

# THOSE PASSED FROM THE CLASS OF 1945

Geraldine "Jerry" ABBRUZZESE Bacon ( 2913 — 5/28/2013 )

Robert Floyd Atherton ( 2023 -- 10/12/2023 )

Aletha Mae BARNES Cosens ( 2016 — 12/16/2016 )

Geraldine BIERGANS Sleight ( 2001 — 6/10/2001 )

Ruth BOGERT Brown ( 2013 — 3/6/2013 )

Charles Robert Brunette ( 2019 — 5/19/2019 )

Rex Carrow ( 2014 — 4/1/2014 )

Richard Carter ( UNKNOWN — NO OTHER INFORMATION WAS AVAILABLE. )

Patty CHUTE Carrow ( 2012 — 2/27/2012 )

Bettie CLARK Huhn ( 1999 — 12/21/1999 )

Olivianna CRAWFORD Harmon ( 2017 — 10/10/2017 )

Richard Cypher ( 2013 — 5/11/2013 )

May Lois DEEBLE Zimmerman ( 2006 — 11/10/2006 )

Leona Pauline DEUEL Gilson ( 2018 — 3/30/2018 )

Leona Faye DICKINSON Keesler ( 1993 — 11/17/1993 )

Louise ENNESS Dankenbring ( 2010 — 7/13/2010 )

Rosemarie FEYERABEND Connell ( 2019 — 3/1/2019 )

Peter P. Fortino ( 2009 — 11/4/2009 )

Duaine E. Frederick ( 2018 — 7/6/2018 )

Barbara GEORGE Cheesmond ( 2002 — 3/9/2002 )

Robert Harley ( 2002 — 11/10/2002 )

Berneice Louise HUGHES Dayton ( 2021 -- 12/28/2021 )

JoJean J. HUMPHREY Kempf ( 1998 — 10/1/1998 )

Ethel KINNE Arthur ( 2000 — 6/27/2000 )

Herbert E. Klingbiel ( 2020 -- 12/26/2020 )

Patrick A. "Jack" LaFontsee ( 2020 -- 4/2/2020 )

Rollin L. Matson ( 2010 — 8/22/2010 )

Harold Henry Matz ( 2019 -- 9/26/2019 )

Joan MCCONNELL Francisco ( 2018 — 10/17/2018 )

Jennie McGOWAN Lind Kwant ( 2015 — 5/17/2015 )

Kuhns Margaret Louise MCINTYRE 1945

Kenneth Merryfield ( 2003 — 11/15/2003 )

Robert Millbrook ( 2009 — 12/15/2009 )

Mildred J. NICHOLS Rueckert Shane ( 2021 -- 5/26/2021 )

Dorothy Jean OSMER Hough ( 1994 — 5/30/1994 )

Jack Lee Parker ( 1993 — NO OTHER INFORMATION WAS AVAILABLE. )

Richard August Peiffer ( 2020 -- 5/22/2020 )  
Edythe SHEPARD Brunger ( 2011 — 11/27/2011 )  
Eleanor Inez SIMONS Whiting ( 2017 -- 1/27/2017 )  
Clifford LaVerne Sowers ( 2018 — 5/18/2018 )  
Alvin Dale Starr ( 2008 -- 4/16/2008 )  
Merlin J. Tiedt ( 2001 — NO OTHER INFORMATION WAS AVAILABLE. )  
Garrett Earl Wheaton ( 2022 -- 2/21/2022 )  
Barbara Jane WELLS Shaw ( 1975 — 9/21/1975 )  
Marjorie May "WILLIAMS" Galvin ( 2021 -- 11/25/2021 )



## **Geraldine Abbruzzese Bacon**

**Class of 1945**

Birth: 15 Oct 1927  
Death: 28 May 2013 (aged 85)  
Ellenton, Manatee County, Florida, USA  
Burial: Meadowbrook Cemetery  
Mulliken, Eaton County, Michigan, USA

**DATE OF PASSING: 5/28/2013**



Geraldine "Jerry" Bacon Ellenton, FL Formerly of Mulliken Age 85, joined her Father in heaven on Tuesday, May 28, 2013. Jerry was born October 15, 1927 to Joseph and Florence Abbruzzese. She was a resident of Mulliken until retiring to Ellenton, Florida in 1987. Jerry was a retiree of the Michigan Hospital Association and a life-long tax preparer. Her beloved husband of 67 years, Darrell Max Bacon, preceded her in death on January 29, 2013. Surviving are three sons, Richard (Beth), Tom (Debbie) and Dennis (Ginny); three grandchildren, Shawn Bacon, Kristen (Jason) Tweddle and Erica Bacon; three great-grandchildren, Alyssa and Taylor Tweddle and Jaxon Bacon; sisters, Jackie Bratschi and Jo Parshall. Jerry was also preceded in death by her brothers, Phil, Bob, and Charles "Chick" Vandavelde, Frank and Bill Abbruzzese and sister, Francis Tribble. Services were held Thursday, May 30, 2013 at United Methodist Church in Ellenton, Florida. The family will receive friends from 10 - 11 A.M. Monday, June 3, 2013 at Barker-Leik Funeral Home, Mulliken, followed by a graveside service at Meadowbrook Cemetery.



**Class of 1945**

## **Robert Floyd Atherton**

**October 1, 1926 — October 12, 2023 (Aged 97)**

Robert Floyd Atherton, of Portland, MI passed away October 12, 2023 with his family by his side. Robert graduated from Grand Ledge High School, and was drafted into the US Army, serving overseas during WWII. In May of 1948, Robert married Rena (Seldon), and they shared 60 years together until she passed in 2008.

Robert was a member of the Portland Church of the Nazarene, and supported many missionaries and enjoyed mission trips. He was also a member of Gideons International. He is fondly remembered by his family as accepting everyone as a friend or neighbor. Being a lifelong farmer was his passion: Down through the years he literally employed 100s of workers.

Robert is survived by two children, Roy (Kathy) Atherton, and Ruth (Bruce) Moyer. He is also survived by grandchildren, Dan Waldrop, Diana (Andy) Brown, Dwight (Andrea) Waldrop, Nicole (Mike) Atherton, Denise (Kyle) Lambright, Keith Atherton; 9 great-grandchildren; and sisters Mary Dean, Elenore Newcomber, and Kathy Peterson. Besides his wife, he was preceded in death by several siblings.



Funeral services will be held on Tuesday, October 17th from the Portland Church of the Nazarene, 9465 Cutler Road, Portland at 11:00 a.m. Visitation will be held at the church on Monday from 5-8 p.m., and at the church on Tuesday from 10:00 am until the time of service. Interment will follow along with military honors at North Eagle Cemetery. Memorial contributions in Robert's name appreciated to Gideons International or Eaton Rapids Campmeeting.



## **Aletha Mae Barnes Cosens**

**DATE OF PASSING: 12/16/2016**

### **Class of 1945**

Aletha Mae "Barnes" Cosens -- Eagle

Aletha Mae Cosens (Barnes) of Eagle, passed away peacefully on December 16, 2016 at the age of 89. Aletha graduated from Grand Ledge High School Class of 1945. She began her career working for the R.E. Olds Company. She retired from the State of Michigan Public Health Department; was a member of the Audubon Society for many years; enjoyed traveling and music.

Aletha was preceded in death by her husband John, her parents Russell and Mildred (Ike) Barnes, brothers Daniel and Carl Barnes, and sister-in-law Bennie Charlene Barnes. Aletha is survived by her three daughters: Lorie Paez of Grand Ledge, Ava (Don) Mayes of Haslett, and Susie (Mike) Herring of Eagle. At Aletha's request, graveside services will be held at a later date. Arrangements by Peters & Murray Funeral Home, Grand Ledge.



## **Geraldine Biergans Sleight**

**DATE OF PASSING: 6/10/2001**

### **Class of 1945**

Geraldine Ann Sleight, 73, died June 10, 2001. She was born Sept. 24, 1927 in Eagle Township, the daughter of Frederick Biergans and Beatrice (Palmer) Biergans. An advocate for civil rights and rights for persons with disabilities, her lifelong commitment to community service includes the Lansing Diocese Christian Service Commission, the Office of Disabilities of the Diocese of Lansing and the St. John Student Parish Renovation Committee. She was moderator of the Diocese of Lansing Parent Support Group and provided phone counseling for parents of children with disabilities.

