



Jeffrey J. Michels

August 20, 1954 - June 2, 2024

Jeffrey J. Michels, age 69 of Clare, passed away peacefully at his home on Sunday, June 2, 2024 surrounded by his family. On August 20, 1954, Jeff was born the elder of two children to Harry and Arda (Gakle) Michels in Detroit. In 1969, Jeff moved with his family to Clare following his father's work career, where he attended and graduated from Clare High School in 1972, and later obtained an associate degree in manufacturing technology from Ferris State in 1974.

His dedication to family and others was paramount, Jeff set the customer service gold standard, serving the hardware needs of the community for over 45 years. At young age, Jeff found a passion for helping others solve problems big and small with the team at Clare True Value Hardware. He often responded to after-hours phone calls with plumbing or electrical emergencies to countless community members. Jeff loved fixing, tinkering and engineering, a passion he shared with his son Brent, along with his entrepreneurial spirit. In 2005, Jeff and Sharon fulfilled a lifelong dream when they planned, built, and opened Ace Hardware of Clare. He remained at the hardware until his retirement in 2019.

When Jeff wasn't at work or home, he was at the fire hall. In 1980, Jeff joined the Clare Fire Department, and never left. He served in various roles as secretary, treasurer, captain, and assistant training lieutenant—and loved every minute of it. Jeff also served countless years on the team organizing and planning banquets and community events including serving as the

Chairman of the 114th and 117th annual Michigan State Firemen's Conference hosted in Clare. Jeff was recognized for his countless contributions with awards and citations by his Department, City of Clare leaders, Michigan State Firemen's Association, and State Congress. He shared his passion for service by mentoring new firefighters and demonstrated the importance of helping others when they needed it the most. Something his daughter Heather and son Chad have followed by serving the medical and firefighting needs of the community.

His other passions included hunting, snowmobiling in his younger years, partying with his loving extended family for a week each Summer in Oscoda and spending time with his grandchildren. Jeff cherished his role as our community's "unadvertised handyman" always willing to lend a helping hand to those who needed it and was a devoted member of Our Lady of Hope Parish.

Jeff is survived by his wife Sharon Michels and his three children Brent (Alyssa) Michels, Heather (Aaron) Grove, and Chad (Kassie) Michels. Other survivors include his stepchildren Connie (Sean) Curry and Wendy (Victor) Pellegrino, his sister Michelle "Mickey" (Bart) Dexter, and his grandchildren Luciana, Fletcher, Parker, Dawsyn, Kaelin, Connor, Banks, and one on the way. He is also survived by the mother of his children, Rose Armentrout. Jeff was preceded in death by his parents Harry and Arda Michels and his "second dad" Keith Benmark.

A funeral mass in honor of Jeff will take place at the Clare High School gymnasium at 11:00 A.M. on Friday, June 7th, 2024 with Monsignor Francis Koper officiating. Friends may visit with the Michels family on Thursday, the 6th at the Clare Chapel of the Stephenson-Wyman Funeral Home from 1:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M. and again from 6:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions in honor of Jeff may be directed to the Clare Fire Department or to the Pardee Cancer Fund. For those unable to attend services, online condolences may be shared on Jeff's tribute page at www.stephenson-wyman.com

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 6. 1:00 PM - 4:00 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

JUN 6. 6:00 PM - 8:00 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

JUN 7. 11:00 AM (ET)

Clare High School
1010 Cedar Street
Clare, MI 48617

Tribute Wall

KH

“ Our deepest sympathy to all of Jeff s family and friends. Jeff was a very special guy who was always willing to help anybody in need. He was also a die-hard fire fighter, as I witnessed firsthand when working a mutual aid call with the Harrison Area F.D., of which I was a member. May God rest his soul and comfort the family.
Ken and Vonnie Holden

Ken Holden - June 17, 2024 at 08:27 PM

RM

“ I'm sorry to hear of Jeffrey's passing. He was a very kind person and when I needed help at either of the two hardwares where he worked he always had a good answer. His dedicated life of helping with community events is going to be missed greatly. May God bless all his family during their time of need.

Roy Monzo - June 11, 2024 at 10:22 AM



“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Jeffrey J. Michels.



