flowers the family asks that donations be made to St. Benedict Church, P.O. Box 459, Ridgely, Maryland 21660 or Compass Regional Hospice, 160 Coursevall Drive, Centreville, MD 21617.

# Cemetery Details

## St. Joseph's Cemetery

Cordova, MD

# Previous Events

## Visitation

APR 5. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Fleegle and Helfenbein Funeral Home  
106 W Sunset Ave  
Greensboro, MD 21639  
(410) 482-8914

## Visitation

APR 6. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Fleegle and Helfenbein Funeral Home  
106 W Sunset Ave  
Greensboro, MD 21639  
(410) 482-8914

## Mass

APR 6. 11:30 AM (ET)

St. Benedicts Catholic Church  
408 Central Avenue/ PO Box 459  
Ridgely, MD 21660



# Tribute Wall



“ *Fleegle and Helfenbein Funeral Home, PA created a Tribute Video in memory of Mr. Francis D. Kempel*



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**Fleegle and Helfenbein Funeral Home** - April 02, 2021 at 01:56 PM



“ *Mr. Francis D. Kempel*

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October 08, 2023 at 03:21 PM



“ *Mr. Francis D. Kempel*

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October 06, 2023 at 10:39 AM



“ *Mrs Cass, Donny, Beth, Mathew & Jill,  
Our thoughts and prayers are with you all. We have very fond and  
special thoughts of Mr Don and all of us living on Orchard Ave.  
Mrs Bert, Cindy, Tony, Vernie & Andy*

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**Andy Walter** - May 03, 2021 at 06:13 PM

NK

“ Don Kempel, a man so filled with love for life and his dear family and so greatly loved will be sorely missed. Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this sorrowful time.

Much love,  
Mark, Nancy Kerner and sons

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**Nancy Kerner** - April 06, 2021 at 09:27 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mr. Francis D. Kempel.



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April 05, 2021 at 11:53 AM



“ Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of Mr. Francis D. Kempel.



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April 05, 2021 at 08:20 AM

JK

“ We adored Mr. Kempel and his joyful spirit and hugs. Our prayer for each of you is to find comfort in your faith, memories, and the love of family and friends surrounding you. What a blessed man he was, to have all of you in his life.

Jennifer & Karl King

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**jennifer King** - April 04, 2021 at 09:58 AM

TR

“ *The Baltimore Ravens purchased the Fiery Lily and Rose for the family of Mr. Francis D. Kempel.*



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**The Baltimore Ravens** - April 01, 2021 at 09:32 PM



“ *Vivid Recollections was purchased for the family of Mr. Francis D. Kempel.*



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April 01, 2021 at 04:25 PM

CP

“ *Just loved your dad's great smile! Such a kind hearted soul. Praying for peace for your family and cherished time together remembering such a wonderful person. God bless you all.*

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**Carm Powell** - April 01, 2021 at 02:04 PM

MK

“ *My thoughts and prayers are with your family during this most sad and difficult time. Heaven has gained a wonderful soul. He was a true gentleman ,kind and loving. He will be missed.  
Margaret Cohey Kaufman*

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**Margaret Kaufman** - April 01, 2021 at 11:41 AM

LF

“ Love Terry and Mark and family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Mr. Francis D. Kempel.



Love Terry and Mark and family - April 01, 2021 at 08:43 AM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mr. Francis D. Kempel.



March 31, 2021 at 10:22 PM

AF

“ Paul and I send our sincere sympathy. Heaven welcomed another saint to it's ranks. With love, Anne

Anne Fountain - March 31, 2021 at 07:53 PM

JD

My prayers and thoughts are with your family. He will be missed very much, but is surely in Heaven now, such a kind and gentle man. Love, Joan Dent

JOAN M DENT - April 05, 2021 at 08:34 AM

MP

You are in my thoughts and prayers. I admired Mr. Kempel's kind, gentle spirit. Cherish your good memories. Love, Mary Ann Palmer

Mary Ann Palmer - April 07, 2021 at 07:49 PM