She was an organizer and participant in the Handicapper Awareness Group at St. John's Student Parish, was a member of the Secular Franciscan Order and active in the Altar Society at St. Thomas Aquinas, East Lansing, a Girl Scout Leader, 4-H member, and Patron of the Michigan 4-H Foundation. She was a 1989 recipient of Volunteer Leadership Award sponsored by the Greater Michigan Foundation. She graduated from Grand Ledge High School in 1945 and attended Sienna Heights College. Surviving are her husband of 50 years, Dr. Stuart D. Sleight of East Lansing; children, Marcia L. Sleight of Arlington, Virg., William S. Sleight (Deborah Alpert) of Okemos, Catherine A. Sleight (David Rodriguez) of Saginaw, and James F. Sleight of Lansing; three grandchildren, Matthew Rodriguez, Alan Sleight and Emily Sleight; two step-grandchildren, Kurt Rodriguez of Kent, Ohio, and Kris DeLeon (Dan) of Defiance, Ohio; one step-great-grandchild, Henry DeLeon; brother William Biergans of Grand Ledge; brothers-in-law Paul Winegar of DeWitt, Dr. Justin Sleight (Marjorie) of Lansing and Norman Sleight of Newark, Ohio; aunt, Louise Haradine of Three Rivers; many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents; daughter, Maryl and sister, Mary Margaret Winegar. The funeral Mass was celebrated June 13 at St. John Student Parish. Memorials may be made to the St. John Student Parish or the Sleight Scholarship Fund, c/o Michigan 4-H Foundation, 4700 S. Hagadorn Road, East Lansing, 48823.



## **Ruth Bogert Brown**

### **Class of 1945**

Birth 22 Jan 1926

Lansing, Ingham County, Michigan, USA

Death 6 Mar 2013, East Lansing, Ingham County, Michigan, USA

Burial Great Lakes National Cemetery

Holly, Oakland County, Michigan, USA

**DATE OF PASSING: 3/6/2013**



Born January 22, 1926 in Lansing, Michigan to Ernest and Dorothy Bogert, passed away March 6, 2013, at the age of 87. Ruth was married to her husband, Myron Brown for 60 years. She was a charter member at Eastminster Presbyterian Church and a member of the Great Lakes Lighthouse Keepers Association. She loved bird watching and bicycling. Ruth was preceded in death by her husband in 2010 and her sister, Marjorie Haviland in 2009. She is survived by 5 nieces, Lori (John) Kelley, Jody (Warren) Kimble, Patricia (John) Ludwig, Frances Simon and Virginia Brown; nephews, James (Sherry McNally) Haviland, Richard (Lisa) Haviland and Michael (Donna) Soule; brother-in-law, Richard "Dick" Haviland; special friends, Karl (Sandra) Bartels, Camala Riessinger and Nancy Ridley and several great nieces and nephews and great great nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be held Thursday, March 14, 2013 at 2:00 p.m. at Eastminster Presbyterian Church 1315 Abbott Rd, East Lansing, MI. Those desiring may make memorial contributions in Ruth's name to the Great Lakes Lighthouse Keepers Association, 707 N. Huron Ave., PO Box 219. Mackinaw City, MI 49701. The family is being served by Gorsline Runciman Funeral Homes, East Lansing, Michigan. On line condolences may be made at [www.greastlansing.com](http://www.greastlansing.com)



## **Charles Robert Brunette**

### **Class of 1945**

**DATE OF PASSING: 5/19/2019**



Charles Robert Brunette went to heaven on May 19, 2019 at the age of 91. He came into the world on November 1, 1927 in Alpena, Michigan, the second eldest son of Lorena and Russell Brunette's twelve children. He was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Joan, his parents, brothers Dick, Kenny, Don, Gary, Danny, sisters, MaryLu and Carol, and sister-in-law, Jean Stoner, and brothers-in-law, John Willson and Lavon Stoner. He married his beloved wife of 69 years on May 1, 1948, thus the beginning of a large and beautiful family history. Surviving to keep his memory alive are Charlie and Joan's children, Linda (Jim) MacLean of Huntsville, Arkansas, Larry (Sheila) Brunette of Lansing, LuAnn Goerge of Lansing, Lanny (Molly) Brunette of East Lansing, Mark (Janette) Brunette of DeWitt, and Michele (Mark) Drake of Wayland, Michigan; grandchildren, Thomas (Jennifer) MacLean of Rogers, Arkansas, Marcie (Dusty) Griffin of Fayetteville, Arkansas, Shantana (Eric) Simmon of Eagle, Amanda (Benjamin) Schartow of Lansing, Sarah Wallace of Grand Rapids, Krista (Nathan) Beyer of Lansing, Rachele (Paul) Crawford of Lansing, John (Amy) Brunette of Grand Ledge, Renee Brunette of Lansing, Raeanne Mardigian of Grand Ledge, Michael Hickman of Eaton Rapids, T'eye Troutman of Lansing, brothers Roger (Pauline), David (Linda), Mary (Floyd), Greg (Leona); sister-in-law, Barbara Willson of Lansing; and numerous other in-laws, nieces and nephews. He was called "Pappy" by great-grandchildren, Isabel, Lonah, Fenton, Reece, Gabriel, Gianna, Abigail, Jameson, Raegan,

Amelia, Jayden, and Gideon. Charlie spent his young years in Alpena, Michigan. His best friend and cousin, Bill, had great times together. He attended St. Anne's Catholic school in Alpena. His family moved to Grand Ledge from Alpena when he was 15 years old, where he attended public school. He played basketball during those years. After graduating from Grand Ledge High School at age 18, Charlie went on to the Liquor Control Commission where he worked for 36 years. Charlie was a Spartan fan through and through. Enjoying season tickets for many years, he anticipated the beginning of the Michigan State football season all the way through the basketball season and March Madness. No matter what, he was proud to be a Spartan! He enjoyed his many vacations with his wife, Joan, and the kids through the years. Favorite trips of Charlie's was traveling out west in the United States and to England, Switzerland, Austria, and Germany in Europe. He loved going to Frankenmuth, Michigan. He was the family's Teller-of-Cheesy-Jokes. The cheesier, the better! The family would like to express their appreciation to the love and care given to Charlie from John, Roxanne, and John Michael Moore and Ann Rosa at Moore's Country Living in Charlotte, the warmth and tender care of Hospice nurses Christy Culham and Nurse Raina McNamara, and Chaplain Sue of the Sparrow Home Hospice Staff. The funeral service will be held on Friday, May 24, 2019 at 11 am at Mt. Hope Church. Visitation will be held on Thursday, May 23, 2019 from 5-8 pm at the Palmer, Bush & Jensen Family Funeral Homes, Delta Chapel, 6020 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing, Michigan, and one hour prior to the service at the church. Internment is at Delta Center Cemetery. Charlie, a.k.a. Dad, Grandpa, Pappy, will be dearly missed, but we smile because he lived! In lieu of flowers, you can make donations to: Building Twentyone Youth Center, 1288 N. Cedar Rd., Mason, MI 48854. For a full obituary please visit [www.palmerbush.com](http://www.palmerbush.com).



## **Rexford E. Carrow, Ph.D., M.D.**

**DATE OF PASSING: 4/1/2014**

### **Class of 1945**

Rexford E. Carrow, Ph.D., M.D., age 87, passed away April 1, 2014 in Lansing, MI. He was born February 4, 1927 in Mount Pleasant, MI to the late Bayard and Esther (Alderman) Struble and was raised in Grand Ledge by the late Herbert and Lila Carrow. He graduated from Grand Ledge H.S. in 1945. A gifted athlete, he starred and lettered in four sports, earning a total of 13 varsity letters, which is still a record that stands today. He also was selected as a member of the Eastern U.S. High School All-American baseball team in 1945 and was All-State as well in football and basketball, which only a few athletes have ever accomplished in Michigan high school sports history. Later he was inducted into the Grand Ledge Sports Hall of Fame and the Greater Lansing Sports Hall of Fame. Rex also played baseball and basketball at Michigan State, played on the European Baseball Championship winning team while in the military beating the Mediterranean Champions in Leg Horn, Italy, and went on to play professionally as a third baseman for the Philadelphia Phillies and Cleveland Indians for a total of seven seasons. He was a non-rostered player on the 1948 Cleveland Indians World Series team. Rex served in the U.S. Army during WWII in the 1st Infantry Division (Big Red One) and as an MP, personally guarding infamous Nazi war criminals, Hermann Goering (Commander of the German Air Force) and Ernst Kaltenbruner (Commander of the German Gestapo) during the historic Nuremberg Trials in 1945-46. Rex graduated from Michigan State University, where he co-founded the College of Human Medicine, the Gross Anatomy Dissection Lab and the Willd Body Donor Program, retiring from MSU's Departments of Anatomy and Surgery as Professor Emeritus. He was also selected



in numerous years by his students as the Outstanding Teaching Professor in the MSU School of Human Medicine. He also attended the College of Charleston (South Carolina) and UCLA for post-graduate studies. He authored several medical books, groundbreaking research articles, and book chapters during his career. He was an avid MSU and Grand Ledge sports supporter/booster and enjoyed hunting and fishing. He is preceded in death by his childhood sweetheart and wife Patty, who he first met in the third grade, and married in 1947; sister, Helen Cole; brothers, Budd Norris and Bob Struble. Rex is survived by his loving family; sons, Rick (Pat) of Bath, Tom (Melissa) of Grand Ledge, daughter, Amy (Mark) Feinauer of Okemos; grandchildren, Delaney, Kyle (Kristen), Brooke (John), Jeff, Kylie (Anders), Aaron (Sara); great-grandchildren, Caleb, Kenadeigh, Summer, Grayson, Henley, Elin & Henry; sisters, Phyllis Behm of Grand Haven, Maureen Leach of Coopersville, sister-in-law, Hannah Rae Struble of Frankenmuth, and numerous nieces and nephews; dear friend and caregiver, Denise Haskell.

