



## CARL GROSSMAN

December 20, 1919 - March 12, 2019

FUNERAL: 1:00 PM, THURSDAY 3/14/2019 at HEBREW MEMORIAL CHAPEL

A LINK WILL BE PROVIDED FOR A WEBCAST OF THE FUNERAL SERVICE ON THE TRIBUTE PAGE

Age 99, of West Bloomfield, Carl was one of the "FIGHTING GROSSMAN BROTHERS"

The following is a synopsis from Bob Dotson's American Story. It is the amazing story of an American family that had eight brothers serving at the same time. This is a story of our greatest generation. We hope you enjoy this article.

When the eight Grossman brothers left to serve the nation in World War II, their mother's advice was simple: come home. " 'Somebody's gotta come back,' she said. 'It might as well be you.' " And every one of them did.

Carl Grossman is the last of the family's homegrown battalion. As an Army medic, he fought in 19 Pacific battles. His plane crashed – twice. When it was all over, he returned home, only missing a tooth.

Six more Grossmans also took to the battlefields. Mickey built the ship he later served on and defended as Japanese suicide pilots tried to sink it. Another brother was a bomber pilot who roomed with none other than silver screen legend Clark Gable.

In Germany, there was a Grossman to help liberate a POW camp. As the prisoners were freed, he not only welcomed home fellow soldiers, but also a friend who hailed from his own Pittsburgh neighborhood.

Leonard was a cryptographer, and served in Europe and North Africa. He came home a wounded warrior and faced dozens of operations.

Two brothers who were too old to enlist served their country on the homefront; one as a police officer, and the other as part of a top secret project – the first atomic bomb.

The Grossman family's sacrifices and service was noticed at the highest levels. President Roosevelt personally wrote a letter to the boys' parents.

At the time of this article, Carl was the last surviving brother and he was still fighting. As a greeter at Wal-Mart, Carl is working well past what is typically considered retirement age. After the war, he began selling cars and did so for 51 years until the American auto industry collapsed. Carl's finances crumbled as well.

His wife still makes him a lunch to take to work. He commutes 35 miles a day, his American Dream of retirement is just that; a dream.

Still, Carl grins as he says, "But it doesn't bother me. I'm glad to work. It's good for my mind."

Feel free to read more about this American Story and others by Bob Dotson

During his military career, Carl received an Air Medal, Philippine Liberation Ribbon with 1 Bronze Star, American Defense Medal, Asiatic Pacific Medal with 5 bronze Stars.

Beloved husband for 68 years to Freda Grossman.

Devoted father of Gary Grossman, Jamie Grossman and the late Randy Grossman.

Loving grandfather of Dylan Froling.

Treasured brother to the late Moses, late Solomon, late Jacob, late Irwin, late Leonard, late Israel, late Hyman, late Alan , late Michael Grossman and the late Lillian Blatt

Also survived by many loving nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews and many friends.

OFFICIATING:

Rabbi Avie Shapiro

INTERMENT:

Hebrew Memorial Park Cemetery

SHIVA:

The family will be gathering at the niece's home

Joanna Edelson

25425 Sherwood Drive

Huntington Woods MI 48070

248-548-2906

Through Thursday evening.

CONTRIBUTIONS:

If you would like to further honor the memory of

CARL GROSSMAN

you may do so by making a contribution to:

HUMANE SOCIETY

30300 Telegraph Road, Ste 220

Bingham Farms, MI 48025

(248) 283.1000

[www.michiganhumane.org](http://www.michiganhumane.org)

or

ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION

25200 Telegraph Road, Ste 100

Southfield, MI 48033

248-351-0280

[www.alz.org](http://www.alz.org)

or

A CHARITY OF YOUR CHOICE

# Cemetery

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## Hebrew Memorial Park Cemetery

33230 Gratiot

Clinton Township, MI, 48035

# Events

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**MAR 14** Service 01:00PM

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Hebrew Memorial Chapel

26640 Greenfield Rd, Oak Park, MI, US, 48237

**MAR 14** Shiva

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Joanna Edelson

25425 Sherwood Drive, Huntington Woods, MI, US,  
48070

# Comments

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“ A webcast video has been added.



**Hebrew Memorial Chapel** - March 13, 2019 at 11:26 AM

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“ Sending condolences to Uncle Carl's immediate family and to all of the Grossman family. Losing the last of that generation is a loss for everyone. Uncle Carl was very strong and had a fighting spirit. He loved to made people laugh. He will be missed. from Hi and Sylvia's 2nd child Rana Grossman Tonti

**Rana Grossman Tonti** - March 22, 2019 at 03:53 PM



“ Rana he loved you very much.

