

Dr. Elmer C. Shurlow

March 25, 1929 - January 19, 2020

Dr. Elmer C. "Doc" Shurlow, age 90 of Clare, passed away peacefully on Sunday, January 19, 2020 at his home surrounded by his loving family. On March 25, 1929, Doc was born the son of Ray and Martha (Stier) Shurlow in Lapeer, MI. He was a graduate of Lapeer High School in 1947; a place where he excelled both academically and in every athletic endeavor he sought. It was also at this time Doc's work career began, as his first job was delivering poultry to Henry Ford Hospital and Eastern Market for his parent's poultry processing company. After high school, Doc attended Albion College for his undergraduate degree. While there he played football all four years until his graduation in 1951. Missouri would be home for Doc from 1951 to 1955 while he attended Kirksville College of Osteopathy and Surgery, where he earned his credentials as a D.O. and consequently started a family tradition. During this time, he met his first wife Wilma Moine; a marriage that resulted in two sons James and Charles. After serving an externship in Flint and his surgical residency in Clare under Dr. Robert Krainik, Doc sought the opportunity to further his training as a surgeon, studying surgery in Austria and Ireland from '59 to '60. In 1961 Doc returned to Clare and accepted a position at the Clare Osteopathic Hospital as a general surgeon. He served the hospital until 1992. While at the hospital he also served as the Chief Physician in the E.R. and as a general practice physician. More than just a D.O., Doc also had a keen sense of business. During his medical career in Clare, Doc and Wilma founded the Clare Nursing Home and Clare County Ambulance Co. In 1978

he opened his own freestanding ER and surgery clinic known as the Clare Medical Building. He was instrumental in founding the BPS Laboratory and the Care More Foster Care Homes. He also served long tenures as the Chief Medical Examiner in both Clare and Isabella counties. It was also at this time in his career that he met his life partner Mary Ann David. The couple married in 1983, and enjoyed nearly 37 years together. In the few hours that Doc wasn't practicing medicine, he was sure to be at his 130-acre farm just outside of town where he would ride his tractor and put his imagination to work on ideas of all sorts, partnering with Bill Koch and Carl Stephenson to save the local theater from closing (Clare's Ideal Theater). In 2004 Doc and Mary Ann opened the Herrick House in Clare where he became the chief dish washer. Doc was a lover of all animals, an avid reader, a voracious collector of junk and a master prankster. He was kind, tenderhearted, and a consummate hard worker. In one way or another, he has affected many of us in Clare, whether it was through routine house visits, lifesaving surgery, repairing a fracture, delivering 2,036 babies, trying to save injured animals, or getting stuck behind him driving in or out of town! Doc sought to leave the world better than he found it. He succeeded.

Doc is survived by his loving wife Mary Ann Shurlow of Clare, and his sons James Shurlow of Clare, Dr. Charles (Krista) Shurlow of Beaver Creek, OH., and Brian (Jenny) David of Clare. He is also survived by his grandchildren Dr. James R. (Sara) Shurlow of Gaylord, Sara (Wes) Lee of Amherstburg, ON., Ryan C. Shurlow, and Austin Shurlow both of Beaver Creek, OH, and his three great-granddaughters. He was predeceased by his parents Ray and Martha Shurlow, his grandson Ryan Charles Shurlow, and his sister Erma Kisser.

A funeral service in honor of Doc will take place on Thursday, January 23,

2020 at 11:00 A.M. at the Clare United Methodist Church with Pastor John Kasper officiating. Friends may visit the family at the Clare Chapel of the Stephenson-Wyman Funeral Home on Wednesday the 22nd from 2:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M. and again from 7:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M. Memorial contributions in honor of Doc may be directed to the Clare United Methodist Church or to the Clare Animal Shelter.

Cemetery Details

Cherry Grove Cemetery

1000 Cedar St.
Clare, MI 48617

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 22. 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

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

Visitation

JAN 22. 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM (ET)

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

Service

JAN **23**. 11:00 AM (ET)

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

Tribute Wall

DF

“ *Dearest Mary Ann,
So many memories of Doc. Times he came to the funeral home, us coming to your home, and the Herrick House. He was a great man and the world was much better because of him. You will be in our thoughts and prayers will continue for you and the family.*

David Foster

Rowley Funeral Home, Mt. Pleasant

DAVID FOSTER - January 23, 2020 at 11:30 AM

MD

“ *So sorry to hear of your loss. He was a wonderful man. You are in my thoughts and prayers in this time of sorrow.*

