



## Charles Franz

October 4, 1936 - November 28, 2025

Charles Ray Franz, 89 of Sterling Heights, MI passed away on November 28, 2025 in his home, surrounded by family. Born October 4, 1936 in Detroit, Michigan to Ruth A. Corbett and Charles H. Franz. He was a devoted husband, to, and survived by Margaret Franz and a loving father to Denise, Carolyn, Chuck and Diane, grandfather to Donald, David, Regina, Angela, Ryan, Shane, Lindsey, Cherie, Nick, and Sophia, great grandfather to Alexis, Isabella, Amelia and Gianna. Predeceased his sister Janet Mae Stirling Allen. Survived also by his brother Roy James Franz.

Charles started his career as a young man gaining experience as a Detroit News paperboy, bagger at Tom's Super Market, and Soda jerk, learning how to make the best malts and floats around (per his family) He then obtained a position at Chrysler Corp in 1953 as a mail boy and from there started climbing the manufacturing corporate ladder into the parts deck depot.

He soon became the Local Union President. He was voted in for a second term due to his negotiating skills. Much of his career with Chrysler was spent in Labor Relations at Lynch Road Assembly. He was known for advocating union workers' rights, improving labor conditions and better labor practices, while using his ability to negotiate. His career then took him to Dodge Truck, where he worked his way up to superintendent of the paint shop. He then retired from Chrysler and was contracted by General Motors as a paint area

manager of the Pontiac East and West plants. He assisted the paint processes successfully, which allowed General Motors to acquire the JD Power award for paint quality.

Once Charles entered retirement, he enjoyed being outside in the garden all day. He was also intrigued by trains of all sizes, from actual trains to becoming an HO series train collector. He also collected model planes and automobiles, and movies on VHS and DVD. Anyone in need of a movie, we have it.

Charles was a people person and empathetic to the needs of others. He created a welcoming environment where family, friends and other guests would visit. He always offered them something to drink and had different beverages available for visitors. He had a great sense of humor, magnetic personality, and loved his family.

Charles lived at home with Margaret and suffered dementia for the last 10 or more years. His daughters have assisted Margaret with his care for the last four years. On October 17, 2025 he fell and hit his head on the tile floor at home, causing a neck fracture, needing surgery. Through rehab, another hospital visit and being released to a hospital bed at home November 17, it was noticeable he was in decline and eventually passed peacefully.

We find comfort in knowing he is with the Lord now. Love you!

In lieu of flowers, please direct any donations to the family to help reduce unexpected funeral costs.

# Cemetery Details

**Private Service**

## Previous Events

### Visitation

DEC 7. 3:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Mandziuk & Son Funeral Directors, Inc. - Sterling Heights  
3801 18 Mile Road  
Sterling Heights, MI 48314  
(586) 997-3838

### Instate

DEC 8. 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM (ET)

Mandziuk & Son Funeral Directors, Inc. - Sterling Heights  
3801 18 Mile Road  
Sterling Heights, MI 48314  
(586) 997-3838

### Funeral Service

DEC 8. 10:30 AM (ET)

Mandziuk & Son Funeral Directors, Inc. - Sterling Heights  
3801 18 Mile Road  
Sterling Heights, MI 48314  
(586) 997-3838

# Tribute Wall

LT

“ Love Pam, Scott, Gary, and Shirley Telly purchased the Sweet Snacks Gift Crate for the family of Charles Franz.



Love Pam, Scott, Gary, and Shirley Telly - December 08, 2025 at 06:28 PM

JF

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Judy Franz - December 02, 2025 at 08:26 PM

JF

Chuck meeting his 5th great grandchild. Sending condolences to the family. Even though it's been years since I last saw Chuck, I'll always remember his quick wit and our playful banter.

Judy Franz - December 02, 2025 at 08:33 PM

SK

“ 1 file added to the album Charles



Steve Kranson - December 02, 2025 at 12:26 PM

SK

*Charles with my Dad, Bob Kranson. Best buds and neighbors in Eastpointe and Sterling Heights for many years, reunited again*

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**Steve Kranson** - December 02, 2025 at 12:30 PM