



## Russell "Fuzz" Kilmer

February 18, 2012

Russell Erwin Kilmer, age 85, passed away on Saturday, February 18, 2012 at his winter home in Harlingen, TX with family at his side. He was born March 23, 1926, in Wonewoc, WI to Charles and Emma (Piskey) Kilmer. On October 23, 1948 he married JoAnn Briggs in Wonewoc, Wisconsin.

As a young man Russ, known to some as Fuzz, was a mechanic and truck driver. He later began working in maintenance for Wisconsin Dairies Coop (now Foremost Foods) in Reedsburg and later transferred to Richland Center as the Maintenance Supervisor. He retired in 1992 and he and JoAnn began wintering in Harlingen, TX in 1994.

An avid fisherman, card player, hunter, and handyman, Russ spent the twilight years of life traveling with the woman he loved by his side. He was a kind, gentleman, soft-spoken with a wonderful sense of humor. Family and friends will miss him dearly, but know he has moved on to greater things.

He is survived by his beloved wife JoAnn and his 3 children: Steve Kilmer of Richland Center, Jill Johnson of Corpus Christi, TX, and David (Tammy) Kilmer of Rice Lake, WI. He had five grandchildren: Stacy, Katherine, Madeline Kilmer of Rice Lake, WI and Melissa Sillers of Corpus Christi, TX and Daniel (Lori) Johnson of San Antonio, TX and four great-grandchildren.

Funeral Services will be held on Friday, February 24, 2012 at 11:00 AM at St. John's Lutheran Church in Richland Center, Wisconsin with Pastor Ken Halstead officiating. Burial will be held in the Richland Center Cemetery. Visitation will be held on Thursday from 5:00-8:00 PM at the Clary Memorial Funeral Home in Richland Center, Wisconsin.

Memorial gifts may be directed to the American Heart Association or St. John's Lutheran Church in Richland Center, WI. On line condolences, life stories, & pictures can be made at [www.clarymemorialfuneralhome.com](http://www.clarymemorialfuneralhome.com)

# Tribute Wall

HF

“ *Kilmer Family,  
We moved to Richland Center in the spring of 2004 to East Preston Drive. We became friends through church. Then we looked them up in Harlingen, TX. Our friendships grew from there. Russ was a good neighbor, friend and easy to be around. He had such a dry sense of humor. There are two things that he use to say that will stick in our minds for ever; "Yes, JoAnne." He always talked about JoAnne and her worrying and he would say, "And she is very good at it!" We are going to miss him!" Harvey thought the world of him! May you find comfort in God's promise of eternal peace. May your memories give you peace and strength and comfort.*

*With love,  
Harvey and Gayle Pagel*

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**Harvey and Gayle Pagel - Emery, SD - Friends - February 26, 2012 at 12:00 AM**

RW

“ *TO JOANN AND FAMILY SORRY TO HERE OF RUSSELL  
PASSING.. WE WERE NEIGHBORS ON THE FARM RAY ANDRITA  
PETERSON*

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**RAY@RITA PETERSON - MIDDLETON, WI - OLD NEIGHBOR ON THE FARM ON  
WF - February 24, 2012 at 12:00 AM**

DN

“ *JoAnn and family, we were so sorry to hear of Russ's passing. You guys were great neighbors on Preston Drive. Russ always had a smile and a wave and quite often a story to tell. He will be missed.*

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**Dennis Tracy - Richland Center, WI - former neighbor - February 24, 2012 at  
12:00 AM**

CN

“ Dear Aunt JoAnn, Steve, Jill and David,

*Wishing you peace and comfort during this time.*

*I will always remember Uncle Fuzz with a sweet smile and kind heart.*

*With love to you all,  
Cathy*

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**Catherine Schroeder - Chicago, IL - niece - February 23, 2012 at 12:00 AM**

DG

“ I am lucky to have such a wonderful Grandpa. The times I spent with this man are easily some of the most cherished memories I have. He left a legacy with me that I will pass down to my children and grandchildren. He set the standard for what it means to be a good man in my eyes. He's an example of the difference a person can make in another's life.

I love my Grandpa. I'm not sad that he's no longer imprisoned in a body that's given him nothing but grief for the past few years. I always thought I'd loose it when this man left the mortal realm. But, I'm just happy for him. I was lucky enough to be by his side during his final days on Earth. Just as he did in life, he set an example for me as he passed. He had no regrets, no complaints, and was completely at peace with what was happening. He told me that he loved me and to never forget it. He told me that he'd always be with me in spirit. I know that extends to all of his loved ones.

I know that some of us are sad. But, let us remember that death is not to be feared. It's an inevitability and a beginning of something far better. With the kind of life that my Grandpa lived, I have no doubt that he received a warm reception in Heaven.

I hope our sadness will be swallowed up in the joy of knowing that he no longer suffers and has gone on to receive his reward. Let the passing of this wonderful man remind us to make every moment with our families and friends count and to live in such a way that we'll have no regrets at our passings.