Micky Davis

Micky Davis - January 22, 2020 at 09:38 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Dr. Elmer C. Shurlow.*



January 22, 2020 at 12:36 PM

JB

“ *May his Memory be Eternal.*

I was honored to work with Doc in the Medical Building ED and as a law enforcement officer as a Deputy Medical Examiner under the direction of Dr EC Shurlow. Many memories and lessons learned and used to this day

John K Bartz

John Bartz - January 22, 2020 at 11:31 AM

JA

“ *Maryann, and family, our deepest sympathies. As medical examiner for so many years, Dr. Shurlow was professional, kind, compassionate beyond words to the families he served who lost loved ones suddenly. We were blessed at Clark Family Funeral Chapel to have worked with him. May he Rest In Peace and your memories bring you comfort.*

jane - January 21, 2020 at 10:41 PM



“ *Small Garden Dish was purchased for the family of Dr. Elmer C. Shurlow.*



January 21, 2020 at 05:08 PM

JM

“ ANOTHER COMMUNITY GOOD GUY ON TO HIS NEXT MISSION. THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU HAVE DONE ON THIS MISSION. YOU WILL BE MISSED BY MANY. THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS TO YOUR FAMILY.

SHARON AND JEFF MICHELS

JEFF MICHELS - January 21, 2020 at 02:05 PM

BE

“ Doc was such a treasure to so many. I will be forever grateful for the kindness he gave to me when I moved back to Clare. I have special memories of him dashing around town with such energy and such love for the residents. He was loved and respected by all those lucky enough to have known him. Sincere condolences to the Shurlow family and numerous friends of this truly exemplary man.

Becky Evans - January 21, 2020 at 07:15 AM

RH

RIP DOCTOR SHURLOW YOU WERE THE BEST DOC AROUND YOU DELIVERED ME AND MY TWIN!

Rhonda Huntoon - January 21, 2020 at 09:46 AM

KK

I will always smile when I think of Doc and all the ambulance runs we went on together. He gave so much of himself to Clare. God called a good one home and I am sure that he is showing of his angel wings as he reminisces with all of his former patients. God's speed Doc...he broke the mold when he made you !!

Kaye Koch Tucson AZ

Kaye Koch - January 23, 2020 at 08:31 AM

TD

“ *The Brown Family, Tula, Angela, Daphne and Diana purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Dr. Elmer C. Shurlow.*



The Brown Family, Tula, Angela, Daphne and Diana - January 21, 2020 at 07:11 AM

AB

“ *Beer sewn up quite a few times by Dr. Shurlow when I was young coming in to the emergency. One time on Christmas Day. All he said was “Got a new knife huh? Nice clean cut. I’ll never forget that one*



alexander banach - January 21, 2020 at 07:02 AM

BB

“ *It's hard to remember anything about Clare without Doc in the memories. I was hitchhiking home from football practice one evening and it was raining and the first car that camp past me was Doc. He picked me up and and took me to our house in Loomis. And gave me a good natured ribbing about standing out in the rain. Rest in peace my friend.*



Bob Bergey - January 20, 2020 at 10:40 PM

MA

“ *My first memory of Doc. Shurlow was at Clare nursing home where I worked as a CENA. He was a caring and gentle man with the residents. RIP DOC*💜



Mary Allen - January 20, 2020 at 10:22 PM

ED

*We are so sorry, Mary Ann!
He was a pillar to Clare.
Earl and Jane Denton*

earl denton - January 21, 2020 at 03:01 PM

BB

“ *Heaven gained a very special man! We will miss seeing you at the Herrick House and visiting you and Maryann with Sophie and Will on Halloween! You delivered our 2 sons, Jimmy and Josh. I remember thanking you over and over a thousand times for giving me my boys...like the only reason I had my sons was because you were my doctor! I still believe that 😊 When Josh was born you never looked up and calmly said, "I've never lost a father", as Jim was sliding off his chair during the birth. You will be missed, Doc!
Jim and Brenda Bond
ps...I'll forever eat lemon drops and smile💕*

Brenda Bond - January 20, 2020 at 08:37 PM

CC

“ *Sorry for your loss 🙏 Dr shulo was my Doctor he a very nice man.*

Colleen counterman - January 20, 2020 at 08:14 PM

KM

“ *Wonderful husband and dr. And you shared 37 wonderful years together*

kelly martin - January 20, 2020 at 08:12 PM

KC

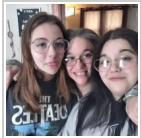
“ I worked with Doc in surgery for 14 years. Then at the Clare Medical Building for him in the same day surgery unit until he retired. He was always kind, generous and had a great sense of humor. He was very hard-working. He will be missed so very much. My sympathy to the family. Karla Cooper

Karla Cooper - January 20, 2020 at 07:20 PM

CT

“ He delivered all of our children five girls and one boy He was a very good Doctor, person and dear friend . God will welcome him with open hands. Bless him an his family. Love and will miss him Tom and Nadine Taylor

clare an nadine Taylor - January 20, 2020 at 07:15 PM



“ I remember him as a great man and doctor. He was not only my doctor but I also used to go to work with my mom. She worked for him for many years. The world is a much better place because of this wonderful man.