**Gary Grossman** - April 10, 2019 at 11:55 AM

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“ Gary and Aunt Freda:  
I am so sorry for your loss. I thought the funeral service was a lovely tribute to Uncle Carl. I remember the many enjoyable dinners we had at your house when I was growing up. What Gary said about the love that Freda and Carl shared was so true in my memory. They complimented each other so beautifully and clearly adored each other. Uncle Carl brought lots of sunshine into this world. We will all miss him very much.

Julie Halpert

**Julie Halpert** - March 19, 2019 at 11:55 AM



“ Julie

Your support meant so much especially when my mother has been in the hospital and my younger brother Jamie did not attend.

My father loved you and your family so very much it really meant a lot to have you there.

Love you

Gary

**Gary Grossman** - April 10, 2019 at 11:56 AM



“ If there is One thing about my Family (the Grossman's) We Champion Our Past - Taking Our Triumphs and Lessons into the Present and Ultimately Celebrate for the Future! My Great Uncle Carl was the Last of Our 1st American Generation - The Fighting Grossman's and He was A Champion. Keeping and Sharing All the Stories with Us and then the World. To my Cousin Gary and Aunt Freda all my best. May your sad time find a smile in your memories.  
To the next generations of Grossman's- Keep Fighting and Much Happiness. I think Uncle Carl's (& All of them) would love that!  
In Sympathy  
Robin (Grossman) Humphreys  
Jack's Granddaughter

**Robin (Grossman) Humphreys** - March 18, 2019 at 02:12 PM



“ Robin

This meant a lot to me especially since I felt so alone. I spent the last five years having dinner with him daily from 2pm to 6 pm.

My mother Freda could not attend the funeral since she was in the hospital ( still is) and my younger brother Jamie did not attend.

It means a lot to have such beautiful written memories of my father.

Thank you

Gary Grossman

**Gary Grossman** - April 10, 2019 at 11:59 AM

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“ I first met Carl at a Walmart. We'll, actually I overheard this exchange between two older men, one a customer, the other a Greeter, offering assistance:

"Can I help you?"

"Sorry," said the old man pulling out a cart, "I don't hear so well."

"I don't hear well either," said the taller of the two, touching his ear. "I flew combat during the war."

"So did I." Carl Grossman, the little guy with a quick smile, played his trump card in this game of "Me, too." He leaned in, touching the other man's arm, "Eight of us brothers were in uniform during World War Two. Six saw combat."

His kid brother Mickey built the ship on which he later served and helped shoot down the Japanese suicide planes that tried to blow it out of the water.

His brother Hy was an officer in the Army Air Corps. Hy's roommate?

"Clark Gable."

One of Hollywood's biggest stars back then.

Brother Shimmy liberated an American POW camp in Germany and found a friend who lived down the street in their Pittsburgh neighborhood.

A German grenade almost blew off his brother, Eyo's, right arm. Doctors decided they would have to amputate.

"Eyo said, 'I play piano. I love to play piano. If you take that arm away from me, I might as well die.'"

Eyo came home, his arm partially paralyzed, but performed until his death at eighty-six. And Carl?

"I crash landed two planes evacuating the wounded. I had a tooth knocked out. One tooth. That's all." Bumped it on a box of hand grenades.

"Man, I got off that plane, I kissed that ground!"

Carl served as a medic in the Pacific. Fought in nineteen battles. Saved hundreds of lives. All eight Grossman brothers made it back alive.

Carl shrugged, "We were blessed. Blessed."

Even the brothers who were too old to go to war served their country. One was a cop and the other worked on a Top Secret Project. He said it looked a lot like a large metal light bulb. After the last battle he was given an award for helping create the first Atomic bomb.

Carl thought all that wartime medical experience would get him into Med School, but without a college degree he didn't have the heart to fight for admission. He followed his brother, Saul, into the car business. Sold Chevys in Detroit for fifty-one years, but fell on hard times like the auto industry itself.

"I don't have much money, but I'm still blessed with a wife of fifty-eight years."

To save cash Freda made the lunch Carl took to Walmart. His commute was thirty-five miles a day. I listened to all this in jaw dropping wonder. The customer shook Carl's hand, started to leave and then turned back. There would be one more surprise today.

"I'll be eighty-three soon," he told Carl.

Carl grinned, "Oh, you're a teenager. I'll be ninety."

