



## Charles Junior Kleinhardt

April 6, 1923 - May 1, 2012

Charles Junior Kleinhardt age 89 of Clare passed away peacefully at his home on Monday, May 1, 2012. He was surrounded by his loving family, as he lost his battle with pancreatic cancer.

Charles was born on April 6, 1923, the fourth son of the respected Rev. Charles Kleinhardt, Sr. and Nina (Speigelmire) Kleinhardt in Clare. He married Erma (Ott) Kleinhardt on May 12, 1945, the first marriage in the original Brown Corners Church. His father officiated the ceremony, igniting a happily married couple for 67 years.

A life-long resident of Clare County, Charles had a dedicated spirit for all those around him. As a child, he learned the value of work, as he toiled the land along side his father. "Born a Farmer," he continued his life's journey by expanding the O.K. Farms (Ott and Kleinhardt) north of Clare in Arthur Township. His passion for agriculture could be seen through his hard work tending the fields. The excitement of planting spring crops, watching them grow, and reaping the harvest in the fall, were pleasant memories for Charles. His passion for farm animals, especially the baby calves he nurtured, was such an important part of his daily chores. He operated the farm for the majority of his life with driven conviction, often being seen on his golf cart checking the fields and the animals nearby.

Charles was a Man of God, and served HIM throughout his entire life. His faith and dedication to the Lord, and serving others created many wonderful memories for those who knew him. When Charles had a chance to witness for Christ, he did it! He was a devoted Gideon for over twenty years, participating in the jail ministry program and would share the gospel by passing out bibles whenever the opportunity arose. He was an amazing song leader at the Brown Corners Church, sang in a men's quartet, and often was a soloist throughout his lifetime. He made sure small children attended Bible School, called on those who needed spiritual guidance, and supported the MOPS program as a care giver. He thoroughly enjoyed mentoring children at the Clare Elementary School.

Charles was a humble man, from simple beginnings, and always felt blessed with what he had. He found pleasure collecting antique tractors and attending an occasional auction to find "something" to tinker with and repair to working order. He never left an auction without buying something. In the fall, Charles could be seen in his red, plaid hunting suit, sitting (or sleeping) in his blind across the field waiting for the big buck to appear. His presence will be missed at the Clare County Fair, where he supported the 4-H members with their projects.

Charles was actively involved in his community as a member of The Farmer's Home Administration, Farm Bureau, an Inductee into The Farmer's Hall of Fame, Farm Bureau Petroleum Board, A.S.C. Stabilization Committee, M.M.P.A., Arthur Township Board of Review, The Gideon International, and a member of the Clare Church of the Nazarene.

Left to mourn his loss are his devoted wife Erma (Ott) Kleinhardt; sons Dick (Connie) Kleinhardt of Clare and Tim Kleinhardt of Clare; daughter Charma (John) Brian of Traverse City; his grandchildren, Stephanie (Dave) Gomola of Midland, Scott (Heidi) Kleinhardt of Clare, Sarah (Josh) Bryant of Farwell,

Hannah Kleinhardt of Nashville, TN, Aubrey Kleinhardt of Clare, Rachel Brian of East Lansing and Laura Brian of Traverse City. Other survivors include six great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

Charles was preceded in death by his parents, Charles Sr. and Nina Kleinhardt, and his three brothers Royal, Robert and Roger, along with his son, Kevin Jon Kleinhardt.

A final thought from Charles on Sunday before his death, to his Granddaughter, "To be absent in body means we are present with the Lord." May we all find comfort in knowing that Charles is singing with the Angel Choir, beside those who were waiting to welcome him HOME.

The family would like to thank the many visitors, cards, food and prayers by so many, Mid Michigan Medical Center of Midland, Hospice, and The Stephenson-Wyman Funeral Home.

In remembrance of Charles, memorials may be directed to The Gideon International or Mid Michigan Hospice of Clare County. Visitation for Charles will take place on Sunday, May 6, from 3:00-8:00, with Funeral Services held on Monday, May 7, at 11:00, all at The Clare Church of the Nazarene, with Pastor Jim Young officiating. On-line condolences may be made at [www.stephenson-wyman.com](http://www.stephenson-wyman.com)

# Cemetery Details

## Cherry Grove Cemetery

1000 Cedar St.  
Clare, MI 48617

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAY 6. 3:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Clare Church of the Nazarene  
10160 S. Grant Avenue  
Clare, MI 48617

## Service

MAY 7. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

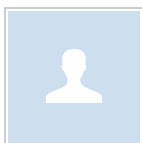
Clare Church of the Nazarene  
10160 S. Grant Avenue  
Clare, MI 48617

# Tribute Wall



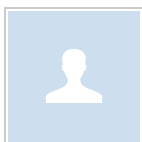
“ Charma, My heart goes out to you and your family. Know your Dad is in a better place, with out pain. In time his memories will make you smile. My prayers are with you. Love, Lynn###imported-begin###Lynn David Mattis###imported-end##

May 02, 2012 at 01:33 PM



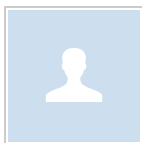
“ Charma, I'm so very sorry for the loss of your dear beloved father. My heart breaks for you and your family and I'll keep all of you in my thoughts and prayers.###imported-begin###Cate McGinn###imported-end##

May 02, 2012 at 01:33 PM



“ All of the staff at Stephenson-Wyman Funeral Homes wish to extend our sincere sympathy to the Kleinhardt family. Thank you for the trust that you have placed in us.###imported-begin###Stephenson-Wyman Funeral Home###imported-end##