Bridget Adkins - January 20, 2020 at 07:07 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Dr. Elmer C. Shurlow.



January 20, 2020 at 06:46 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Dr. Elmer C. Shurlow.



January 20, 2020 at 06:28 PM



“ Doc was a great man. He loved liife and his fellow man. I worked with doc in ER. He was a very compassionate and quite the character. I was raised in Doctor Shurlows grandmother's house, in Lapeer. Condolences to you and your family
Enola Bennett

EnolaBennett - January 20, 2020 at 06:23 PM



I have never met someone as nice as Doc Shurlow. I worked many cases with Doc. We have lost a icon in the Medical Field. God bless you Doc and your wonderful family.

D/Sgt. David Patterson - January 20, 2020 at 06:41 PM



*Doc Shurlow was a blessing to me in many ways . I started working with him in 1976 when I was hired as a lab tech 2 days after my CMU graduation. I remember his great work in the old Er 76 to 84 , I assisted him in preforming a venous cutdown on a severe burn victim . Doc s example played a major part in my choice to become a Doctor of Osteopathy. He was compassionate hometown Doctor , I also worked for him at BPS lab until I went to medical school in 84. He was an awesome mentor to me and I loved his humor and fun loving teasing. He will be sorely missed.
Doc is now with His Savior and many loved ones ,at peace,no pain , no tears , no sorrow, wrapped in the eternal Love of our Great Father God. Romans 8:35-39. With love and prayers to Mary Ann and the entire family Dr. Brenda Harshman D.O.*

brenda harshman - January 21, 2020 at 03:24 PM

BN

“ You delivered myself 45 years ago and my youngest brother Al 44 years ago. Our mother thinks the world of you. Thank you for all the years of caring for others. God bless you Sir, and prayers of healing for your family.

Brandon Nunn

Brandon Nunn - January 20, 2020 at 05:40 PM

LG

“ Doc was an amazing & gentle Doctor. We were fortunate to have Doc serve as our Counties Medical Examiner for many years & was called out all hours of the day or night, while still working all his other jobs. Doc will certainly be missed. My sincere condolences Mary Ann & Family.

Lynn Grim - January 20, 2020 at 05:24 PM

PT

Doc was a devoted and wonderful doctor. My Holly wouldn't let anyone else touch her so Doc always came in. He was such a energetic man and could do everything. Worked for him at Caremore and he always stopping in and working on things. My family loved him RIP. Sending prayers for family.

Patsy Thrush - January 21, 2020 at 07:31 AM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dr. Elmer C. Shurlow.



January 20, 2020 at 04:11 PM

SB

“ Doc lit up like a Christmas tree when we would bring one of our Future Leader Dog puppies along while we had lunch at the Cafe. He was thrilled when we were out of the restaurant area and removed the training gear so he could pet the dog. He always had a kind word and a smile. We are sorry for your loss. Sam and Judy Brankel

Sam and Judy Brankel - January 20, 2020 at 03:43 PM

 Carol Gage

“ So sorry to hear about Doc. He was such a piece of the Clare history. Always a class act. Sincere condolences to all the family. Norm and Carol Gage

Carol Gage - January 20, 2020 at 03:40 PM

CS

“ Sorry to hear of the loss of one professional and kind gentleman, Doc taught me a lot when I worked for him and Wilma on the ambulance service, thing that I was able to use later in my law enforcement career.
Doc, may you Rest in Peace.
"Oh and when you arrive tell
Godfrey and Dad, we miss them as well."

Charles L Shayler - January 20, 2020 at 03:24 PM

TB

“ So sorry for the loss of such a wonderful man! He was so nice and kind. He stiched me up, gave my mom a homemade remedy for ringworm on my arm. He was an amazing person. I worked at the Clare Nursing home for my first job right out of high school. He will always be a sweet reminder of my childhood!

