



## Morris I. Friedman

October 20, 1919 - February 17, 2017

Morris Friedman of Warren, Ohio passed away late Friday afternoon on February 17, 2017 at St. Elizabeth Hospital in Youngstown. He was 97. Mr. Friedman was born on October 20, 1919 in Vapenik, Czechoslovakia, the son of Abraham and Sarah Friedman. He was one of eight children--four sisters and three brothers, all of whom are deceased. When he was 15 years old, Morris fled the impending Nazi occupation of Czechoslovakia and came to the United States in 1934. His parents and two younger brothers would later die in the Nazi concentration camps. In the United States, Morris lived with relatives in the Bronx, worked in his uncle's neighborhood grocery store and went to night school to learn English and to study and earn his American citizenship. He moved to Cleveland a year later, where he worked at a steel warehouse and fabricator owned by his uncles. Morrie served his country in an Army tank division during World War II, volunteering to go overseas and into harm's way when he could've remained stateside, safe and sound. Upon returning home, Morris married the love of his life, Phyllis Kaiser, on August 19, 1945. It was a beautiful love affair that lasted for 71 years. After the war, Morris and Phyllis established a home in Warren, and he returned to the steel business. Morris worked his way up the ladder, from message boy to metal worker to supervisor, then into the managerial ranks, rising to become company president of Allied Metals in Niles, Ohio, and then, in 1968, founded his own company, United Steel Service, also known as Uniserv, in Brookfield, OH. Under Morris's leadership, the company became one of the nation's largest steel-slitting plants. Nobody knew the steel business like Morrie Friedman. He could look at a piece of steel from 100 yards away and tell exactly where it was made, what mill that it came from, and the gauge. He was a tough but honest businessman, earning the respect and admiration of his employees as well as his peers in the American steel industry. He earned himself a national reputation, and was invited to play golf at Augusta National Country Club, home of the Masters, by the president of US Steel, the largest steel company in the country in its day. He also played golf with Arnold Palmer. Morrie Friedman was the epitome of the American success story. He came to this country with little more than the shirt on his back and ended up living the American Dream. His book "Morrie: Only In America" co-written with his son Steven, was published in 2014 and is currently available through Amazon. Morrie never forgot where he came from, and wanted

to share his success by giving back to the community. He and Phyllis donated \$2.5 million to establish an Engineering Chair at Youngstown State University. He also established the Stroke Trauma unit at St. Elizabeth Hospital, where ironically he ended up spending his final hours. Morris Friedman gave money to an untold number of hospitals, organizations, causes and charities that he believed strongly in. He changed the lives of those who were fortunate enough to be recipients of his generosity. And he did all of it quietly and without fanfare, never wanting to call attention to himself. Morris Friedman was among the most humble people you would ever want to meet. He was a proud Jew, and an ardent supporter of the State of Israel, both spiritually and financially. He also was a big contributor to the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation, as well as to the Jewish Federation in Boca Raton, Florida. Morris was a long-standing member and supporter of Rodef Sholom Synagogue Youngstown, Ohio. He was the proud father of his son, Steven, who took over the company business at United Steel Service. He was a wonderful uncle to his many nieces and nephews. After his beloved wife of 71 years passed away last September, Morrie not only lost the love of his life, but the better part of himself as well. He never recovered from the loss of Phyllis, and surely died of a broken heart. Morrie Friedman will be missed by all the members of his family whom he loved dearly, his many friends who loved him, and all those whose lives he touched with his wisdom, compassion and generosity. A private burial was held in Columbus at the New Tifereth Israel cemetery, on Sunday, February 19. May this great pioneer, one of the last surviving members of the Greatest Generation, rest in peace. Steven, the last remaining member of Morris's immediate family would like to extend his heartfelt gratitude to Lisa Barass, who was his caregiver and took wonderful care of both his parents until their passing. Kim Scott who assisted Lisa, Attorney Jay Skolnick of Brouse McDowell who not only was Morris's dearest friend but has so faithfully guided the Friedman family for so many years, Rabbi Frank Muller who's spiritual and most appreciated involvement steadied the family, and finally Mr. Patrick O'Connor of O'Connor, Hosos & Loree, LLC who's invaluable friendship and financial guidance was so important. All of these people and others, too numerous to mention should know that they were and still are so greatly appreciated. Contributions in his memory may be made to: Fisher Center for Alzheimer's Research Foundation, 110 East 42nd Street – 16th Floor, New York City, NY 10017 (800)259-4636, Alzheimer's Foundation of America, 322 8th Avenue -7th Floor, New York City, NY 10001 (866)232-8484 or American Diabetes Association, 2451 Crystal Drive, Suite 900, Arlington, VA 22202 1-800-DIABETES (800-342-2383)

