

Terry Housler

July 28, 1942 - January 14, 2013



Terry's Life Story

A giant of a man, Terry Housler had a big heart that matched his loving and outgoing stature. The driving force behind Terry's full and rewarding life was his quick thinking, and strong work ethic. Once he set his mind to something, he saw it through to completion, yet his greatest endeavor was being a kind and loving man to the family he loved. Deeply missed, his legacy continues on.

Terry was born on July 28, 1942 in Lansing, Michigan to Gale and Katherine (Ensley) Housler. The U.S. was in the midst of World War II, and days were filled with the sacrifices of battle. On the home front, young men not in uniform danced the night away with their saddle-shoed sweethearts, or took in a picture show like Cagney's, "Yankee Doodle Dandy". With many men off to war, women entered the work force in droves. It was a trying time of sacrifice, yet a time like no other.

Born and raised in Lansing, Terry was the oldest of his siblings, and from a young age discovered his love of fishing. Although they loved him very much, Terry lived in foster care for the first 13 years of his life, and was lovingly cared for by Stan and Ila Biblack who raised him. He was an outgoing and fun-loving young man.

Terry had a wanderlust spirit and when he had a dream, he clearly went after it. After the tenth grade, he left home and became a meat cutter. Even at that age, Terry was well versed socially and was quite a personable young man. So much so that he even negotiated a higher rate of pay. He was an extremely hard worker, but while others were paid by the hour, Terry convinced his employer to pay him per cow. At three per day, he did quite well for himself and it was truly the beginning of his entrepreneurship nature which would continue for the rest of his days.

Young and in love, at the age of 17 Terry married Shirley Joseph. They soon began a family of their own, and in time welcomed seven children into their hearts. For a time they made their home in Lansing, and in 1969 moved to the town of Coldwater.

Along with being a butcher and working at the Fisher Body Plant, Terry found time to coach youth sports for his kids. Always the hard worker, he'd do anything to provide for his family and make a good home for them. At one point he bought a Tasty Freeze establishment, and on Sundays hauled garbage with a truck he bought. He loved letting the kids ride with him, but they had to be at least five years old. He





also owned a heating and cooling company, a hardware store, and a pool company! He was no less a work alcoholic!

In 1973, Terry and Shirley divorced, and in 1975 he moved to the Kalamazoo area where he went to work for National Water Lift. Along with his friend, Butch Shearer, Terry bought Pappy's Restaurant in 1977 which he ran until 1983. Ever industrious, he also got his hands wet in real estate. Soon after earning his license, he began Real Estate Systems with his brother-in-law, John Thingsted, also until 1983 when Terry moved to Maui, Hawaii.

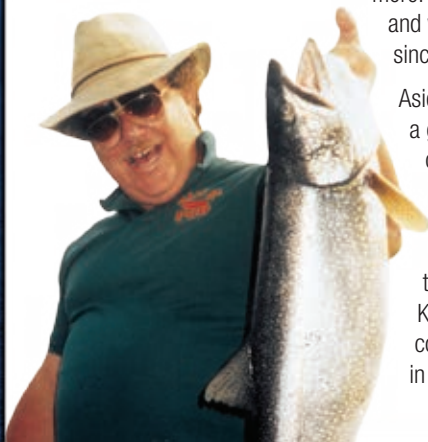
It was during this time when Terry found love again in the heart of Shohreh Jazayeri. They were married in June of 1978. In 1983, they picked up their lives and moved to beautiful Hawaii where he sold real estate and owned another restaurant. After leaving Maui in 1989, Terry and his family lived in New Zealand for the next 18 months. Although their marriage ended after 14 years, Terry was ever thankful for the two children they shared.

When his marriage ended, Terry returned to Kalamazoo. He thrived in business and did quite well for himself in the real estate market.

In March of 1990, he helped start the Main Street Pub as well as the University Road House. He mentored his sons, Tim and Chris in putting real estate deals together, and they now have 12 restaurants in all. Terry was unbelievable with real estate, and he had the track record to prove it.

Even though Terry loved being around the businesses, he also couldn't help but find time for his love of fishing, especially on Lake Michigan. He kept his boat in Pentwater, and loved going out to hook some salmon. When Terry retired at 55, he focused on fishing and playing golf. For four years he lived in Royal Palm Beach before moving back to Michigan due to health issues.

Returning home, Terry moved to the Climax area and lived on a private lake and fished all the time. He fished . . . caught a lot of fish, and fished even more. It brought peace to his heart, and was the one thing he so enjoyed since his earliest beginnings.



Aside from fishing, Terry liked a good game of cards, playing cribbage, dominos, and loved playing blackjack at the casinos. He also liked darts, and was quite active in implementing the beginning of a darts league in Kalamazoo in the 1980s. He loved country music, and liked indulging in a shot of VO and Heineken. A big



man with a big appetite, Terry was a meat and potatoes kind of guy. He ate slowly, and savored every morsel, but his favorite was to cook a hearty pot roast every Sunday afternoon.

Terry absolutely loved kids. He'd often joke by saying, "I don't like kids", after which he'd come out with the fact he had nine of his own. When working at one of his restaurants, he'd be sure to give five quarters back in change for a dollar so the kids had a quarter of their own, but that was just the kind of man Terry was, generous and kind. Terry traveled the world. He had

some hard knocks and many successes, but his family, by far, was his greatest treasure. He taught his kids to work hard, and play hard, and in so doing, his legacy lives on.

For the last three years, Terry grew accustomed to living at the Upjohn Nursing Home after suffering from dementia and several strokes. His special caregiver, Karen Stewart, helped greatly with his rehab, and provided him with loving care until the very end.

"Because their father listened to them, they knew they had something to say. Because he believed in them, they believed in themselves, because he said they could do anything, they did!"



Terry R. Housler, age 70, of Kalamazoo, died on Monday, January 14, 2013.

He was preceded in death by his parents, and grandson, Cameron Housler. Surviving are his nine children: Dan (Shannen) Housler, Teri Lynn (Bruce) Cook, Tim (Nicole) Housler, Chris (Erica) Housler, Kim (Rich) Mitchell, Tammy (Steve) Black, Kent (Jennifer) Housler, James (Liz) Housler, Jennifer (Ny) Robbins; 20 grandchildren, and a great-grand-daughter; two siblings: Cheryl Thingstad and Michael (Heike) Zimmerman; his first wife, Shirley Yaeger, and second wife, Shohreh Housler; many nieces and nephews.

Learn more about Terry, view his Life Story film, and share refreshments with his family and friends on Sunday, January 20, 2013 from 4-7 PM at the Life Story Funeral Home, Betzler-Kalamazoo; 6080 Stadium Dr., 375-2900 where services will be held Monday, January 21, 2013, 11:00 AM. A luncheon will follow in the Life Story Center. Please visit Terry's personal web page at www.lifestorynet.com where you can share a favorite memory, photo, and sign his memory book online before coming to the funeral home. Memorial donations may be directed to C.S. Mott Children's Hospital.

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