Tammy Barber - January 20, 2020 at 02:27 PM

MR

“ So sad to hear of your loss. I often got stuck behind Doc and had to laugh because he drove where he was looking definitely not the other way around. He will be missed by so many.

Michelle Reynolds-Stark - January 20, 2020 at 02:19 PM

MB

“ Dr. Shurlow delivered both of my children. We will miss him greatly. So very sorry for your loss.

Mary Bower - January 20, 2020 at 02:14 PM

BH

“ Sorry to learn of Doc 's passing. Such a unique and amazing man. He will be greatly missed, but never forgotten.

Bruce Hales - January 20, 2020 at 02:04 PM

LT

“ He was and will always be a supiorer guy, I worked with him at the nursing home

LaDonna Anderson Tartoni - January 20, 2020 at 01:49 PM

CW

“ Cindy Wilson sent a virtual gift in memory of Dr. Elmer C. Shurlow



Cindy Wilson - January 20, 2020 at 01:46 PM

CW

*He will be missed by many. I was so blessed to have him in my life ❤️
🙏 My thoughts and prayers are with his family ❤️ 🙏*

Cindy Wilson - January 20, 2020 at 01:48 PM

SJ

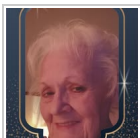
so sorry to hear of "Doc's" passing. I will remember him hustling around the Herrick house doing what he could to help.

Sandi Jeffery - January 20, 2020 at 02:24 PM

JG

“ *He was a great friend, I worked with him when he worked in ER.*

Jeffery Goyt - January 20, 2020 at 01:29 PM



“ *My Heart goes out to the family. So many memories working for him what a great Doctor and kind man.*

Beverly Kline - January 20, 2020 at 01:29 PM

DI

“ *There is a whole generation of Clare are people out there who never knew or were cared for by Doc. They will have to trust our judgement when we say what a great gentleman and doctor he truly was.*

Dave Isaac - January 20, 2020 at 01:28 PM

JM

“ *Love and prayers to the Shurlow family. I have many great memories and learned a lot from Doc during my time working the ER from 1977 to 1989. Rob and Jody Miller.*

Jody Miller - January 20, 2020 at 01:14 PM

GR

“ It was honor and privilege to have worked for Doc. Learned a lot. He delivered my last two sons. To know him was to love him.

Glenda Rauch - January 20, 2020 at 01:11 PM

MM

“ The entire community have many fond memories to help comfort and keep this great man Spirit in our hearts.... we will be unable to attend visitation or express our condolences in person please know that you're in our thoughts and prayers

Melanie Trevor Muir - January 20, 2020 at 01:08 PM

DT

“ Rest in Heaven, Doc! You are an inspiration!
Dawn Thomas

Dawn Thomas - January 20, 2020 at 01:07 PM

AS

“ My children loved him, they referred to him as Elmer Fudd. God rest your soul. Condolences to the family.

Adele Simpson - January 20, 2020 at 01:01 PM

SW

“ Loved the little g-nome. Know that Greg was there to help welcome him to Heaven. My love and prayers are with you all. sue wolfe

Susan Wolfe - January 20, 2020 at 12:51 PM

DF

Love and will miss you,doc you were part of my son's family especially, Charlie whom I think of as my own. Hope to see you in heaven where you will surely be,the bailey boismom

Donna Fron - January 20, 2020 at 05:38 PM

JW

Doc . Was a great person one of a kind. He was a good friend, Will miss him a lot,

James Witbeck - January 20, 2020 at 08:16 PM

JB

Don't know what I'm going to do without Doc. He always came up with great ideas for me to do like building a glass enclosed gazebo so people could eat outside in the winter. Pity the waitresses. Miss you Doc. RIP.

Jim bond - January 20, 2020 at 09:16 PM

JP

Mary Ann: Sorry for your loss. My Mother worked with both you and Doc for many years and held both of you the in Highest respect. I even worked a couple of days for Doc when he had an office and Joe was his Nurse, I cleared brush around the Office (14 years old). Doc RIP

Jan Papesh

Jan Papesh - January 24, 2020 at 02:15 PM

MC

*Will never forget the kindness from sweet Dr Shurlow. In the rush of getting to work I backed up over our dog "Pokey". Our Vet was on a call I then called Mary Ann to tell her I can't leave our dog or find a Vet. Who came to help but Doc & Mary Ann . He asked me to bring our "Pokey" to his ED . She went in style, had Xrays & treated . Much love from our family, our children will always remember that day. God Bless the Shurlow family .
All my loveMary Cook*

mary cook - January 24, 2020 at 11:14 PM