

Patriot

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"His long-time friend Jerry Yono, owner of the Southfield Funeral Home, said Kory loved kids and did a great deal to help them. "When I was a kid I worked for him in his store on Linwood for about five years," Yono said. "I learned a lot of good things from him. He was very patient and the type of person who never made enemies. He loved people."

"A lot of the young kids who had worked for him before he retired came to his funeral to honor him because of how nice he had been to them," Yono continued.

"Kory loved sports and played and later coached youngsters in baseball. He also was a top bowler."

Julia Hakim of Beverly Hills, who grew up knowing Kory, described him as "a jolly person, very outgoing and always there to help, but always in a silent way."

Because of his ties to the Chaldean-American community and his American military service, newspaper and TV reporters frequently interviewed Kory during the Persian Gulf War.

Kory told interviewers it was a very difficult time for him. His wife had two sisters still living in Iraq and five of her nephews were serving in the Iraqi army. At the same time the Korys had nephews serving with U.S. troops in Saudi Arabia. "Cousins against cousins," he was quoted as saying. He believed the war against Saddam Hussein was justified, but he mourned for all the troops, he said.

Kory was a member of Mother of God Catholic Church in Southfield where hundreds turned out for his funeral Wednesday.

A U.S. Navy Honor Guard gave him a full military burial ceremony at the cemetery. "He had the whole nine yards," said Yono, "he

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*Jerry Yono
funeral home owner*

would have loved it. It was very touching."

In the years since his retirement, Kory "held court" daily at Hellenie Coney Island at 12 Mills and Evergreen, said Jalaba. "He sat there and people would come in and talk with him. He'd talk about the war and baseball and people just loved it. He was a kind of celebrity there."

One of the things he was especially proud of was a lunch with President Ronald Reagan. He was invited for a White House visit in 1985 after writing to Reagan about his Iwo Jima experience.

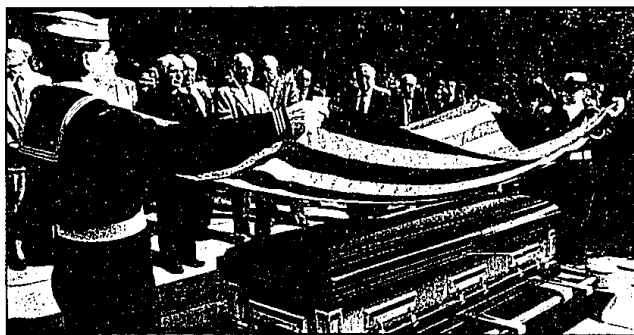
Kory had had big plans for himself to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II in 1995. "His daughter found a letter he had written to Mike Ilitch, owner of the Red Wings and Detroit Tigers," said Jalaba. "He was asking to sing the National Anthem at the opening games of both teams that year. He wasn't a professional singer, but he said he was going to practice."

Kory is survived by his wife, Georgette; a daughter, Tamara Kory of Farmington Hills; a brother Eddie Kory of Detroit; and two sisters, Daley Jalaba and Mary Naimen, both of Southfield.

Kory was a member of Knights of Columbus Council 3869 of Southfield.



Funeral: Top: Nieces Marelene Kory and Mary Ann Yono were among the hundreds to attend Seymour Kory's funeral in Southfield. Right: An American flag is lifted from Seymour Kory's coffin by a color guard at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery. The flag was folded and given to his wife, Georgette.



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