



## Edward Philip Skluzacek

September 20, 1925 - June 26, 2019

Skluzacek, Edward Philip "Ed" Age 93 of Richfield passed away June 26, 2019. Preceded in death by daughters Cheryl and Mary "Missy." Survived by loving wife of 69 years Lucille "Liz"; children Gayle (Alan Grupp) Skluzacek, Michael (Kim) Skluzacek and Joseph Skluzacek; grandchildren Betsey, Brad, Sara and Alisa. Retired 40 year Director at the Department of Weights and Measures for the State of Minnesota. Worked for his beloved Twins, Vikings and North Stars. Advocate for many organizations supporting the mentally challenged. Boy Scout leader for 30 years. Active member of St. Richard's Catholic Church. In lieu of flowers, memorials to The Trail ([ridetrail.org](http://ridetrail.org)). Mass of Christian Burial Monday, July 1 at 11:00 AM at St. Richard's Catholic Church, 7540 Penn Ave. S., Richfield. Visitation one hour prior to Mass at the church and also Sunday, June 30 4:00-6:00 PM at: [Washburn-McReavy.com](http://Washburn-McReavy.com) Werness Brothers 952-884-8145 2300 W. Old Shakopee Rd.

# Cemetery Details

## Fort Snelling National Cemetery

7601 34th Avenue South  
Minneapolis, MN 55450

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUN 30. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

Bloomington Chapel  
2300 W. Old Shakopee Road  
Bloomington, MN 55431  
(952) 884-8145  
info@washburn-mcreavy.com

## Visitation

JUL 1. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Richard's Catholic Church  
7540 Penn Avenue South  
Richfield, MN 55423

## Mass of Christian Burial

JUL 1. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

St. Richard's Catholic Church  
7540 Penn Avenue South  
Richfield, MN 55423



# Tribute Wall

DS

“ *S/Sgt Edward P. Skluzacek - Edward reported to the 493rd BG, at Debach, on 10 April 1945, as the Tail Gunner with the crew of LT Richard S. Kozlowski and was assigned to the 861st BS. Arriving too late to fly any combat missions, the crew did participate on 4 of the Chowhound Food Drop missions.*

*Provided to honor the memory of S/Sgt Edward P. Skluzacek*

*David Schmitt*

*Director, 493rd Bomb Group Association*

*493rd Bomb Group Historian*

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**David J Schmitt** - August 15, 2019 at 08:58 PM

“ Ed's story part 2 -

*In 1960, Missy was born. Missy had some developmental issues and was officially diagnosed as brain damaged in February 1962. Two weeks later, Joseph (soon to become the favorite child) was born with Down Syndrome.*

*About this time, the Minnesota Twins came to town. Opportunities for part-time employment at the Metropolitan Stadium were available. Ed, realizing (with the “coaxing” of Lucille) that his ball playing needed a hiatus, thought this would be a great opportunity to help fund the mounting costs of special needs education for his youngest children -- and to see the games. So, for the next twenty years, he worked nights and weekends for the Twins Vikings (he also worked for the North Stars) after completing a full day as a Weights and Measures Inspector.*

*Eventually, Ed was promoted to Director of the Department of Weights and Measures for the State of Minnesota and the Met was demolished. Not sure which came first, but Ed was down to one job. So, he thought this would be a good time to start volunteering – which he embraced wholeheartedly in support of Special Needs children and adults, his churches, and the homeless.*

*In support of Special Needs children and adults, starting on 1964, he volunteered at the Fraser School where he buffed floors weekly. In addition, as of the late 1960s, he worked with the Special Needs Boy Scout Troops -- becoming a co-leader in the 1990s. He was also on the Board of Trail – a Special Needs transportation group.*

*For his churches, during the 1960s, he served as an usher and President of the Men's Club at St. Kevin's. After moving to West Richfield in 1969, he served as Treasurer and an usher at St. Richards. He decades was active in the Knights of Columbus – often chairing the “Tootsie Roll” fund raising campaign. He also fed the homeless with the Loaves and Fishes organization.*

*Oh -- he did manage to get some bowling and (lots of) golf in now and then during this time.*

*Finally, reaching the age of 62 and ready to retire, the state would not let him go. Since he was involved with various important Federal Committees, including the committee to convert the US to the metric system, the State could not find a suitable replacement. So, he remained employed a few years longer than he intended before returning to the ball field in 1991 at the age of 65.*

*He was never happier.*

*In retirement, he helped organize a Richfield-Edina Senior Softball team which went on to play at the national championship several years. He also joined organized bowling and volleyball leagues through the cities of Richfield and Edina. When he was not playing sports, volunteering, or chauffeuring Missy and Joe to their events, you could find him with a bowl of Peanut M&Ms watching the Twins, Vikings, or North Stars on TV. He visited his Grandkids in Kentucky and Illinois every year -- and travelled to Europe and Florida. Every few months you might have caught him at the Black Jack table with his mother-in-law and a brandy.*