The family would like to thank the staff at Hospice House of Mid-Michigan for their kind and compassionate care.

A funeral service will be held 11:00, Monday, April 7, 2014, at Holihan-Atkin Funeral Home Grand Ledge with The Reverend David Bandfield officiating. Military honors conducted by Cole-Briggs Post #48 will follow at Oakwood Cemetery. Visitation will be Sunday, April 6, 2014 2-6pm. Memorial contributions may be made to Sparrow Hospice Services (Hospice House of Mid-Michigan) or Ronald McDonald House. Memories and condolences can be shared at [holihanatkin.com](http://holihanatkin.com).



## **Richard Carter**

**DATE OF PASSING: UNKNOWN**

### **Class of 1945**

NO OTHER INFORMATION WAS AVAILABLE.



## **Patty Chute Carrow**

### **Class of 1945**

**DATE OF PASSING: 2/27/2012**

Patty Jean Carrow Lansing Age 84, passed away Jan. 27, 2012 in Lansing, MI. She was born February 24, 1927 in Grand Ledge, MI to the late Roy T. and Ethelyn G. (Brazee) Chute. She worked as a teachers aid at Waverly Community Schools, was a member of St. Gerard Catholic Church, order of the Eastern Star, and loved singing and music. She married husband Rex July 19, 1947 whose professional baseball career and medical training took the two of them and their family various places around the country. She is survived by her loving family: husband, Dr. Rexford E. Carrow; sons, Rick (Pat) of Bath, Tom (Melissa) of Grand Ledge; daughter, Amy (Mark) Feinauer of Okeanos; grandchildren, Delaney, Kyle (Kristen), Brooke (John), and Jeff; great-grandchildren, Caleb, Kenadeigh, and Summer; sisters-in-law, Phyllis (Howard) Behm, Maureen Leach, and Hannah Rae Struble; cousins, Joy Godo, Nola Ann Colburn, Marliss Waldron, and Shelley (Paul) Kuehne; additional family, Terri Carrow, Phyllis Lehman, and Denise Haskell. Patty is preceded in death by brother, Richard "Dicky" Chute. Special thanks to Dr. Ralph Harvey, Dr. Diane McDonald, Sparrow 6th floor Neuro Unit, and Hospice House of Mid-Michigan for their compassionate care. A funeral service will be held Friday, February 3, 2012, 1:00 p.m. at Holihan-Atkin Funeral Home Grand Ledge with Deacon Jim Corder officiating. Interment will follow at Oakwood Cemetery in Grand Ledge. Visitation will be Thursday 3-7 p.m. at the funeral home. Memorial contributions may be

made to Sparrow Hospice Services/Hospice House of Mid-Michigan or Ronald MacDonald House. Online condolences can be shared at [www.holihanatkin.com](http://www.holihanatkin.com)



## **Bettie Clark Huhn**

### **Class of 1945**

**DATE OF PASSING: 12/21/1999**

Birth: 28 Nov 1927, Michigan, USA  
Death: 21 Dec 1999 (aged 72)  
Lansing, Ingham County, Michigan, USA  
Burial: Oakwood Cemetery  
Grand Ledge, Eaton County, Michigan, USA .





## **Oliviana Crawford Harmon**

**DATE OF PASSING: 10/10/2017**

### **Class of 1945**

Anna "Crawford" Harmon, born February 5, 1927 in Lansing, the daughter of the late Gardner and Mildred (Wilbur) Crawford, passed away October 10, 2017 at the age of 90.

Anna graduated from Grand Ledge High school and retired from retail in 1984. She was active for over 75 years in fraternal organizations beginning with Theta Rho, Pride of Ingham Rebekah Lodge #496, District 13 and the Ladies Encampment and serving as past officers. She served as PTA President for both Walter French and Moores Park Elementary School, receiving the D.S.A. from Moores Park.

Anna loved people and enjoyed taking senior citizens to appointments and grocery shopping. She loved her children and grandchildren dearly.

She is survived by sons; Cliff (Pat) Harmon, David (Mary) Harmon, Steven (Maureen) Harmon, and one daughter, Rosemary (Richard) Scherer and eight grandchildren, five great grandchildren, a brother James Crawford and sister Ruth Allen as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband of forty-three years - Harold Harmon, one daughter JoAnne Wilkinson, and two brothers Wibur and Robert Crawford.

Funeral service will be held 11:00 a.m. Monday, October 16, 2017 at First Presbyterian Church 2021 N. Aurelius Rd, Holt, Michigan. With visitation between 4:00-8:00 p. m. with a Rebekah service at 7:00p.m. Sunday, October 15, 2017 at Gorsline Runciman Funeral Homes 900 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing Michigan.

The family requests memorial contributions be made to Stoneleigh Residence in care of Hospice of Lansing. The family is being served by Gorsline Runciman, Lansing Chapel. Condolences and memories may be shared with the family at [www.grlansing.com](http://www.grlansing.com).

Anna loved people and enjoyed taking senior citizens to appointments and grocery shopping. She loved her children and grandchildren dearly. She is survived by sons; Cliff (Pat) Harmon, David (Mary) Harmon, Steven (Maureen) Harmon, and one daughter, Rosemary (Richard) Scherer and eight grandchildren, five great grandchildren, a brother James Crawford and sister Ruth Allen as well as numerous nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband of forty-three years - Harold Harmon, one daughter JoAnne Wilkinson, and two brothers Wibur and Robert Crawford.

Funeral services were held on Monday, October 16, 2017 at First Presbyterian Church 2021 N. Aurelius Rd, Holt, Michigan. Visitation was held with a Rebekah service on Sunday, October 15, 2017 at Gorsline Runciman Funeral Homes 900 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing Michigan. The family requests memorial contributions be made to Stoneleigh Residence in care of Hospice of Lansing. The family was served by Gorsline Runciman, Lansing Chapel. Condolences and memories may be shared with the family at [www.grlansing.com](http://www.grlansing.com).



## **Richard Gene Cypher**

**DATE OF PASSING: 5/11/2013**

### **Class of 1945**

Richard Gene Cypher Cedar, MI Formerly of Suttons Bay and Grand Ledge Richard (Dick) Gene Cypher, age 85 died peacefully the morning of May 11, 2013 in Traverse City. He was the son of Gerald and Edith Cypher, born May 25, 1927. Once grown into a handsome young man, he fell in love and married Kathleen Rose Dobson his loving and devoted wife of 49 years. The union produced four offspring, Gary Richard (Christine), Timothy Alan (Mary Egan McGlynn), Gregory Thomas and Karen Marie. The legacy continues with his ten grandchildren (Matt, Jackie, Molly, Roger and Ross. Griffin and Erinn. Sara and Ben. Brandi.) and seven great grandchildren. He loved and treated all with the same kind heart and love as only Papi / Grandpa could. Other loves of his life were Trinity Episcopal Church in Grand Ledge of which he was an active member for over 50 years and most recently the Suttons Bay Congregational Church where he continually found the love and strength of God. He served in the United States Army at West Point and received a World War II Victory Medal. He retired from the Michigan State Police as a very meticulous tailor and previously owned Ken Hicks Men's stores. Other passions after retirement were antiques and specializing in the renovation of old light fixtures. He will be remembered as a generous man that provided well for his family and instilled good values. He was preceded in death by his parents, wife, son Greg, one great grandchild and brother Ronald.

The family would like to extend a special heart felt thank you to the Wurm family for their dedicated care of our father for over ten years. A Celebration of Richard's life with a Memorial Eucharist

will be held at Trinity Episcopal Church Thursday, May 23rd at 11 a.m. with visitation occurring one hour before the service. Interment will be at Oakwood Cemetery followed by a light lunch. If you so wish, contributions may be made to a charity of your choice in Richard's name. The family is being serviced by Life Story Funeral Home, Traverse City. [www.lifestorynet.com](http://www.lifestorynet.com)







## **May Lois Deeble Zimmerman**

**DATE OF PASSING: 11/10/2006**

### **Class of 1945**

Birth: 1 May 1927  
Chase, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, USA  
Death: 10 Nov 2006 (aged 79), Michigan, USA  
Burial: Delta Center Cemetery  
Grand Ledge, Eaton County, Michigan, USA

May Lois Zimmerman of Grand Ledge, Michigan, age 79, died November 10, 2006. Born May 1, 1927 in Chase, PA. May left this life to be welcomed in Heaven after a courageous 18 years battle against cancer. She was a wonderful wife, mother, grandmother, and friend and will be greatly missed. May retired from the Michigan Secretary of State. She had many interests, including her family, gardening, and traveling. She was preceded in death by her parents, William & Sarah (Jones) Deeble and all of her siblings. Surviving are her loving husband of 60 years, William C. Zimmerman, and her children Deneice (Grant) Webb, Judith (Robert) Preston, William Zimmerman, Jr. (Pamela McCoy), Mia Tioli (David), Mary (William) Pfaff, Lois (Dennis) Ross and Brucette (Richard) Regan, as well as 20 grandchildren, 16 great-grandchildren, many other relatives and friends.

