



## Dorlen Francis Groleau

April 8, 1930 - October 11, 2021

Dorlen Francis Groleau “Lefty,” 91, gently passed away October 11, 2021.

Dorlen was born April 8th 1930, in Nahma Michigan, on a warm spring day, the beloved child of Albert and Lucille (Clement) Groleau. He was the middle son in a family of 6, happily growing up with Joyce, Duane, Zenita, Idalyn and Roddy on his father’s cherry farm in Williamsburg Michigan. He graduated from Williamsburg High School in 1949.

Dorlen loved people, and people loved him back. Everywhere he went, he talked to anyone he met, really getting to know them, and helping anyone in need. He remembered everyone’s name and usually the names of their family members too. He was a hugger, smiler, and genuinely caring guy.

Dorlen was an exceptional athlete who excelled in multiple sports, especially baseball. He holds his high school’s record for the most points scored in a single basketball game, scoring 54 points, (long before 3-point baskets). Dorlen was the left-handed star pitcher on the Williamsburg High baseball team all 4 years, losing only 4 games his entire high school career. The highlight of his high school pitching experience was a no-hit double header in his senior year. He went on from high school to pitch in the Chicago Cubs farm system until he married and the need to earn some ‘real’ money to support his family forced him to end his ‘professional’ baseball aspirations. He didn’t give up the game though, he continued to play tournament ball well into his 40’s, leading his teams for many winning seasons.

Dorlen loved his friends and his sports, but his biggest loves were his family. He married the former Joanne LaLone in 1949 and they raised 5 children together, Brent, Ralph, Ann Jeannine, Marty and Chris. In 1977, he married the former Betty Ann Jarmer Ferris. He lovingly welcomed Betty’s 4 children, Scott, Kelly, Kevin and Craig Ferris into the family. Dorlen and Betty enjoyed all types of activities including cards, board games, mall walking, golfing and seeing the world. They traveled to every state in the continental United States, making lasting memories and friends at every stop.

Dorlen is survived and is dearly missed by his sisters Joyce Lundberg, Zenita Buckel and brother Rod Groleau; children, Brent (Pat) Groleau, Ralph (Tina) Groleau, Ann Jeannine (Tony) Trotter, Scot (Jill) Ferris, Kelisue (Mick Southwell) Stachon, Kevin Ferris, and Craig Ferris; grandchildren, Kirt, Keri, Rick, Aimee, Ava, Andrew, Ryan, Dayton, Jim, Daniel, Sam, Sara, Amanda, Jason, Craig, Sean and many great grandchildren, nieces, and nephews.

Preceding him in death are his parents; his wife Betty Ann; his ex-wife Joanne; his brother Duane and sister Idalyn; his sons Marty and Chris and son-in-law Dale Stachon.

A memorial service will be held Sat., Oct. 16, 3:00 PM at Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home, visitation one hour prior to the service. A graveside service honoring Betty and Dorlen will take place Mon., Oct., 18, 10:00 AM, in Traverse City's Oakwood Cemetery.

Please share memories and condolences on Dorlen's tribute page at <http://www.reynolds-jonkhoff.com>

# Events

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**OCT**   **Memorial Service**   03:00PM  
**16**

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Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home  
305 Sixth St, Traverse City, MI, US, 49684

# Comments

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“ A webcast video has been added.



**Reynolds Jonkhoff Funeral Home & Cremation Services** - October 13 at 10:18 AM

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“ Heartfelt Reflection was purchased for the family of Dorlen Francis Groleau.



**Send Flowers** - October 16 at 10:40 AM

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“ Gray girls Nancy, Sharon, Susan and Carolyn. purchased Thoughts and Prayers for the family of Dorlen Francis Groleau.



**Send Flowers** - October 16 at 09:16 AM

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“ Joyous Garden was purchased for the family of Dorlen Francis Groleau.



**Send Flowers** - October 15 at 09:46 AM



“ Nebraska Groleau's. Aunt Betty; Nancy & Brent; Annette & Bob; Amber, Chris & Reese; Rachel, Chris, Grace, Claire & Tyler & (baby Henry). purchased Lantern Bouquet (Black) for the family of Dorlen Francis Groleau



**Send Flowers** - October 13 at 04:55 PM

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“ I actually met Lefty when he was a mall walker. I haven't worked in the mall for many years now but he would always say hello and give me a hug. I was beyond lucky to get to know him. Thoughts to the family and thank you for the lovely obituary. It gave me a background to him rest easy

**Kimberly** - October 12 at 07:28 PM

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“ My Grandpa!!! What can I say! I spent more time with this man than my own father. I put my hands in his back pockets, while he was tilling the garden, and cutting the grass. Followed him everywhere. I remember he would take me out to the garage, give me some boards, a hammer, and some nails. At age 5! Caught many fish. Killed some deer, and drank some whiskey! The lessons, and wisdom learned is priceless! Love you gramp!!!

**jason ferris** - October 12 at 07:22 PM

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“ My uncle Dorlen was always so much fun and always laughing. If you asked, he'd do things with you that my parents wouldn't allow, and never tell! We also shared the same birthday ,April 8th. Your humor and presence in this life will be greatly missed by many. Tell my dad hi!

**Janet** - October 12 at 06:52 PM



“ I met the Groleau's back in the 70's we played softball, and later golf. Lefty was a great athlete, he was always involved and around his boys he will be missed, my condolences to the family.

**ed norman** - October 12 at 08:01 PM



“ Lefty, my Dad Jack Anderson, and their friend Ray were long time friends and fishing buddies. Our parents were good friends of Lefty and Betty. They were two of the very nicest people! Hope they're enjoying a card game together once again.

**deb anderson kosowski** - November 01 at 09:52 PM