*This idyllic and highly active life continued until he was in his early 80s when he had a rotator cuff issue and then contracted a nasty case of Shingles. Physically, he had to slow down, but he never lost his love for sports – especially the Twins – and for Peanut M&Ms!*

*Ed lived a full life and so richly touched the lives of many others as a: war hero, devoted family man, accomplished public servant, volunteer to the needy, and sports activist. For all of us whose lives he has touched, he will be dearly missed.*

*Rest in peace Dad.*

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**Gayle Skluzacek** - July 09, 2019 at 07:17 AM

“ Ed's story -

*Edward Phillip Skluzacek was the youngest son of Emma (Vosepjka) and Joseph Skluzacek born on September 20, 1925 in Ogilvie, Minnesota. His brothers Robert “Bobby” (1914-2000) and Lawrence “Ollie” (1922-2000) -- as well as his sister Eleanor “Ellie” (1919-1999) -- would say he was the favorite child and spoiled rotten!*

*The Skluzacek family were pioneers in the oil and gas business in south central Minnesota. The depression caused the family to lose parts of their business and in the early 1930s Joseph decided to move his family of four children to the Czech settlement of Lonsdale, Minnesota. Joseph had family in Lonsdale, including the local parish priest. In Lonsdale, Joseph owned and operated several Standard Oil gas stations.*

*“Eddie,” as his family called him, attended the local Catholic School at the Church of the Immaculate Conception in Lonsdale. He attended classes through his sophomore year when he transferred to New Prague High School to play sports, mainly baseball. He was a good student - ranking in the top 3 of his classes through school. He had aspirations of being a doctor - after a career in the baseball, of course.*

*Eddie was a boy wonder on the ball field. He played second base and the outfield, and he was a power hitter. He was an all - star on the local Lonsdale team as well as the New Prague team. He was scouted by the pros and drafted by a farm team for the St. Louis Browns. However, love of country won out and he opted to enlist with his two best friends for the US Army Air Corps where they all wanted to be pilots. He enlisted on his 18th birthday in 1943.*

*Ed was the only one of his buddies to pass the Air Corps physical. After basic training, he was sent to Brownwood Army Airfield where they trained combat crews for overseas replacement. Due to a stigmatism in his right eye, Ed was unable to pursue flight school.*

*Instead, he trained in the inflight firing of .50 caliber machine guns and bomb release. He flew with 493rd Bomb Group, 861st Squadron in the European Theatre. He officially retired with the rank of Sergeant in May 1949.*

*In 1946, while home on leave, he casually met Lucille Hartmann -- a sassy farm girl from the nearby town of New Market -- at a dance. No sparks! A few years went by, and, in the meantime, Lucille moved to the city and broke a few hearts.*

*Eddie returned to Lonsdale where he worked in the family business and continued to play town ball, bringing championships to Lonsdale for several years. He graduated from Dunwoody Academy with a degree in auto mechanics with the intent to take over the family business. In 1948, he ran into Lucille. This time, sparks! After a short engagement, they married on November 18, 1950.*

*Lucille, a stubborn German, moved to the all Czech town of Lonsdale where Ed worked in construction for his uncle during the day and at night ran the local beer joint owned by another uncle. Ed and his young bride were given free rent in exchange for running the tavern. Here their first two children were born - Cheryl and Gayle.*

*Lucille, a force to reckon with, encouraged Ed to leave Lonsdale and move to the big city. The young family rented a bungalow on Bryant Avenue in South Minneapolis. Ed got a job working for the Minnesota Department of Weights and Measures in 1954 where he travelled throughout the state checking the calibration of scales. Ed continued to play baseball with the Lonsdale team and other local leagues to Lucille's chagrin: Lucille wanted him at home - not home plate!*

*About a year later, thanks to a government loan, Ed and Lucille bought their first home in the Richfield community of New Ford's Town. A few months later in 1956, Michael (finally a ballplayer after two girls) was born. Ed continued to work hard for the State and*

*play harder on the ball field. Lucille gave up!*

**Gayle Skluzacek** - July 09, 2019 at 07:15 AM

GS

“ 1 file added to the album Edward Skluzacek



**Gayle Skluzacek** - July 09, 2019 at 06:04 AM

GS

“ 1 file added to the album Edward Skluzacek



**Gayle Skluzacek** - July 09, 2019 at 06:03 AM

GS

“ 3 files added to the album Edward Skluzacek



**Gayle Skluzacek** - July 09, 2019 at 06:01 AM

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“ Sincerest condolences from all of the volunteers at the 493rd BG Museum, Debach, England.

*Edward served as a gunner on B-17's at the end of WWII with the 493rd BG.*

*He participated in the "Operation Chowhound" food missions, dropping supplies to the starving Dutch population.*

*Rest in Peace*

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**493rd BG Museum, Debach, England - July 04, 2019 at 02:21 PM**