Visitation is from 2-4, 6-8 P.M. Monday, Nov 13th with Funeral Services 2:00 P.M. Tuesday, November 14, 2006 in the Tiffany Funeral Home, 3232 W. Saginaw, Lansing, with Rev. Calvon Kidder officiating. Interment Delta Center Cemetery. For those desiring, contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society. Friends may visit the guestbook at [www.tiffanyfuneralhome.com](http://www.tiffanyfuneralhome.com)



## **Leona Pauline Deuel Gilson**

**DATE OF PASSING: 3/30/2018**

### **Class of 1945**

Leona Pauline (Deuel) Gilson of the The Villages, FL and formerly of Battle Creek, MI Leona, age 91, died Friday morning, March 30, 2018 at Atria of Lady Lake Assisted Living Facility, Lady Lake, FL with her two loving daughters at her side and following a brief illness.

Leona, the daughter of Victor and Irene (Brooks) Deuel, was born in Grand Ledge, MI on February 3, 1927 and was a 1945 graduate of Grand Ledge High School. She retired in 1989 after 35 years of faithful service as the Assistant to the President/Chairman of the Board, Dr. Russell G. Mawby, of the W. K. Kellogg Foundation. She loved her job! Leona and her husband, Jeane, enjoyed spending time with family and friends at their cabin at Higgins Lake, MI. She was an avid knitter and quilter and her family treasures several of her handmade items.

Leona was united in marriage to the "Love of her Life," Jeane A. Gilson on September 4, 1949 in Battle Creek and he sadly preceded her in death on February 14, 2015 after 65+ years of wedded bliss. Surviving are two daughters, Judy L. Johns and Kathryn A. (David) DeVault, both of The Villages, FL; daughter-in-law, Wanita "Skeeter" Gilson of Gilmer, TX; six grandchildren; fourteen great grandchildren and six great great grandchildren. Leona was also preceded in death by her parents; her son, Wayne Gilson and three brothers.



Leona's family greeted friends on Friday, April 6th from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Farley Estes Dowdle Funeral Home & Cremation Care, Battle Creek. The funeral service to celebrate Leona's life was held on Saturday, April 7th at 10:30 a.m. at the funeral home with the Rev. Debra Jenkins, her niece and of Battle Creek, officiating. Entombment was in Floral Lawn Memorial Gardens, Battle Creek. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions in Leona's honor may be directed to the Cornerstone Hospice & Palliative Care, 2445 Lane Park Road, Tavares, FL 32778.



## **Leona Faye Dickinson Keesler**

### **Class of 1945**

Birth: 29 May 1927 (USA)  
Death: 17 Nov 1993 (aged 66)  
Lansing, Ingham County, Michigan, USA  
Burial: Oakwood Cemetery  
Grand Ledge, Eaton County, Michigan, USA

**DATE OF PASSING: 11/17/1993**



## **Louise Enness Dankenbring**

### **Class of 1945**

Louise K. Dankenbring -- Eagle

Louise K. Dankenbring of Eagle, age 83, formerly of Englewood, FL, born March 24, 1927 in Lansing, MI, passed away July 13, 2010 in Eagle, MI. Louise was a retired Caregiver; a member of the Grand Ledge First United Methodist Church, former member of Englewood United Methodist Church, Florida, Co-Chairman of the Fun Bunch, and was communion steward. She was a 'Grand-ma' to the Englewood Boy Scouts; was active in 4H as a leader, loved to cook, and enjoyed ceramics. Survivors include her children: Judy (Richard) Sena of Grand Ledge, Ronald (Linda) Dankenbring of Ionia, Leon (Suzette) Dankenbring of Georgia and Wendell (Renee) Dankenbring of Eagle; 8 grandchildren; several great grandchildren; and brother, Karl Enness of Grand Ledge. She was predeceased by her husband of 55 years, Russell; infant son, Robert Eugene Dankenbring; brothers, Harold and Lester Enness. Memorial services will be held Saturday, July 17, 2010 - 11:00 a.m. at the First United Methodist Church, 411 Harrison St., Grand Ledge, with Rev. Molly Turner officiating. Inurnment at Oakwood Cemetery, Grand Ledge. The family will begin to receive friends one hour prior to service time. Memorial contributions may be made to the Grand Ledge F.U.M.C. or the Great Lakes Hospice. Online condolences may be made at [www.petersandmurrayfuneralhome.com](http://www.petersandmurrayfuneralhome.com).

**DATE OF PASSING: 7/13/2010**



## **Rosemarie Feyerabend Connell**

### **Class of 1945**

Rosemarie Connell, 92, born February 26, 1927 in Ionia, MI, passed away March 1, 2019 in Lansing, MI. Rosemarie drove for Special Transportation, driving special needs children, and then drove bus for Haslett Public Schools; was a member of Emanuel First Lutheran Church, Lansing, and an avid gardener who loved to tend her flowers.

She is survived by her daughter Linda (Michael) Frederick of DeWitt, grandson Matthew Connell and great grandchildren Matthew and Isabella Connell. She is preceded in death by her husband of 55 years, Raymond Sr., son Raymond Jr. "Dean"; parents, Herman and Marie Feyerabend, brother Herman "Bob" Feyerabend; 5 sisters: Irmgard Black, Eleanore Curry, Doris Kirvan, Margaret Sisco, and Arlene Weaver. A graveside service will be held Wednesday, March 6, 2019 at 1:00 p.m. in the chapel at Delta Center Cemetery, 7509 W. St. Joseph Hwy., Lansing, MI 48917. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society or V.F.W. Orphanage.

The family has entrusted arrangements to Peters & Murray Funeral Home, Grand Ledge. [www.petersandmurrayfuneralhome.com](http://www.petersandmurrayfuneralhome.com)

**DATE OF PASSING: 3/1/2019**





## **Peter Paul "Pete" Fortino**

### **Class of 1945**

Peter Paul "Pete" Fortino -- Grand Ledge

Peter Paul "Pete" Fortino Grand Ledge Age 85, passed away Nov. 4, 2009 at his home. He was born Aug. 21, 1924 in St. Ippolito, Italy to the late Pasquale and Caroline (Coscarelli) Fortino. He was a life long area resident and graduate of Grand Ledge High School. He served in the

U.S. Navy on the USS Tennessee during WWII and was a member of the American Legion and VFW. He owned Fortino's in downtown Grand Ledge over 20 years and was formerly co-owner of Key Realty for almost 40 years. Pete was a charter member and past president (56-57) of Grand Ledge Rotary Club and was a Paul Harris Fellow. He was elected to Grand Ledge City Council and served on the Down Town Development Authority. He was a life long member of St. Michael Catholic Church and enjoyed their cottage on Higgins Lake. He was preceded in death by his wife of over 50 years, Virginia in 2003, brother Louie Fortino and daughter-in-law Denise (Goering) Fortino. Pete is survived by children: Patrick (Debbie) of Driggs, Idaho, Bob (Annette) of Grand Ledge, Paul of Santa Cruz, CA, Carolyn (Rick) Russell, and Laurie (Jon) Grace all of Grand Ledge, Loving "Paca" to his grandchildren: Sarah, Emily, Molly, Nicki, Peter, Noah, and Joey, brother Dr. James (Carolyn) Fortino of New Orleans, LA, sister Helen (Dr. Joseph) Caruso of Charlevoix, MI., many loving nieces, nephews, and cousins. Special thanks to Jackie and Amanda for their kind care. A Funeral Mass will be celebrated Monday, Nov. 9, 2009, 11:00 a.m. at St. Michael Catholic Church. Military graveside services will follow at Oakwood Cemetery. Visitation will be Sunday 2-4 and 6-8 p.m., Vigil 7:30 p.m. at the Holihan-Atkin Funeral Home Grand Ledge. Memorial contributions may be made to Grand Ledge Rotary Foundation or St. Michael Church. [www.holihanatkin.com](http://www.holihanatkin.com)

**DATE OF PASSING: 11/4/2009**

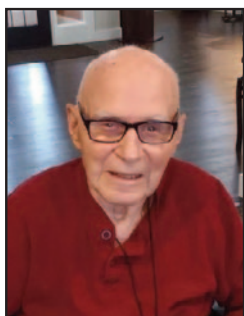


## **Duaine E. Frederick**

### **Class of 1945**

Mr. Duaine E. Frederick, age 91 of Fremont & formerly of Lowell, went to be with his Lord & Savior on Friday morning, July 6, 2018. He grew up in Grand Ledge, Michigan where he was born to Earl & Ivah (Stowell) Frederick on May 19, 1927. Duaine was a US Navy Veteran of World War II, he was a retired electrician from Lacks Industry, and he attended First Reformed Church in Fremont. On August 21, 1948 he married Marian C. Scott and she preceded him in death on August 19, 2012. He was also preceded in death by 2 sons, Mark & Charles Frederick; and by his brother, Walter Frederick. Duaine is survived by 2 daughters: Loraine (Don) Wilber of Cedar Springs, MI., LouAnn (Doug) Johnson of Fremont, MI.; by his daughter-in-law, Vicki Frederick of Fort Wayne, Indiana; by 8 grandchildren & 12 great grandchildren; and by his sister, Dorothy Ford of Grand Ledge, MI. The Funeral Service will be held at 1:00 PM on Monday, July 9, 2018 at First Reformed Church in Fremont with Pastor Kevin Schutt officiating. Visitation will be at the Kroeze-Wolffis Funeral Home from 2-4 PM on Sunday, and at the church from 12-1 PM on Monday. Interment will be at Salem Township Cemetery near Burnips, Michigan. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be given to First Reformed Church (For The Guatemala Mission Trip). You can sign the online guest book at [www.kroeze-wolffis.com](http://www.kroeze-wolffis.com). Arrangements are by Kroeze-Wolffis Funeral Home, Inc. of Fremont.