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Daniel Johnson - San Antonio, TX - Grandson - February 23, 2012 at 12:00 AM

LN

“ Dear Aunt JoAnn, Steven, Jill and David~

*I am gratitude to God for Fuzz's life and the legacy he leaves. He lived a rich and full life, and I am blessed to have called him Uncle. His kind eyes and gentle spirit are what I so fondly remember about him. He is dearly loved and will be sorely missed.*

*Praying for the memories to comfort you and bring you peace and joy.*

*with love,  
Lisa*

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**Lisa Pittman - Carlsbad, CA - niece** - February 23, 2012 at 12:00 AM

AN

“ Aunt JoAnn, Steve, Jill & David:

*When I think of Uncle Fuzz I just have to smile. What a wonderful man!  
All of the family gatherings with the laughter and card games. What memories we have. At this difficult time please try to remember the fun and laughter we had and that he is now playing cards and hunting turkey with all those who have gone before him. You will be in my thoughts and prayer in the days ahead with our deepest sympathy. Bob & Amy Clyde*

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**Amy (Kilmer) Clyde - Reedsburg, WI - Niece** - February 23, 2012 at 12:00 AM

LN

“ Dear Aunt Joann, Steve, Jill & David,

*I will always remember Uncle Fuzz's kindness, gentle nature and soft voice. He loved his family and always had a smile on his face. He will be missed.*

*Love you all, Leslie*

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**Leslie - Whitefish Bay, WI - niece** - February 22, 2012 at 12:00 AM

NW

“ Sorry to hear of Fuzz's passing. I will always remember him as our school bus driver at Wonewoc H.S. He was one of the best. How he ever got us through those snow drifts and mud holes and still got us to school on time, is beyond me. For many years I didn't know what became of Fuzz and when we moved to Muscodia, happened to run across him and Joanne in R. C. I always enjoyed chatting with them whenever we crossed paths at Wal-Mart, etc.

*Our thoughts and prayers are with you Joanne, and your family. God Bless.*

*Norma & Ed Stackman*

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**Norma Brandt Stackman - Muscodia, WI** - February 22, 2012 at 12:00 AM

PF

“ May you find peace on the other side of sorrow.  
May you find comfort on the other side of loss.  
And most of all, may you find in this sad farewell, that love lives on in the memories of the heart. We will miss him.

*With Deepest Sympathy*

*Phil & Kathy Kucher*

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**phil kucher - Wonewoc, WI - Friends** - February 22, 2012 at 12:00 AM

PS

“ Jo Ann and family I am truly sorry for your loss. Although I didnt know Russell personally I know Dave and I have to think he got his values from both of his parents. As I have passed on messages of when my father died 13 years ago dont forget to also remember the times of disagreement because it makes the times of fun seem 1000 times better and the stories even funnier. Again my prayers are with you all.

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**Philip Schlosser** - February 21, 2012 at 12:00 AM

LF

“ Iam sorry for your lose. he was a great person. he work with my dad.

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**linda k. dieter - Gotham, WI - friend** - February 21, 2012 at 12:00 AM

KF

“ Dear Kilmer family,

*As stated in the obituary, I remember Fuzz as soft-spoken. I feel this is an admirable attribute of a true gentleman, or any human dealing with life, in like manner.*

*Joann, Steve, Jill and David, you are in my thoughts. I'am so glad to have seen Fuzz, you Joann, and Jill at your home in Richland Center.*

*It was a very pleasant day. David, fun sharing "entertainment" with you at the reunion.*

*Please duplicate and continue on Fuzz's demeanor.*

*Sincerely,*

*Kent DehlerL*

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**Kent Dehler - Wonewoc, WI - neighbor and friend** - February 21, 2012 at 12:00 AM

SF

“ JoAnn,

*I have been blessed getting to know and spend time with you and Russ in Texas. I will treasure the good times we had. I trust God will help you through the coming days. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.*

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**Sue New - Bedford, IN - Friend** - February 20, 2012 at 12:00 AM

LJ

“ JoAnn, My prayers are with you and your family. I'm sending you a hug until I see you. Travel safe. Take comfort in knowing Russ is resting safe in the arms of our Lord and Savior.

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**Linda Peterson - Richland Center, WI - friend of JoAnn's** - February 20, 2012 at 12:00 AM

BF

“ JoAnn we are so sorry to hear about Russ. Please know you and your family will be in our thoughts and prayers in the days ahead.  
Bruce and Sharry

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**Bruce and Sharry Jacobson - Louisville, KY - friend of the family** - February 20, 2012 at 12:00 AM

PF

“ I have had the honor and pleasure of knowing the KILMER family all of my life. David and I shared many adventures together growing up and I will always remember "FUZZ" aa a super nice guy!

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**Paul Schubring - Williston, FL - friend of family** - February 20, 2012 at 12:00 AM

KF

“ Jo Ann and family:  
Sadened to get the news about Russ while we are in Oro Valley, AZ. We will not be back for the funeral. Our thoughts and prayers are with you. We will be leaving a memorial to St. John's in Russ's memory.

God Bless,  
Keith and Dottie

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**Keith and Dottie Behling - Richland Center, WI - Friend** - February 20, 2012 at 12:00 AM