# Cemetery

---

# Events

---

**New Tifereth Israel Cemetery FEB**

2565 Performance Way

Columbus, OH, 43207

**19**

**Graveside Service**

12:30PM

---

New Tifereth Israel Cemetery

2565 Performance Way, Columbus, OH, US, 43207

# Comments

---



“ Dear Steven,  
Though we haven't met I wanted to express my condolences to you. Morrie welcomed me with open arms to the "family". When Lisa Barrass (my mother in law) introduced me to your father we had an instant connection. His pride in Judaism translated into his genuine interest in my story. We spoke of Israel and my upbringing there. I would send him a specialty Israeli bread, prepared at my NY restaurant that Lisa would cook for him in Ohio. His life story fascinated me. Your parents love for each other was always present. Their hospitality when I visited them in Ohio or Florida was heartfelt. I still have a set of his old golf clubs given to me with the intention of me learning the game. His passing is a great loss for everyone.  
All my best,  
Daniel Amir  
917-749-8266



Daniel Amir - March 06, 2017 at 03:29 PM

---



“ Dear Steven,  
I am so sorry to learn of the loss of your beloved father. I can only imagine the grief you must be feeling having lost both your parents so close together. May you find peace in the memories that you shared with them; and remember the joy they brought to your life.  
Pat Fuller

pat fuller - March 01, 2017 at 05:40 PM

---



“ I had many fond memories of Morrie and his beloved wife Phyllis when I was a server at Squaw Creek Country Club in the late 70's and early 80's. I remember his favorite dish was boiled chicken with celery and carrots! At that time I was working three jobs to earn my degree at YSU. He always encouraged me to work hard and that I would achieve my goals. His words of encouragement have always remained in my heart. I did reach my goals and worked in the Engineering Dept at YSU. His legacy lives on through his generosity to establish the Engineering Chair at YSU. The world is a better place because of Morrie Friedman, his generosity, hard work ethic, human kindness has touched many lives. God Rest Your Soul  
Brenda Petrosky Crouse

**Brenda M Crouse** - March 01, 2017 at 02:51 PM

---



“ Nobody had a greater zest for life than Morrie Friedman and it's hard to imagine a world without him. He will always be remembered for his kindness, generosity, and humility. I have fond memories of the many rounds of golf we played with each other and the passion he displayed in everything he did. I am honored to have been his friend.

Marty White

**Marty White** - March 01, 2017 at 06:36 AM

---



“ Stephen, Our Many Thoughts and Prayers are with you as you suffer the great loss of your Father.

Bill and Jeri Henkel



**Jeri Henkel** - February 28, 2017 at 10:29 AM

---



“ Stephen, Our Many Thoughts and Prayers are with you as you suffer the great loss of your Father.

Bill & Jeri Henkel



**Henkel** - February 28, 2017 at 10:15 AM

---



“ Steven....My heart goes out to you on your loss. Your dad was a great human being, and it was a privilege and honor to have been his friend. I'll never forget the night at the Living Room, where on the back of a cocktail napkin, we made the decision to buy Uniserv back, and set the offering price.

I am confident that you will maintain his exceptional legacy. God Bless You.

George W. Papp

**George W. Papp** - February 28, 2017 at 09:18 AM



“ Steven,  
You have our most sincere condolences on the recent loss of your mother and now your father.

Dr. and Mrs. Artemio Dangaran

**Marjorie Dangaran** - March 03, 2017 at 10:26 AM

---



“ May his memory always be a blessing.

Ben & Mary Beth Zacks

**Benjamin S. Zacks** - February 18, 2017 at 05:31 PM