**DATE OF PASSING: 7/6/2018**





## **Barbara George Cheesmond**

### **Class of 1945**

Birth 5 Jun 1928  
Michigan, USA  
Death 9 Mar 2002 (aged 73)  
Grand Ledge, Eaton County, Michigan, USA  
Burial: Oakwood Cemetery  
Grand Ledge, Eaton County, Michigan, USA

**DATE OF PASSING: 3/9/2002**



## **Robert L. Harley, Sr.**

### **Class of 1945**

Birth 5 Sep 1927  
Pittsburgh, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, USA  
Death 10 Nov 2002 (aged 75)  
Haslett, Ingham County, Michigan, USA  
Burial: Oakwood Cemetery  
Grand Ledge, Eaton County, Michigan, USA

**DATE OF PASSING: 11/10/2002**



## **Berneice Louise Hughes Dayton**

**November 20, 1927 -- December 28, 2021 (Aged 94)**

Berneice Louise (Hughes) Dayton of Delta Twp., passed away on December 28, 2021 in Lansing. She was born on November 20, 1927 daughter of Cecil and Viola (Bridges) Hughes. Berneice was a graduate of Grand Ledge High School, attended Lansing Community College where she earned her associates degree, and then earned her certificate at the American Institute of Banking. She retired from the Bank of Lansing in 1982 as a manager of collections. Berneice was a member of the Grand Ledge Baptist Church. She was a great farmers wife who enjoyed cooking, teaching the younger generations kitchen skills, going to the cabin, spending time with her sisters, crocheting, embroidering, sewing cabbage patch clothes and selling them at craft shows. Berneice especially loved holding and rocking babies and as well as traveling. She has seen all 49 states in the United States, all of the providences of Canada, traveled through Europe, and has been in Tanges, Africa.



Berneice is survived by her daughter Donna Jean (William) Gibbons; grandchildren DeAnna Lynn Braman, Christopher (Beth) Gibbons, and Sarah Gibbons; great grandchildren: Hunter Braman, Jakob Dunham, Ciaran Gibbons; sisters: Shirley (Tom) Catey, Gloria Joseph, and Karen Waldo; several nieces and nephews, and special travel buddies Eloise and Dave. She is preceded in death by her parents, husband Harold Dayton, grandson Chad Williams, brothers and sisters: Cecil

Hughes, Herman Hughes, Marjorie Young, and Roger Hughes.

A funeral service will take place on Monday, January 3, 2022 – 11:00 a.m. at the Grand Ledge Baptist Church, 1120 Willow Hwy, Grand Ledge, MI 48837 with visitation one hour prior. A visitation will also take place on Sunday, January 2, 2022 at the Mills Funeral Home, Peters & Murray Chapel, Grand Ledge from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. In lieu of flowers contributions can be made in loving memory of Berneice Dayton to the Grand Ledge Baptist Church or Hospice of Lansing. The family has entrusted arrangements to Mills Funeral Home, Peters & Murray Chapel, Grand Ledge. For online condolences please visit [www.petersandmurrayfuneralhome.com](http://www.petersandmurrayfuneralhome.com).



## **JoJean Humphrey Kempf**

### **Class of 1945**

Birth: 18 May 1927  
Grand Ledge, Eaton County, Michigan, USA  
Death: 1 Oct 1998 (aged 71)  
Lansing, Ingham County, Michigan, USA  
Burial: Oakwood Cemetery  
Grand Ledge, Eaton County, Michigan, USA

**DATE OF PASSING: 10/1/1998**



## **Alvin "Al" A. Kempf**

### **Class of 1945**

Alvin "Al" A. Kempf, age 88, passed away peacefully early Thursday morning, September 3, 2015. Al was born May 3, 1927 in Eagle, MI, son of the late Andrew and Helen (Sharp) Kempf. He married Vaun Hazen on February 3, 1950. They enjoyed socializing, square dancing, camping with friends and traveling. They were also members of Jaycees and Harmony Club. Al's career took several turns over the years beginning with Fischer Body and ending with his sales of advertising for the Grand Ledge Independent. He served in the Army and remained in the Michigan National Guard for many years after leaving the Army. He was in the Jaycees for 18 years; served the City of Grand

Ledge first as a city councilman, then as mayor for 10 years, and as a county commissioner in later years. Al loved football! He attended every Grand Ledge High School home game for many, many years, arriving at 6:00 p.m. so he could sit on the 50 yard line in front of the press box. He also had season tickets to Michigan State games for several years that he attended with a group of very dear friends. When he wasn't attending a football game, he was watching one (or more) on television. He was able to attend several bowl games in fun places that were among the highlights of his life. He was a very gentle person who loved people, pets, music, socializing and working in his yard.

Al married Ruth Armitage August 22, 2008. Together they enjoyed dancing, traveling the U.S. and overseas, and spending time with family as well as dear friends in both Grand Ledge and Lansing.

He was preceded in death by his siblings Maynard (Lucille), Bessie (Bert), and Clarence (Evelyn); as well as his wife, Vaun. He is survived by his brother, Henry (Jean), his wife Ruth; his children, Jaynee Kempf-Collins (Ron) and Quentin Colby; Ruth's children: Mary (Nick) Waitkunas, Mark Armitage, Holly (Al) Houtman and Patty (Steve) Banner; six grandchildren, five great grandchildren, and Ruth's seven grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held Thursday, September 10, 2015 at 11:00 a.m. at Peters & Murray Funeral Home, Grand Ledge. Visitations will be held Wednesday from 5 -8 p.m. at the funeral home. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to either the Grand Ledge Band Boosters or MSU Band Booster Scholarship Fund. Online condolences may be shared at [www.petersandmurrayfuneralhome.com](http://www.petersandmurrayfuneralhome.com).

**DATE OF PASSING: 9/3/2015**



## **Ethel Kinne Arthur**

**Class of 1945**

Birth 17 Apr 1927  
De Witt, Clinton County, Michigan, USA  
Death 27 Jun 2000 (aged 73)  
Burial: Reed Cemetery Clinton County, Michigan, USA

**DATE OF PASSING: 6/27/2000**



Ethel Mae Arthur, 73, of Laingsburg, formerly of Charlotte, died Tuesday, June 27, 2000 in Dewitt, as the result of an auto accident. Mrs. Arthur was born April 16, 1927 in Grand Rapids, the daughter of Harley and Ethel (Briggs) Kinne. She attended Grand Ledge High School, and had lived in Laingsburg for the last 15 years. She married Robert Arthur on May 24, 1946 in Grand Ledge, and was a homemaker. She was affiliated with the Methodist Church, the Eastern Star in Grand Ledge, Farm B, the Lansing Consumers Retiree Club, and was active in bowling and several charities. Surviving are her husband, Robert; children, Jeanne (Michael) Wood of Farmington Hills, Thomas (Vicki) of Irmo, S.C., Andrew (Jill), and Edward (Amber), both of Laingsburg; grandchildren, Marjann Lawson, Nicholas, Adam, A.J., Mandy, Angus, Chelsea and Brittany; and one brother, John (Sandie) Kinne of Grand Ledge. Funeral services were held July 1 at Watkins Brothers Funeral Home, McDougall Chapel, Laingsburg, with Pastor Gerald Sever officiating. Interment was at Reed Cemetery, Laingsburg. If desired, memorial contributions may be made to the Laingsburg Public Library.



## **Herbert E. Klingbiel**

**December 25, 1927 — December 26, 2020 (Aged 93)**

Herbert E. Klingbiel, 93, longtime Grand Ledge, MI, resident passed away December 26, 2020 rejoining his wife Phyllis on their 71st wedding anniversary. He was born December 25, 1927 in Grand Ledge, son to Herbert and Marian (Earl) Klingbiel. He was preceded in death in 2018 by wife, Phyllis (Sandborn) and grandson Graeme Rozich Klingbiel. Herbert was a pharmacist at the Grand Pharmacy and served in the United States Marine Corp. He enjoyed golf, fishing, especially at Baker Lake, woodworking, and was very devoted to his family.

Herbert will be greatly missed by his children: Herbert Jeffrey (Arlene) Klingbiel, Lynn (Rich) Corrigan and David H. (Lisa) Klingbiel; adored grandchildren: Jeffrey (Allison) Peake, Jeremy (Kristina) Peake, Dr. Amy (Corrigan) Milman (Greg), Jeffrey (Jamie) Klingbiel, Ted (Jennifer) Keusch, Jack (Melissa) and Steven Klingbiel; greatgrandchildren: Grayson and Adelyn Peake, Megan and Emma Peake, Ryan and June Sue Klingbiel.