June 06, 2024 at 01:02 PM

QT

“ Quality Environmental Team planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Jeffrey J. Michels.

Quality Environmental Team - June 06, 2024 at 01:02 PM



“ Vivid Recollections was purchased for the family of Jeffrey J. Michels.



June 06, 2024 at 11:55 AM



“ Jeff & Sharon were so good to my parents. They loved both of you. They would visit and offer any help that was needed. They are family. I loved going to their hardware because they were always there to help. Jeff was one of the heart felt nicest guys I knew. God bless all of the family real good! 🙏❤️

Mary Radewahn - June 06, 2024 at 09:55 AM



“ Jenna Dysinger & Sara Vos purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Jeffrey J. Michels.



Jenna Dysinger & Sara Vos - June 06, 2024 at 09:07 AM



“ Shad, Lauren, Wade & Myles Sunday purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Jeffrey J. Michels.



Shad, Lauren, Wade & Myles Sunday - June 05, 2024 at 09:15 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Jeffrey J. Michels.*



June 05, 2024 at 08:53 PM



“ *Our hearts, thoughts, and prayers are with the family. My husband, Kevin, had the privilege of serving with Jeff on the Fire department in the 90s.*

Jen Mayer - June 05, 2024 at 08:01 PM



“ *Love's Journey was purchased for the family of Jeffrey J. Michels.*



June 05, 2024 at 05:40 PM



“ *I've known Jeff for close to 50 years through the fire departments..Jeff is one of the nicest,professional person that I know..I think everyone will miss Jeff. RIP Brother..Ron Grider*

Ron Grider - June 05, 2024 at 03:24 PM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Jeffrey J. Michels.



June 05, 2024 at 11:36 AM



“ I knew Jeff from his many years of working at the Clare Hardware and working beside him at the Clare Fire Dept. And when he open the Ace Hardware North of town.

Learned alot from Jeff as a firefighter, rest in Peace my friend.

Scott Giles - June 04, 2024 at 05:46 PM



“ Clare, MI lost a staple of the community. People like him are the reason Clare is such a unique and special place. He gave back to the community in the best way possible. With his time, effort, and heart.

I use the customer service skills that he taught me on a daily basis, and always will.

A good man gone.

Gage Zinser - June 04, 2024 at 05:19 PM

TM

“ We only had the privilege of meeting Jeff once but he must have been an amazing person because his son Brent is an extraordinary human being.

Jeff and Terry.

terry macdonald - June 04, 2024 at 05:17 PM

MR

“ Sharon and family,
I just saw the post of Jeff's obituary online.
We are so sorry for your loss. What a wonderful man!



Margie Reinhardt - June 04, 2024 at 03:25 PM

NB

“ Nancy & Bruce Bauer lit a candle in memory of Jeffrey J. Michels



Nancy & Bruce Bauer - June 04, 2024 at 10:32 AM

S(

“ Sandy Turley (Cunningham) lit a candle in memory of Jeffrey J. Michels



Sandy Turley (Cunningham) - June 04, 2024 at 09:42 AM

DA

“*Doug And Stephanie Allen lit a candle in memory of Jeffrey J. Michels*



Doug and Stephanie Allen - June 04, 2024 at 08:29 AM

JD

“*Jeff was one of a kind, compassionate, kind, always helpful and friendly. He was a great addition to the community in so many ways. I'm so sorry Sharon and his children, he will be missed by many. Well done, good and faithful servant!*

Joanne Dana - June 04, 2024 at 08:07 AM

CB

“*My deepest sympathies to the Michels families on the loss of Jeff. He was a blessing to many, many people with his knowledge of everything in the hardware store and his skills to fix it all! May his dear family and close friends find comfort and peace during this painful time. May you rest peacefully in heaven, Jeff, with your parents and Jesus!*

Connie (Seiter) Berg

Connie (Seiter) Berg - June 03, 2024 at 09:42 PM

SM

“*Jeff and I go back many years and he was always a wonderful caring friend. I'm so very sorry for his passing but he is now at peace. Hugs and prayers Sharon and family.*

Susan M Murawski - June 03, 2024 at 09:37 PM

CM

“ Jeff was a really good man, always willing to help and give of himself. He put his heart and love into everything he did. We are so very sorry for his loss and send prayers and love for Sharon and family. He will be missed.

