

Karl William FRESE Sr.



FRESE, Karl William Sr.

As our family released balloons in honor of our

father, grand- father and great- grand-father, our hearts were full of love, gratitude and overwhelming sadness. We watched them disappear into the heavens heading for a glorious celebration. Our Lord took Karl and placed him in the arms of the love of his life, Mary Ann, Saturday, June 26, 2010. Joining them were his parents,

Joseph and Josephine; brother, Frederick; sisters, Josephine Boyle, Margaret Fernandez and Sister Mary Josephine O.S.F. What a reunion! What a party! Karl, the youngest child, was born in Tampa, May 7, 1921, and raised in Ybor City, Fla. He was a 1938 graduate and senior class president of Tampa College, which is now known as Jesuit High School. Raised during the Great Depression, his life of sacrifice and service began at an early age. He was offered a scholarship to Loyola University to pursue a career in broadcasting, but he was needed at home to help support his family and declined the opportunity. He then became a welder at the Tampa Shipyard. Several years later, he met his Mary Ann and they married May 3, 1942. They celebrated their 61st wedding anniversary two days prior to her death. Although they were no longer together, their love story never ended. As a member of the "greatest generation," he was called to serve his country and did so proudly and honorably. He joined the U.S. Navy and spent the majority of his tour in Okinawa. Returning home he joined the Tampa Police Department. He became director of safety education, which included the Driver's Education, Bicycle Safety and School Safety Patrol programs. He was instrumental in establishing Safety Village at Lowry Park. Through the years, he escorted hundreds of students on annual trips to Washington, D.C., and Silver Springs, Fla., as a reward for their participation in the safety patrol program. During the course of their lives his children have come in contact with some of these students who recognized the Frese name and remembered him with great affection and appreciation. After retiring from TPD, he joined the Public Defender's office as an investigator and chief investigator. He was also a court translator for both departments, fluent in Spanish, Italian and German. At the time of his second retirement, he had served over 40 years in law enforcement. Karl was honest, hardworking and selfless. He asked nothing for himself. His life's work was providing for and taking care of his family. He worked many extra hours primarily at venues such as school sports games, dances, and parades, where he could still be with his family. He was a deeply religious man and his family and church were the center of his life. People were drawn to him and always commented on his terrific sense of humor and keen mind. He was so easy to love! "He was our big teddy bear. A strong but gentle man, his arms wrapped around us made us feel so loved and so safe. We already miss those earthy hugs

but we know those loving arms will always be around us." Karl was a devout Catholic and member of The Church of The Incarnation. Karl was "Daddy" to Charlotte Grillo (Al), with whom he resided, Dr. Karl W. Frese Jr. (Norma) of Santa Clara, Calif., Elizabeth Crowell (Dr. Bruce) of St. Petersburg, Fla., Natalie Frese (Glenn Davis) of Tampa. He was "Poppie" to grandchildren, Al Grillo (Cynthia), Donald Cornett Jr., Carla Cornett, Kimberly Tarmann, Cynthia Vandeford (Ben), Karl Frese III, and great grandchildren; Hailee Cornett, Alina Grillo, Michelle, Audrey, Steven, Adam Tarmann, Wren Vandeford, Tiana, Scarlet, Amorina and Jaylen Frese. He is also survived by numerous nieces, nephews and cousins. Visitation will take place 6-8 p.m Friday, July 2, 2010, at Marsicano Funeral Home, 4040 Henderson Blvd., Tampa. A funeral Mass will be offered at 11 a.m., Saturday, July 3, 2010, at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church, 1711 11th Ave., Tampa, with graveside services to follow at Myrtle Hill Memorial Park. Serving as pallbearers will be Al Grillo Jr., Donald Cornett Jr., Frank Fernandez Jr., Garry Boyle, Joseph Boyle, Thomas Boyle, Glenn Davis and Ross McGillivray. Honorary pallbearers include John Frese, Michael Frese, Ernest Acebal, Jack Ritcherson, Barney Rackley, David Cameron and Dr. Frank Spain. After the services, a celebration of his life will take place at the Grillo home. Flowers will be accepted or donations to a charity of your choice.



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