May 02, 2012 at 01:33 PM



“ On reading his obituary, I feel sorry that I never met him. He sounds like quite a man. I am very sorry for your loss.###imported-begin###Larry Petiprin###imported-end##

May 02, 2012 at 01:33 PM



“ My condolences from the Sheets family. we are so thankful for Chuck and the whole Kleinhardt family for living out their faith. My brother Paul brought home his faith that he learned while milking cows while working on the Kleinhardt farm. Chuck's faith and witness for Christ has eternally impacted my life as well as the rest of the family. Thank you Charles for faithfully sowing seeds of your faith along your life's journey. Well done good and faithful servant! Love, Bruce###imported-begin###Bruce Sheets###imported-end##

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May 02, 2012 at 01:33 PM



“ So sorry for your loss Charma and family. Your dad was a wonderful man. He always seemed to light up any church event we attended together. He will be greatly missed. It seems our parents are together in heaven in no more pain! What a blessing! Remember the times you spent with him and enjoy. So glad he was at home at his passing. Sue###imported-begin###Sue (Weldon) German###imported-end##

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May 02, 2012 at 01:33 PM



“ I knew Mr. Kleinhardt because I've known Charma all my life. She's a great gal so that says a lot about him and Mrs. Kleinhardt. Over the last years I've run into him a lot at functions or just at the Dairy Phil and his smile and greeting just made my day better. I didn't know him well, but I really liked what I knew. And I'm one of his many fans who will miss him. Claudia###imported-begin###Claudia Allen###imported-end##

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May 02, 2012 at 01:33 PM



“ Charles' smile was one of the first things I saw when I first entered the Nazarene church in Clare 10 years ago. He made me feel so accepted and well received. He had a friendship with my husband that dated back to when my husband was a boy, but I was new to Clare. He & Erma helped to make this new lady to town feel like I might actually have some friends in a new town. I made friends with many of the family after that. Our thoughts and prayers are with you Erma, Tim, Sarah and Aubrey and the rest of the extended Kleinhardt family.##imported-begin##Michelle Shull##imported-end##

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May 02, 2012 at 01:33 PM



“ Our hearts are with you during this trying time, we know your faith will help you stay strong. Charles was a wonderful man and great example of how to live a life to the fullest every day. The lessons were well learned and have impacted hundreds during his life.##imported-begin##Bruce and Carrie Hales##imported-end##

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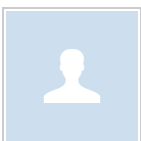
May 02, 2012 at 01:33 PM



“ We had a lot great times together. Great memories of hunting, fishing, cutting wood, etc. Sunday evenings after church we'd play games or would sit around and chat, and try to keep the kids out of trouble. God bless you all. Charles and Doris##imported-begin##Charles & Doris Malson Sr.##imported-end##

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May 02, 2012 at 01:33 PM



“ Dick, Tim and Charma. I'm very sorry for your loss. God Bless You, Jim##imported-begin##James Dunn##imported-end##

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May 02, 2012 at 01:33 PM



“ Our prayers go out to you and your family. Charles was a great man, who loved the Lord. He is with God and walking on streets of Gold with him. He will be greatly missed. Your family should be very proud of him. Our thoughts are with you at this difficult time. With Love, The Farrell's###imported-begin###nathanael Farrell Family###imported-end##

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May 02, 2012 at 01:33 PM



“ Dear Charma, So sorry to hear about your dad. What an amazing and kind person he was, and always with a smile on his face. I loved to come to your home and spend the night, and he and your mom were a big part of the reason. He was so willing to show this city slicker things about the farm, like how the milking machines worked and how to feed the calves from the pails. How lucky you are to have such wonderful memories along with the knowlege that you will see him again one day. Thinking of you and your family. Love, Trish###imported-begin###Bob & Patricia Eichler###imported-end##

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May 02, 2012 at 01:33 PM



“ NULL###imported-begin###NULL###imported-end##

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May 02, 2012 at 01:33 PM



“ So very sorry to hear about Charles. We so enjoyed visiting with him and the family at the Ott reunions. Our sincere sympathy to Wilma and family. Our hearts and prayers are with all of you... We will miss him very much...##imported-begin##Harold Radloff##imported-end##

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May 02, 2012 at 01:33 PM



“ Charms, So sorry to hear of your loss. All though I never meet your Dad, he sounds like a very memorable man. Know that in the days ahead he will always be with you in your memories . Death leaves a heartache no one can heal, love leaves a memory no one can steal . Remember. Our thought & prayers are with you & your family.  
Love, Marian##imported-begin##Marian (Boatman) Irish##imported-end##

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May 02, 2012 at 01:33 PM



“ Sorry to hear about your loss, our deepest sympathy and love is with you and your family as you endure this difficult time. God bless and keep you safe!##imported-begin##Darryl and Karen Onderik##imported-end##

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May 02, 2012 at 12:46 PM



“ All of the staff at Stephenson-Wyman Funeral Homes wish to extend our sincere sympathy to the Kleinhardt family. Thank you for the trust that you have placed in us.##imported-begin##Stephenson-Wyman Funeral Home##imported-end##

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May 02, 2012 at 12:46 PM



“ I have known Chuck all my life. He had an impact on my life as a child. He was good friends with my mom and dad. Love to the family. Darlene##imported-begin##Darlene (Birdsall)  
Case##imported-end##

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May 02, 2012 at 12:46 PM