Out of respect and concern for public health and safety and COVID-19 restrictions, a celebration of life service will be held at a later date. For those wishing, memorial contributions may be given to Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF) ( [www.jdrf.org/donate](http://www.jdrf.org/donate) ) or United Cerebral Palsy Foundation ( [www.ucp.org/donate](http://www.ucp.org/donate) ). The family has entrusted arrangements to the Peters & Murray Funeral Home, Grand Ledge. Online condolences may be shared at [www.petersandmurrayfuneralhome.com](http://www.petersandmurrayfuneralhome.com)





## **Patrick A. LaFontsee**

**September 17, 1927 — April 2, 2020 (Aged 92)**

Patrick A. LaFontsee, age 92, of Portland, beloved husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather, passed away on Thursday, April 2, 2020. He was born on September 17, 1927, the son of Algurt and Hazel (Decker) LaFontsee. Patrick was a veteran of WWII, serving in the U.S. Army and retired from General Motors after many years of service. He was known as a jokester to his family and friends. He loved being with his family, especially his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife, Betty in 2005 and his twin sister, Patricia Cudney. Surviving are his children, Randy (Kris) LaFontsee of Laingsburg and Sherry (Dennis) Pelton of Portland; grandchildren, Nick LaFontsee, Patrick (Natalie) Emery and Nicole (Mike) Baccarossa; great-grandchildren, Peyton, Paislee, and Parker Emery and Isabella, Lily, and Ava Baccarossa; and special sister-in-law, Josephine Chapin, A private family traditional burial service will be held. Interment will be in Easton Township Cemetery. Arrangements are entrusted to Lehman Funeral Homes. Online condolences may be made at [www.lehmanfuneralhomes.com](http://www.lehmanfuneralhomes.com).



## **Rollin L. Matson**

**Class of 1945**

**DATE OF PASSING: 8/22/2010**

Rollin L. Matson of Grand Ledge passed away August 22, 2010. He was born March 5, 1927 in Alma, Michigan to the late Ross and Mable (Friend) Matson. Rollin was a United States Army WW II Veteran, a retired General Motors carpenter, and owner of Rollin Saw and Sharpening and longtime active member of the Grand Ledge First Congregational United Church of Christ. After retiring from GM Rollin used his skills to build decks, garages, remodel kitchens and bathrooms all over the Grand Ledge area. He also enjoyed traveling with his late wife Joyce in their RV; they traveled throughout the entire continental United States and all of the Providences of Canada. Rollin is survived by his children; James and Dennis both of Grand Ledge, Randy (Denise) of Charlotte and Cindy (Brian) Dodge of Mason; grandchildren Don, Heather, Brian, Kristin, Trisha, Josh, and Nicole; great grandchildren Hunter, Logan, and Brady. A funeral service will be held Thursday, August 26, 2010, 11:00 AM at the Holihan-Atkin Funeral Home, Grand Ledge. Interment will follow at Oakwood Cemetery, Grand Ledge. The family will receive friends at the funeral home Wednesday from 5-8:00 PM. Memorial contributions may be given to the First Congregation UCC 210 W. Saginaw Highway Grand Ledge, Michigan 48837. Online condolences and guest book entries may be made at [www.holihanatkin.com](http://www.holihanatkin.com)



## **Harold Henry Matz**

**Class of 1945**

**DATE OF PASSING: 9/26/2019**

Harold H. Matz, 92 of Wacousta died on September 26, 2019. He was born on March 19, 1927 on the family farm located on Bauer Road North of Grand Ledge. He was a World War II Navy Veteran and worked as a Die Sinker at GM, Federal Drop Forge and Lindell Drop Forge.

He is survived by three daughters, Dianne (Gabriel) Matz-Rodas, Debra (Robert) Matz-Morgan and Dorene Matz; grandchildren, Jaclyn Menacher, Nathan (Nick) Menacher, Taylor and Bailie Morgan.

A funeral service will be held Monday, September 30, 2019, 12:00 p.m. at Mt. Hope Church, Garden Chapel, 202 S. Creyts Rd., Lansing, Michigan 48917. Visitation will be Monday at the church from 11-12 p.m. Interment with military honors will follow at Wacousta Cemetery. Arrangements by the Holihan-Atkin-Barclay Funeral Home, Grand Ledge.



## **Joan McConnell Francisco**

**DATE OF PASSING: 10/17/2018**

### **Class of 1945**

Joan "McConnell" Francisco (October 5, 1926 — October 17, 2018)

Joan Francisco of Ellenton, FL, passed away Oct. 17, 2018. Survivors include her daughters Carol Francisco, Ellenton, Dianna Brock (Tom), Pueblo, CO, son Barry Francisco, Zephyrhills, FL; six grandchildren; 11 great-grand-children; one great great grandchild. Groover Funeral Home at Mansion Memorial Park is in charge of arrangement.



## **Jennie McGowan Lind Kwant**

**DATE OF PASSING: 5/17/2015**

### **Class of 1945**

Jennie Kwant -- Grand Ledge

Jennie Lind Kwant, 88, born January 14, 1927 in Grand Rapids, MI, daughter of Howard and Charlotte McGowan, passed away May 17, 2015 in Grand Ledge, MI. Jennie was a member Trinity Episcopal Church and Altar Guild and volunteered at Ledge Craft Lane, Grand Ledge.

She is survived by two daughters, Mary Lind and Melanie, four sons: James, Thomas, Robert and Jeffrey; seven grandchildren, two great grandchildren; sister-in-law, Etta Allen; several nieces and nephews, also special friend Chuck Jones Sr. and family. She was preceded in death by her husband of 50 years, John in 1998.

A Memorial Service will be held Saturday, June 6, 2015 at 11:00 a.m. at the Peters & Murray Funeral, Grand Ledge, with inurnment to follow at Oakwood Cemetery, Grand Ledge. Receiving of friends and family will begin one hour prior to service time. For those desiring, memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society or Trinity Episcopal Church. Online condolences may be shared at [www.petersandmurrayfuneralhome.com](http://www.petersandmurrayfuneralhome.com).







**Class of 1945**

## **Margaret Louise McIntyre Kuhns**

**March 6, 1928 — May 6, 2022 (Aged 94)**

Margaret Louise (McIntyre) Kuhns of Mulliken, passed away peacefully on May 6, 2022 at the age of 94. Margaret was born on March 6, 1928, daughter of Leo and Clara (Ramsey) McIntyre. Margaret was a graduate of Grand Ledge High School class of 1945, and worked for the IRS in multiple capacities. Margaret was born, raised, and eventually returned to reside in Mulliken. She lived in several other areas including Lansing, Washington D.C., the Philippine Islands, and Ft. Benning, Georgia. Margaret was married to her love, Ed Kuhns, on October 18, 1947, and they spent 67 years together. Margaret was instrumental in getting the polio vaccine clinic in Mulliken during the 1950's. She was a member of the 1st Congregational Church of Portland, MI, and also a former member of both the Mulliken United Methodist Church and Immanuel Lutheran Church of Grand Ledge. Margaret enjoyed reading and gardening, and loved history, genealogy, and animals.



Margaret is survived by her children: Barbara (Rick) Bladt, Kathryn Sanchez, and David Kuhns; grandchildren: Caryn Bladt, Jeff (Cait) Bladt, Marco Sanchez, and Diane

Sanchez; great granddaughters Josephine Bladt and Margot Bladt; brother, Norbert McIntyre; and several nieces and nephews. She is preceded in death by her parents, husband Edward Kuhns, siblings: Ruah (Kendall) Dow, Leo McIntyre Jr., Eileen (Leland) Frantz, baby boy McIntyre, William McIntyre, and Helen McIntyre.

A funeral service will be held on Thursday, May 12, 2022 – 11:00 a.m. at the Portland First Congregational Church, 421 E Bridge St, Portland, MI 48875. Visitation will take place on Wednesday from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. at the Mills Funeral Home, Peters & Murray Chapel and Thursday May 12th from 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. at the Portland First Congregational Church. She will be laid to rest next to her husband Ed in Meadowbrook Cemetery. The family is being served by the Mills Funeral Home, Peters & Murray Chapel, Grand Ledge. For online condolences please visit [www.millsfuneral.com](http://www.millsfuneral.com).



## **Kenneth G. Merryfield**

**Class of 1945**

Kenneth G Merryfield was born on August 4, 1927. He died on November 15, 2003 at 76 years of age. We know that Kenneth G Merryfield had been residing in Mulliken, Eaton County, Michigan.

**DATE OF PASSING: 11/15/2003**



## **Kenneth G. Merryfield**

### **Class of 1945**

Kenneth G Merryfield was born on August 4, 1927.  
He died on November 15, 2003 at 76 years of age.  
We know that Kenneth G Merryfield had been residing in  
Mulliken, Eaton County, Michigan.