Cate (Slater) & Rick McCullough

Cate Slater McGinn McCullough - June 03, 2024 at 07:06 PM

JL

“ Juliann Lloyd lit a candle in memory of Jeffrey J. Michels



Juliann Lloyd - June 03, 2024 at 04:03 PM

CA

“ Jeff was a beloved classmate of our CHS Class of 1972. He was the sort of man whose kindness and community spirit give small-town America a good name and make those of us who left glad we decided to come home. My deepest condolences to Jeff's family and all his other friends in the fire department and the hardware world.

Claudia Allen

Claudia Allen - June 03, 2024 at 12:54 PM

TF

“ *The Moreno Family purchased the Serene Retre at for the family of Jeffrey J. Michels.*



The Moreno Family - June 03, 2024 at 12:30 PM

PS

“ *Sharon & family, Our thoughts are with you all, and we pray God's grace on you as you grieve. He was so special in so many ways. He will be welcomed into Heaven with open arms. Hugs!*

Phil & Char Smock - June 03, 2024 at 11:58 AM

CJ

“ *So sorry prayers he will missed*

connie johnson - June 03, 2024 at 09:58 AM

SR

“ *Jeff's warm smiles at church will surely be missed. Such a kind man. May the angels welcome Jeff to paradise. Sharon, my heart breaks for you and your family. May God hold you tightly in His love.*

Sally Renner - June 03, 2024 at 09:28 AM

PM

Sharon... so sorry to hear this. My thoughts and prayers are with you and the family.

Paula Mertens - June 03, 2024 at 10:28 AM

SB

Working with Jeff for many years at clare hardware, I know his work ethic and caring was impeccable. He will be so missed. Sandie Brewer

Sandie Brewer - June 04, 2024 at 01:47 PM

BH

“ My heart goes out to Sharon and Jeff's kids and families. We have lost a truly selfless and good man. He will be missed by many. It is impossible to even imagine how many people Jeff has helped in uncountable situations large and small during his far too short lifetime. RIP my friend.

Bruce hales - June 03, 2024 at 07:39 AM

JH

“ I do not know where to begin and my heart is full as I remember all the great times we had together over the years! Snowmobiling in Harrison on cold winter days. Fishing and vacations with you over the years in Michigan and Ohio. Eight Point Lake with family and cousins making somores and tubing behind the speedboat. Campfires and singalongs with the gang. Jeff, you were always there for all of us anytime of the day or night. Always a kind word and a smile on your face. The legacy you leave behind is now passed on to your beautiful children and grandchildren. They will share your love with the people on their paths and on it goes...I am so glad you were on my path my forever friend. I look forward to the day we meet again but until then know I am here for your family always as you were for mine.💕

Friends are friends forever...buddy💙 Virtual hugs Joanne
(Jackson) Horton

Joanne (Jackson) Horton - June 02, 2024 at 10:36 PM

MM

“ Are sincere condolences May the family find comfort and solace in their memories.... Such a good man ..great spirit... always helpful.. you will be sorely missed....RIP dear friend
Mel & Trevor

Melanie Trevor Muir - June 02, 2024 at 10:02 PM

MS

“ *My sincerest condolences to the family...Jeff was just a great guy!!*

Mary Ann Shurlow - June 02, 2024 at 07:35 PM

GK

What an amazing person, a man of service, kindness and dedication

Greg Kolhoff - June 02, 2024 at 08:31 PM

TM

My sincerest sympathy to your family. Jeff was a very kind and friendly man. May he be rewarded with peace. -Terri Mathews

Terri Mathews - June 03, 2024 at 10:20 AM

JA

Blessings and condolences to Sharon and family. Jeff will be truly missed.

Jim and Judy Allen

Jim and Judy Allen - June 04, 2024 at 10:55 AM

GH

“ *Greg and Karen Harger purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Jeffrey J. Michels.*



Greg and Karen Harger - June 02, 2024 at 06:26 PM