



Guy Stern

January 14, 1922 - December 7, 2023

GUY STERN, 101, of West Bloomfield, died 12/7/2023. He was the beloved husband of Susanna Stern (Piontek) and father of the late Mark Stern, cherished cousin twice removed of Mario and Claudio Stern (Germany) and Renee Gelfer (Switzerland) and her family. Born in Hildesheim/Germany in 1922, Guy emigrated to St. Louis, Missouri in 1937. His entire family was lost in the Holocaust.

Guy entered the U.S. Army and became a part of a secret military intelligence branch, which served in the European Theater of Operations. As one of the so-called Ritchie Boys, Master Sgt. Stern received a Bronze Star for exceptional service and for innovation of successful interrogation techniques. At war's end Guy resumed his studies, obtaining his Bachelor of Arts from Hofstra University and his Masters and PhD from Columbia University. The majority of his career was spent teaching at several universities in the U.S. and in Germany as Professor of German studies. He is the founder of the Academy of Scholars at WSU. From 2003 to 2022 Guy worked at the Zekelman Holocaust Center in Farmington Hills, MI, for many years as the Director of the International Institute for the Righteous. He continued to make speeches warning of the threat of rising bigotry, hatred, and anti-semitism in the United States and Germany. Guy received many honors, including honorary PhDs, the Goethe Medal of Germany, and the Medal of the Legion of Honor in France.

Private services and a funeral with military honors were held at Great Lakes

National Cemetery in Holly, MI. Instead of sending flowers or gifts, contributions may be made to the Guy Stern Endowment Fund in Exile and Holocaust Studies at Wayne State University, Fund Office, 5700 Cass Ave., Suite 1200, Detroit, MI 48202 (memo line in check: Guy Stern/CLAS #060235 or call 1-800-WSU-GIVE), Temple Shir Shalom, W.Bloomfield, Congregation T'Chiyah, Ferndale, or The Zekelman Holocaust Center, Farmington Hills. Arrangements by Dryer Funeral Home in Holly.

Cemetery Details

Great Lakes National Cemetery

4200 Belford Rd.
Holly, MI 48442

Tribute Wall

HK

“ I just learned of Dr. Stern's passing. I was a student of his between 1990 and 1995 at Wayne State University. He was one of my favorite professors and I remember his class like it was yesterday. He encouraged me to strive for more and was a cherished mentor and instructor for me. He definitely made an impact on my life. Rest in Peace Dr. Stern. Heidi (Rehner) Koerner

Heidi Koerner - March 08, 2024 at 05:56 PM

DF

“ I had the honor of meeting Guy at one of his talks that he gave a few years ago. He was real American hero. RIP Master Sgt. Stern.

Dale Feigley Highland, MI

Dale Feigley - December 14, 2023 at 03:15 PM

JM

“ Guy Stern was my immediate superior at Wayne State University in the late 1970s, when I served as Dean of the School of Business Administration. Guy was an outstanding leader. It was an honor and a pleasure to work with him. I send my condolences to Mrs. Stern, and to all Guy's relatives and friends.

*John G. Maurer
Emeritus Professor
Wayne State University*

John G. Maurer - December 14, 2023 at 02:36 PM

MD

“ I first met Guy about five years ago at the Yankee Air Museum when he was giving a talk on his early life and war years. I subsequently became his driver for meetings with the AFIO(Association for Former Intelligence Officer). On those trips to and from AFIO meeting I learned more about some of his experiences that he did not put in his several books. He is very sorely missed by all the members of the AFIO, He was like a father figure to all of us in the AFIO. Maj James Dresbach CAP-USAF.

Maj James Dresbach - December 12, 2023 at 02:16 PM

HJ

“ Guy has been in my life perhaps even before I was bon. He was a close friend of my father, Kurt Jasen. Guy was in Kurt's unit of Richey boys who interrogated captured German soldiers in WWII. They stayed friends throughout my father's life. Guy and his then wife, Margie, were often guests at our home and they regularly took me to Yankee games when I was a child. We saw each other from time to time when I had occasion to visit Cincinnati. We saw each other later in Germany when Guy was there to talk about his experiences and I was there on family business. He was a cherished friend. An hour with Guy always lit up my life for weeks.

Henry Jasen - December 12, 2023 at 11:41 AM

RS

“ My cherished friend, colleague, and mentor of 52 years, Guy Stern, died on December 7th, five weeks before his 102nd birthday. Guy enjoyed a long, rich, productive life despite the trauma of the Holocaust in his early life. He was an incredibly kind, generous, brilliant, joyful man with a wonderful sense of humor and a winning smile. He was a real Mensch.

A truly remarkable, internationally respected and beloved teacher and scholar, Guy made a difference in so many lives throughout the decades. I will miss him as will all others who were privileged to know him—near and far, across the globe. The world has lost a “Stern/star,” a special treasure. But his light will continue to shine brightly in the minds and hearts of all those whose lives he touched.

Thinking of you, Susanna. May Guy’s memory always be a blessing to all who knew and loved him. Baruch Dayan Ha’emet.

Roslyn Abt Schindler

Roslyn Schindler - December 12, 2023 at 08:49 AM

SG

“ Guy was a scholar whom we admired but more - a friend to both Marina and myself. He was a presence in our lives even when we rarely saw him. May his memory be a blessing. It is for us. Marina and Sander Gilman

Sander Gilman - December 10, 2023 at 04:25 PM