Ninety. All his brothers were gone. Carl was the last of the Fighting Grossman's, still struggling with the American Dream.

"Did you ever think you'd be punching a time clock at ninety?" I asked.

"Never! Never!" Carl grinned. "But it doesn't bother me. I'm glad to work. Its good for

my mind."

He turned to joke with an old friend who had come into the store. Grabbed the guy's tie and pretended to blow his nose. Old friend. Old joke. Still good for a laugh.

"What happened to the golden years?" I asked as the yuks faded.

Carl chuckled, "They got tarnished," but he polished them with his smile.

How lucky we all are that Carl shared his life with us. — Bob Dotson

**Bob Dotson** - March 16, 2019 at 10:59 AM



“ Mr. Dotson

My father always spoke to me about this and he even has your book.

I didn't know where I could send you a thank you note.

Thank you for writing such a wonderful tribute.

My father and I were extremely close and I spent the last five years having dinner with him everyday.

My mother has been ill and was not able to attend his funeral and my younger brother did not attend.

My older brother (RANDY) had passed three years ago from cancer and so with out these wonderful memories and words I don't think it would have been easier to go through this episode in my life.

Thank you

Gary H. Grossman, my dad's son

**Gary Grossman** - April 10, 2019 at 12:03 PM

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“ Uncle Carl was a presence and a force and he made a difference in everything he did throughout his entire life.

"I am glad not that he has gone, but that this earth he laughed and lived on was my earth too. That I had known and loved him and that my love I'd shown. Yes, there were tears over his departure, but also a smile that I had walked with him a little while."

Niece and Nephew  
Carol (Grossman) and Harry Savas

**Carol Grossman Savas** - March 14, 2019 at 02:14 PM



“ Carol and Harry

No words to explain how wonderful you have been to me through out this episode and all the wonderful episodes in my life.

My father loved you and would smile when you would reach out to him at the nursing home He loved to sing TANGERINE to you and it always brought a smile on our faces.

It is very meaningful to have the support of my family members since my mother could not be there and my younger brother chose not to attend.

Thank you for wrapping your memories and heart around me.

Love you Gary

**Gary Grossman** - April 10, 2019 at 12:06 PM

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“ I know that your dad was well loved and respected. He had great character and a big heart. While I physically can't be there today sending my love.

**Melissa Morris** - March 14, 2019 at 01:04 PM



“ Melissa

Beautiful I know he loved you.

Love Gary

**Gary Grossman** - April 10, 2019 at 12:07 PM

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“ I worked with Carl for the last two years. He was a joy to be around and I loved doing fun things with him like throwing a ball or trivia. He will be missed dearly and seeing his smile. He is an angel now and looking over everybody. Love you Carl now and forever. Jenny

**Jenny corona** - March 13, 2019 at 10:37 PM



“ Jenny  
Every time dad heard your voice it was like he woke up and a light went on to a beautiful memory, I think you were the forshadowing of his angels to come and get him.  
Your support and treatment of my father was wonderful.  
Love you  
Gary Grossman

**Gary Grossman** - April 10, 2019 at 12:08 PM

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“ My father was my best friend. I will miss our 3pm to 6pm dinner hours for the last five years everyday. I am honored to call him my father, I know you are resting in peace and smiling up in heaven. Thank you for calling me your son. Love you. Gary

**Gary Grossman** - March 13, 2019 at 12:29 PM



“ Gary - I will miss you - the love you have for your parents is so genuine. Even on the hardest days you were able to push through and make a difference for your Dad. Hug your Mom for me, rely on your faith to see you through the days ahead. Be strong, and know you were there when he needed you! Debs from Danto

**Debs from Danto** - March 14, 2019 at 06:27 PM



“ Very nice person....my Dear parents and me bought a lot of Chevrolet cars and trucks from him at Dexter Chevrolet.....we became friends...

**Peter** - March 14, 2019 at 09:25 PM



“ Peter  
Your memory has hit me in a wonderful way. Thank you  
Gary H. Grossman

**Gary Grossman** - April 10, 2019 at 12:09 PM

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“ A good man who served his country well and had a great sense of humor, Rest In Peace.

David Craine

**David Craine** - March 12, 2019 at 02:32 PM



“ David

The hat you gave him he loved.

I know he was honored and impressed, he didn't take that hat off until he got ill at the end.

Nancy and your support has meant so much to me.

Thank you

Love you

Gary Grossman

**Gary Grossman** - April 10, 2019 at 12:10 PM