



## Merle Dean Phillips

February 8, 1933 - December 4, 2017

Merle Dean Phillips, age 84, of Clare, passed away at his home on Monday, December 4, 2017. He was born the son of Arthur and Agnes (Hampton) Phillips on Feb. 8, 1933 in Clare. He married Laila Haring on Dec. 31, 1951 and she preceded him in death on Feb. 17, 1995. He later married Wilma Shurlow on Feb. 14, 1998 and she survives him. Merle had been a Heavy Equipment Mechanic with Operating Engineers. He was a member of the Clare United Methodist Church where he could be found often operating the dishwasher for many of the church's activities or helping in the kitchen at Church Camp. He was a life member of the Clare Independent Order of Odd Fellows. He had been a licensed Pilot, had owned his own aircrafts, and had built his own home. Merle loved "puttering" in his workshop or his garden. His daughter said "He could fix anything, and wouldn't stop trying until it was fixed!"

Merle is survived by his wife, Wilma, his son, Dustin (Susan) Phillips of Carolina Beach, N.C., his daughter, Angela (Willie) Mustafa of Sparta, Michigan, his daughter-in-law, Lynne Phillips of Grand Rapids, step-sons, James Shurlow and Charles (Krista) Shurlow, his grandchildren, Helen Koester, Candice Phillips, Jessica Phillips, Krista (Nick) Sanchez, Randy Burson, and Aleisha Dickman, step-grandchildren, Ryan and Austin Shurlow, Jimmy Shurlow, Sarah Lee, Desiree Rowan, Brooke VanDorn, Willie Mustafa and Aesha Mustafa and great-grandchildren, Lila Sanchez, Baylee Phillips,

Giselle Williams, Veronica Phillips, Brandon and Dereck Carr, Madison Rowan, and Mackenzie and Kaeden VanDorn. He was preceded in death by his wife Laila, his son, Merle Wayne Phillips, his parents and his brothers.

A funeral service will be held on Saturday, Dec. 9, 2017 at 2:00 PM from the Clare United Methodist Church with Pastor John Kasper officiating. Burial will follow in the Vernon Township Cemetery. Friends may meet with his family on Friday, Dec. 8, from 3 to 5 and 7 to 9 PM at the Clare Chapel of Stephenson-Wyman Funeral Home. Memorials may be made to the Clare United Methodist Church Childcare Building Fund.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

DEC 8. 3:00 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

DEC 8. 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

DEC 9. 2:00 PM (ET)

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

# Tribute Wall

JM

“ *Wilma, I was blessed to meet Merle and see the beautiful relationship and love you shared. I am so sorry for your loss and will pray that God eases the pain in your heart from this loss.*

*Joe McClung*

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**Joe McClung McClung** - January 12, 2018 at 10:46 AM

ML

“ *Angie and Dusty --- You are in my thoughts and prayers during this difficult time. Remember the good times. Love you.*

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**Maxine Lago** - December 11, 2017 at 12:47 PM

AR

“ *Sending thoughts and prayers. A wonderful family man loved by many. God be with all of you as you celebrate his life.*

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**Al & Sally Renner** - December 09, 2017 at 07:15 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Merle Dean Phillips.*



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December 06, 2017 at 10:25 AM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Merle Dean Phillips.*



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December 05, 2017 at 08:31 PM



“ *1 file added to the album New Album Name*



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**Pam & Bob Cato** - December 05, 2017 at 03:18 PM



“ *Some of my best times at church camp were spent in the kitchen with Merle. He always had that smile, and those funny little quips that came out of his mouth without seeming to think about it. I am grateful to have been his pastor for those ten years. Many happy memories of this man. Pastor Dennis Bromley*

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**Dennis Bromley** - December 05, 2017 at 12:12 PM



“ *Garden of Serenity Bouquet was purchased for the family of Merle Dean Phillips.*



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December 05, 2017 at 09:24 AM

JH

“ *Judy & Dean Hales lit a candle in memory of Merle Dean Phillips*



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**Judy & Dean Hales** - December 04, 2017 at 07:23 PM

BV

“ *Grandpa Merle, Thank you for being a wonderful grandfather to us all. You took a 3 year old girl into your family no questions and treated me as I was an equal! You will always be close to my heart.*

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**Brook VanDorn** - December 04, 2017 at 07:07 PM