**DATE OF PASSING: 11/15/2003**



## **Robert H. Millbrook**

### **Class of 1945**

Robert H. Millbrook -- Grand Ledge

“Bob” Millbrook of Grand Ledge Robert, age 81, born March 10, 1928, passed away December 15, 2009 in Lansing, MI. Bob was owner of Millbrook Printing Co.; member of the Master Printers of America, former member of the Board of Directors of M.P.A., and former member of the Board of Directors Printers Industries of Michigan. He was a former member and past president of the Grand Ledge Rotary Club and attended the Delta Mills United Methodist Church. Survivors include his wife of 61 years, Audrey; children: Roger L. (Kay) Millbrook of Grand Ledge, Sally J. Emick of Pentwater, MI, Ronald H. (Jane) Millbrook, and Robin D. (Michael) Gonzales both of Grand Ledge; 9 grandchildren, 9 great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his parents, Raymond and Bessie (Halsted) Millbrook and brother, Bud. Memorial services will be held Monday, December 21, 2009 - 11:00 a.m.. at Peters & Murray Funeral Home, Grand Ledge, with Rev. Lyle Heaton of the Wacousta Community United Methodist Church officiating. Interment will follow at Hillside Cemetery, Delta Mills. The family will receive friends at the funeral home Sunday 5-8 p.m. For those desiring, contributions may be made to Delta Mills United Methodist Church or the Wacousta Community United Methodist Church. Online condolences may be made at [www.petersandmurrayfuneralhome.com](http://www.petersandmurrayfuneralhome.com).

**DATE OF PASSING: 12/15/2009**





## Mildred J. Nichols Rueckert Shane

**June 24, 1927 — May 26, 2021 (Aged 93)**

Mildred J. Nichols Rueckert Shane  
June 24, 1927 - May 26, 2021 (Aged 93)

Mildred Rueckert Shane, 93, of Grand Ledge, Michigan, passed away on May 26, 2021, in the care of Heartland Hospice and wonderful staff at Colonial Park Home in Grand Ledge.

Mildred was born on June 24, 1927, in Grand Ledge to Hugh and Bernice (Miles) Nichols. Following graduation from Grand Ledge High School in 1945, she worked in the offices of General Motors in Lansing. She later became the church secretary for Grand Ledge United Methodist Church, and retired in 1989, after 25 years of service. She was a member of the church and enjoyed singing in the church choir.

She married Dale Rueckert in 1949, and together they enjoyed travels throughout the mid-west in their motor home. They also enjoyed time at their cottage on Lake Mitchell in Cadillac, where they made many life-long friends. He preceded her in death in 2000. She later married Gerald Shane, who preceded her in death in 2008. She was also preceded in death by her parents and her sister, Dorothy Millbrook.

Millie was an active supporter of the Humane Society of Eaton County. Her cat, "Buffy," was a special companion to her for many years, and also brought her comfort during her recent care with Heartland Hospice.

Millie was interested in genealogy, and she compiled notebooks of Nichols family history, dating from the 1600's. She also wrote her own book of memoirs of favorite family stories from her youth. She was an avid reader of American history, and she enjoyed outdoor walks and bicycling. She was a skilled and competitive croquet player, and often shared stories of family picnics by the Dutch oven and croquet tournaments on her parents' lawn with family and neighbors. Millie spent much time "corresponding" with friends and family, and never missed an opportunity to send a card, note or letter to mark special occasions and holidays.

Millie was fondly called "Aunt Millie" by three generations of nieces and nephews, and their friends as well. She was "Aunt Millie" to care-staff and to most everyone who met her. She found delight in the presence of small children and new babies in the family. In her 93 years, she enthusiastically attended countless high school graduations, college graduations, weddings, baby showers and birthday parties. Her presence at every event was always special and appreciated.

Patriotism was important to Millie, and a favorite book, The Greatest Generation, depicted a generation that she was proud to be part of, and that she represented with pride. She was humble, gracious, kind and thoughtful of others. Her family will miss the presence of "Aunt Millie" and the generation she represented.

A private burial was held at Oakwood Cemetery, Grand Ledge, MI. Arrangements by Peters & Murray Funeral Home of Grand Ledge. Online condolences and memories may be shared at [www.petersandmurrayfuneralhome.com](http://www.petersandmurrayfuneralhome.com)



## Dorothy Jean Osmer Hough

**Class of 1945**

Birth: 26 Mar 1927  
Lansing, Ingham County, Michigan, USA  
Death: 30 May 1994 (aged 67)  
Windsor, Eaton County, Michigan, USA  
Burial: Dimondale Cemetery  
Dimondale, Eaton County, Michigan, USA

**DATE OF PASSING: 5/30/1994**





## **Jack Lee Parker**

### **Class of 1945**

Jack Lee Parker  
Birth: 1927  
Death: 1993 (aged 65–66)  
Burial: Wacousta Cemetery  
Wacousta, Clinton County, Michigan, USA

**DATE OF PASSING: 1993**



## **Richard August Peiffer**

### **October 11, 1927 - May 22, 2020 (Aged 92)**

Richard August Peiffer lifelong Grand Ledge resident passed away May 22, 2020 surrounded by his loving family. Dick was born October 11, 1927 in Grand Ledge to the late August A. and Dortress L. (Ward) Peiffer Smazel. He attended Grand Ledge High School and proudly served his country in the Army of the United States Signal Core during WW II. Dick worked in home furnishings starting at Richards Furniture in Grand Ledge then Robinson's and finally JW Knapp for 28 years. After leaving Knapp's, Dick went to work as a Supervisor at the District Court in Lansing retiring in 1990. He loved his family and friends and looked forward to spending time with those who meant so much to him around a dinner table with food, fellowship and a game of cards. He especially looked forward to one of his special nieces, Jackie Johnson, Jeannie Schroeder or Mary Gidley bringing him an apple or lemon pie. Dick was a faithful member of St. Michael Parish and will be remembered for his work ethic and wonderful friendship to many. He cherished the opportunity to be Santa Claus for Knapp's but would also carry the act home and peak in his children's windows which gave them a treasured memory of their dad and as the grandkids came along he would be their Santa too.



He is survived by his loving wife of nearly 68 years, Joyce M. (Springsteen); children, Michael (Denise), Rick (Diane); Patricia (special son-in-law, Pete), Mary Peiffer and John (Marcy); grandchildren, Dylan, Dustyn, Emily, Katie, PJ, Kelli, Patrick, Kerry, William, Paula, Amber, Caleb, John Jr. and Autumn; 21 great grandchildren with one on the way; sister, Donna Sweet; nieces and nephews, Mary Gidley, Jackie Johnson, Jeannie Schroeder, Jennifer Julius, Bob Edgar, Scott Sweet, Tony Sweet, Sue Shoemaker, Kathy Sipperly and Theresa Lippert. Dick was preceded in death by infant son, David; sisters and brothers-in-law, Doris and Don Butler, Betty and Jake Edgar and Philip Sweet; nephews, Jim Butler, Rick Butler, Bob Gidley and Mike Johnson along with in-laws, Harold and Martha Springsteen.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated Saturday, May 30, 2020, 11:00 a.m. at St. Michael Catholic Church, Grand Ledge by Father James Eisele. Family and friends are invited to attend or watch the funeral mass for Dick on the St. Michael Church YouTube channel (Scroll down until you see May 30, 2020 - Funeral Mass.) Rite of Committal will follow at St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery. Visitation will be at the church Saturday from 10-11:00 a.m. Memorial contributions in Dick's name may be given to St. Michael Catholic Church, 345 Edwards Street, Grand Ledge, Michigan 48837 or the Grand Ledge Food Bank, 4980 Burt Avenue, Grand Ledge, Michigan 48837. Arrangements by the Holihan-Atkin-Barclay Funeral Home, Grand Ledge.



## **Edythe Shepard Brunger**

**Class of 1945**

**DATE OF PASSING: 11/27/2011**

Mrs. Edythe M. Brunger -- Grand Ledge



On November 27, 2011 God received an angel in Heaven. Edythe was born Sept. 20, 1927 in Lansing, MI to the late Glen and Emma (Bassett) Shepard. For over 30 years, with love and pride, she cared for her Church Home as custodian at First Congregational United Church of Christ in Grand Ledge. She was an avid gardener, enjoyed bowling, and always looked at life in a positive light. She was a loving mother, grandmother, and great grandmother and will be dearly remembered by her family: Sons Darrel and Jeffrey, daughters Suzanne (Jeff) Schaible and Karen (Dale Simpson) Brunger, grandchildren Jennifer (Paul) Sonnenberg, Tamara (Tim) Lipsey, Casey (Craig) Tucker, Candace (Brian George) Brunger, And Mitchell Smith, 6 great grandchildren, nieces and nephews. She is preceded in death by husband Stuart and 3 sisters. Visitation will be Tuesday 5-8pm at Holihan-Atkin Funeral Home Grand Ledge. A funeral service will be held Wednesday, Nov. 30, 2011, 1:00pm at First Congregational United Church of Christ Grand Ledge with interment following at

Oakwood Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to First Congregational United Church of Christ 210 W. Saginaw Highway Grand Ledge, Michigan 48837 or Alzheimer's Association, Capitol Area Region 5303 S. Cedar Street, Building One Lansing, Michigan 48911.



