



## Darlene E. Schunk

June 21, 1933 - May 4, 2023

On Thursday, May 4, Darlene E. (Lear) Schunk, loving wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, passed away at the age of 89, surrounded by family. She was born June 21, 1933, to Carl and Elsie Lear in Oil Hill, Kansas. The family moved to the Clare area when she was six years old and would later graduate from Clare High School. Darlene met her future husband, Ron, at a friend's gathering. She was fond of saying she saw him from across the room and said to herself, "I am going to marry that man." They married on Oct. 15, 1955, at the Clare United Methodist Church. Darlene learned the role of farmer's wife quickly. Together they raised four sons and one daughter. They loved and were proud of all their children. Together Darlene and Ron owned and operated the family farm, Schunk Farm Supply, the House of Flavors Restaurant and, later in life, Crazy Kettle Corn. Darlene was also employed at Central Michigan University in the food services program. In her spare time, she loved visiting and making meals for family and friends. She loved flower gardening. She was a member of the Clare Methodist Church, local Farm Bureau group, and supporter of 4-H and all school activities.

Darlene is survived by her children Byron (Jennifer); Lee (Bobbie); Diane (Kurt) Kolka; Jeff (Deb); and Max (Joan); 15 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren; her sister-in-law, Darylene (Ed) Pennington of Missouri. She was preceded in death by her parents; Ron, her husband of 66 years; and siblings Homer; Harold; and Juanita (Lene) Green.

Visitation will be held on Thursday, May 11, from 4-8 p.m. at the Stephenson-Wyman Funeral Home. Funeral will be held at Clare United Methodist Church on Friday, May 12 at 11 a.m. with Pastor Connie Bongard and Pastor Lane Van officiating. Burial will take place at Cherry Grove Cemetery. A luncheon at the church will follow.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in memory of Darlene to Careline Hospice, My

Michigan Health Care Volunteer Program, Clare United Methodist Church or the Alzheimer's Association.

# Cemetery Details

## Cherry Grove Cemetery

1000 Cedar St.  
Clare, MI 48617

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAY 11. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Stephenson - Wyman Funeral Home (Clare)  
1005 North McEwan St.  
Clare, MI 48617  
(989) 386-7451  
wymanfh@chartermi.net  
<https://www.stephenson-wyman.com/>

## Service

MAY 12. 11:00 AM (ET)

Clare United Methodist Church  
105 E. Seventh Street  
Clare, MI 48617

# Tribute Wall

MS

“ First I would like to thank you her family for sharing her with us at Horizon Senior Living. She was such a wonderful lady and such a hoot at times!! She sure loved all of you!! I am the cook at Horizon and I never once heard her complain, she was always so appreciative. I loved taking dessert out and asking her if she wanted it....oh yes she would exclaim!!❤️ So very sorry for your loss. She is most definitely missed.

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**Marge Smith** - May 14, 2023 at 08:22 AM

RK

“ 2 files added to the album Video



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**Rebekah Kolka** - May 13, 2023 at 01:16 PM

JM

“ Byron, Jen and families  
Thoughts and prayers for all of you at this difficult time.  
Sincerely Sharon and Jeff

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**Jeff Michels** - May 12, 2023 at 08:44 AM

JH

“ Our prayers go out to the whole Schunk family. Darlene was a beautiful person inside and out. She will be missed. Prayers of comfort for your family.

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**Jim & Nancy Hatfield** - May 11, 2023 at 10:04 AM



“ *Gracious Lavender Basket was purchased for the family of Darlene E. Schunk.*



May 10, 2023 at 02:36 PM



“ *John & Pam Zinser and family purchased the Mouthwatering Meat and Cheese Gift Tower for the family of Darlene E. Schunk.*



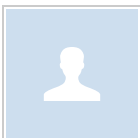
**John & Pam Zinser and family** - May 10, 2023 at 12:48 PM



“ *Rose Remembrance was purchased for the family of Darlene E. Schunk.*



May 09, 2023 at 03:15 PM



“ *Gracious Lavender Basket was purchased for the family of Darlene E. Schunk.*



May 09, 2023 at 03:11 PM

JH

“ I started taking care of her back in November. She was so sweet. She always talked about her husband Ron, Max & Lee. I loved taking care of her. She will be deeply missed by all. I love you Darlene

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**Jennifer Hughes** - May 08, 2023 at 12:22 AM

JB

“ Janice Buckley lit a candle in memory of Darlene E. Schunk



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**Janice Buckley** - May 07, 2023 at 05:59 PM



“ Blue Caribbean Bouquet was purchased for the family of Darlene E. Schunk.



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May 07, 2023 at 12:14 PM

DS

“ She will be miss by all. I just started taking care of her and she was so sweet to meet.

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**Deborah Stoneham** - May 05, 2023 at 06:42 PM



“ Donations may be given to the following organizations in memory of Darlene. Thank you.

*Hospice Caroline  
Clare Methodist Church  
Alzheimer's Association  
MyMichigan Health Clare Volunteer Program*

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**Diane Kolka** - May 05, 2023 at 04:26 PM

SH

“ So sorry for you loss. I have great memories of working at the House of Flavors. She was a great boss and a wonderful person.

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**Sue Higgins** - May 05, 2023 at 03:26 PM

PL

“ She will be missed



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**Penny Leeth** - May 05, 2023 at 02:31 PM

BH

“ I will remember her smiling face whenever we got a chance to talk. My heart is with your families during this difficult time.

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**BRUCE HALES** - May 05, 2023 at 10:37 AM

SE

“ Sorry for your loss my prayer are with you family .

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**Scott Eberhart** - May 05, 2023 at 12:38 AM

MG

“ Our thoughts and sympathy go out to the Schunk family tonight: Byron and Jenny, Lee and Bobby, Jeff and Deb, Max and Jo, Diane and Kurt. Our families have known each other for decades. Ron and Darlene were the best of friends with our mom and dad. They raised up their families in a time when family came first, hard work and caring for one another was second nature. Darlene was the perfect fit for Ron as he was for her. The phrase "Ron and Darlene" was a single word in our household. Never separated, always together. Darlene loved all her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren and was so proud of all their accomplishments both big and small. Surely she will be so dearly missed. And surely she would wish that her legacy be continued though all that she leaves behind. The family of Kay and Betty Green.

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**Mark and Lynn Green** - May 04, 2023 at 10:05 PM