## **Eleanor Inez Simons Whiting**

**Class of 1945**

**DATE OF PASSING: 1/27/2017**

(NO OTHER INFORMATION WAS AVAILABLE.)



## **Clifford LaVerne Sowers**

**DATE OF PASSING: 5/18/2018**

### **Class of 1945**

Clifford LaVerne Sowers -- Kalamazoo

Clifford LaVerne Sowers, age 90 of Kalamazoo died Friday, May 18, 2018 at Kairo's Dwelling in Kalamazoo. He was born in Greenville, MI on Oct. 21, 1927 the son of Clifford Henry Sowers and Estella M. (Albright) sowers. He graduated from Grand Ledge High School in 1945 and later attended Western Michigan University and Glen Oaks Community College. Clifford served in the U.S. Army at the end of WWII in Hawaii. He was a draftsman by trade and had worked for the Harter Corporation and Grumann-Olsen in Sturgis, the Ingersoll Company in Kalamazoo, and for General Motors in both Kalamazoo and Grand Rapids. He was a member of both the Leonidas and West Oshtemo Grange; a former member of the Southern Michigan Gun Club; and VFW Post #1527 in Kalamazoo and #5515 in Baldwin. He enjoyed hunting and fishing in his leisure time.

Clifford is survived by five children: Sharon (Glen) Bierens of Kalamazoo, Steven LaVerne Sowers of Kalamazoo, Steven (Terri) Moses of Otsego, Linda (Ralph) Starke of Dryden, and Michael Moses of Mendon; 19 grandchildren; many great-grandchildren; He was preceded in death by his parents; a sister, Thedora Peters; brother, Richard Lyle Sowers; sons, Dwight Moses, Richard Sowers and Clifford D. Sowers; and his wife, Ruth (Stafford-Moses) Sowers.

The family will receive friends from 2:00 to 3:00 PM Monday at the Eickhoff Funeral Home in Mendon. Funeral services will be 3:00 PM Monday, May 21, 2018 at the funeral home with Rev. Hill, Pastor of West Oshtemo Baptist Church officiating. Military interment will follow in Scott/Doane Cemetery in Mendon Township. Memorials may be directed to Kairos Dwelling, 2945 Gull Road, Kalamazoo, MI 49048. Condolences may be expressed online at [www.eickhofffuneralhome.com](http://www.eickhofffuneralhome.com)



## **Alvin Dale Starr**

**February 28, 1928 — April 16, 2008 (Aged 80)**

Alvin Dale Starr, Grand Ledge, Age 80, passed away April 16, 2008. He was born Feb. 28, 1928 in Delta Twp., the son of John and Abigail (Dailey) Starr. He was a lifelong area resident and farmer. He also was a livestock dealer and trucker and served as Oneida Twp. Trustee, Eaton County Commissioner and Treasurer. He was a member of St. Michael Catholic Church. He is survived by his loving family who was very important to him, daughter Mary Lynn (Bill) Dixon of Woodland, sons Steve and John (Connie) all of Grand Ledge, grandchildren Donna Schneider, Keith, David and Becky Dixon, Katie and Joe Starr, 2 great granddaughters, twin brother Ervin (Kay) Starr and Ron (Cappi) Starr all of Grand Ledge, numerous nieces and nephews, and lifelong family friend Marge Haueter. Alvin is preceded in death by wife Marion and sisters Roberta McCully and Kathleen Bassett. Visitation will be Friday 3-5 and 7-9pm at Holihan-Atkin Funeral Home Grand Ledge. Vigil 8pm. Funeral Mass will be Saturday, April 19, 2008, 10am at St. Michael Church Grand Ledge, Rev. Fr. James Eisele Celebrant. Interment will follow at Oakwood Cemetery, Grand ledge. Memorial contributions may be made to Eaton Community Hospice 2675 S. Cochran Road Charlotte, Michigan 48813.



## **Merlin J. Tiedt**

**Class of 1945**

Birth 1927  
Death 2001 (aged 73-74)  
Burial  
North Eagle Cemetery  
Eagle, Clinton County, Michigan, USAE

**DATE OF PASSING: 2001**





## **Garrett Earl Wheaton**

**August 6, 1927 — February 21, 2022 (Aged 94)**

Garrett Earl Wheaton passed away peacefully at his home in Lansing on February 21, 2022 at the age of 94. Garrett was born in Lansing, August 6, 1927 and grew up on the family farm near Wacousta, MI. He graduated from Grand Ledge High School and is a proud graduate of Michigan State University, class of 1952.

1952 was also the year Garrett married a fellow MSU graduate, Barbara Huss Wheaton. August of this year would have been their 70th anniversary.

Garrett started teaching the Future Farmers of America, (FFA) classes in Peck, MI (1952). The next year found him teaching FFA in Dansville, MI (1953-1963). He briefly worked at Michigan National Bank in Lansing before resuming teaching in the Mason School System as a 6th grade teacher (1964-1978).

After retiring from teaching, Garrett and Barbara purchased the Bob Jones Paint store in Mason, which grew into Wheaton's Frame Shop. The couple sold the business and retired in 1990.

He was active in the Mason community as a member and serving as President of the Mason Chamber of Commerce, members of the Lion's Club, a Boy Scouts leader and active member of the Mason First United Methodist Church.

Garrett Wheaton was preceded in death by his parents, Earl and Zula Walters Wheaton, and brothers, Curtis Wheaton and Dale Wheaton.

He is survived by his wife, Barbara Huss Wheaton, his sons, James Garrett Wheaton (Linda Larkin-Benyo), Robert Bruce Wheaton, and daughter, Patricia Kay Wheaton, ten grandchildren, and sixteen great grandchildren.

A memorial service to celebrate his life will be held at 11:00 AM on Monday, February 28, 2022 at Mason First United Methodist Church, 201 East Ash Street, Mason, Michigan with a time of fellowship immediately following. Reverend Suzanne Goodwin will officiate the service. The family will receive friends beginning at 10:00 AM until the time of service.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Mason First United Methodist Church High School Graduates Scholarship Fund, checks made payable to church Attn: Scholarship Fund on memo line or to FFA, 1001 S. Barnes St., Mason, MI 48854, checks made payable to Mason High School Attn; Pete Barnum on memo line.

The family is being served by Watkins Brothers Funeral Homes where online condolences may be shared at [www.watkinsfuneralhomes.com](http://www.watkinsfuneralhomes.com).



## **Barbara Jane Wells Shaw**

**Class of 1945**

Birth: 18 Feb 1927  
Grand Ledge, Eaton County, Michigan, USA  
Death: 21 Sep 1975 (aged 48)  
Lansing, Ingham County, Michigan, USA  
Burial: Oakwood Cemetery  
Grand Ledge, Eaton County, Michigan, USA

**DATE OF PASSING: 9/21/1975**

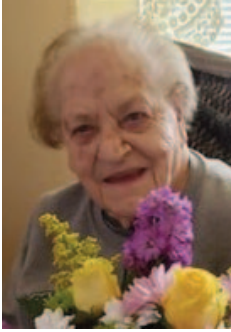




## Marjorie May Williams Galvin

**September 2, 1927 — November 25, 2021 (Aged 94)**

Marjorie May Williams Galvin of Grand Ledge passed away November 25, 2021 in Lansing. Marge was born September 2, 1927, in Detroit to the late Thomas S. and Eva M. (Gates) Williams. She graduated from Grand Ledge High School Class of 1945. In her teenage years, she worked as an usher and sold tickets at the Sun Theatre and later worked for Clay Products. Marge was a proud stay at home mom raising two wonderful daughters as the family moved to Alma, Norton Shores and Adrian, all while attending her husband Bob's baseball games. Upon their return to Grand Ledge, she worked at Doty Insurance and served as Secretary at Immanuel Lutheran Church where she had been a member since 1949. Over the years, Marge served in numerous capacities at the church including the Memorial Garden Committee, Altar Care and Luther League. Throughout the years, Marge enjoyed bowling with her friends on various leagues.



She is survived by her daughters, Patricia "Patsy" Galvin and Nancy (Bob) Stephens; her sister-in-law Roberta Fortino and numerous nieces and nephews. Marge was preceded in death by her husband, Robert in 1980; siblings, Norris "Mike" Williams, Lorraine Marjane Finkbiner and Lyla Marie Felzke.

Visitation will be Thursday December 2, 2021 from 12:30-1:30 pm at the Holihan-Atkin-Barclay Funeral Home, Grand Ledge with a graveside service to follow at Oakwood Cemetery, Grand Ledge with Pastor Chuck Foerster, officiating at 2:00 pm. A Celebration of Marge's life will be held at Immanuel Lutheran Church in late spring or early summer of 2022. Details of the service will be made available at a later date. Memorial contributions may be given to Immanuel Lutheran Church, 501 S. Clinton Street, Grand Ledge, Michigan 48837 or the Capital Area Humane Society, 7095 W. Grand River Avenue, Lansing, Michigan 48906 (<https://interland3.donorperfect.net/weblink/weblink.aspx?name=cahsad&id=23>).