



Neal Erickson

June 21, 1949 - October 10, 2015

Neal Erickson, age 66, of Clare, passed away on Saturday, October 10, 2015. Neal was born the son of Eslie J. and Lillian J. (Mills) Erickson on June 21, 1949 in Detroit, Michigan. Neal had many passions in life; great conversation, great friendships, playing guitar, singing, composing music, building model cars, and traveling to his home in Mexico, where he resided most of the year. For many years, Neal owned and operated Gateway Chrysler of Clare. He was a member of the Clare Area Chamber of Commerce, and both the Michigan and National Auto Dealer Associations. Before that, he was a lighting tech with Grand Funk Railroad. Neal was a long time member of the Composer's Guild.

Neal will be remembered most for his strong, kind soul with a heightened intelligence, awesome sense of humor, positivity, and passion for music. Though Neal will be greatly missed by family and friends, he once told a friend he did not fear death, but was excited for the adventure ahead.

Neal is survived by his sister Lynn (Jim) Sisson of Mt. Pleasant, his brother Mark Erickson of Clare, his nieces Julie (Ryan) LaLone of Gaylord, Jamie (Alan) DeKelaita of Livonia, Jennifer Erickson of Clare, Kristin (Tucker) Heintz of Clare, and his nephew Jes (Amy) Sisson of Mt. Pleasant. His great nieces Hannah, Alivia, and Grace and great nephews Hayden and Michael survive him as well. Neal was preceded in death by his parents Eslie and Lillian Erickson.

In honor of Neal's spirit of paying things forward, donations can be made to

Vilma Plagens: 8375 E. Chippewa Trail, Mt. Pleasant, 48858 for Neal's cousin, who is battling cancer.

A celebration of Neal's life will take place at a later date. Arrangements by the Clare Chapel of Stephenson-Wyman Funeral Home. On-line guestbook at www.stephenson-wyman.com

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

OCT **25**. 1:00 PM (ET)

Soaring Eagle Hotel
6800 Soaring Eagle Blvd.
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

Tribute Wall

TW

“ I lived in the Clare area back in the late 80's. I remember Neal from back then and through our mutual friend, Rob Brown. I traveled back up to Michigan in the summer of 2006 and once again had a beer with Neal, Rob, Tim Kleinhardt and my other friends in Clare. RIP Neal. Now you and Rob can make beautiful music in heaven. God Bless your family.

*Tim Wheeler
Tyler, Texas*

Tim Wheeler - November 04, 2015 at 02:53 PM

AB

“ Lynn your family are in my prayers today so sorry I could not make the service today



Ann mills bruckner - October 25, 2015 at 10:14 AM

RO

“ Our family met Neal in La Crucecita while he was living at Condo Pacifico in 2007-2008. Our friendship has lasted all these years and every trip back to Huatulco! We shared so many evenings on the square or at Alfredo's with Neal, we will cherish every moment. Sending our sympathy to his family and friends,
Mike & Rosanne, Darren & Chantal Laflamme from Northern Alberta



Rosanne - October 16, 2015 at 11:41 AM

RV

“ I am so saddened by the news of Neal's death. I remember how caring he was at the times of his parent's deaths. And I cherish the memory of Sisson family events my husband and I shared with him. Love and blessings to all of you!
Rev Margaret Vredeveld



Rev Margaret Vredeveld - October 15, 2015 at 05:24 PM

BJ

“ Lynn

*I never met your brother - sounds like a great compassionate man -
Sorry for your loss*

Brenda Johnston

Brenda Johnston - October 15, 2015 at 04:24 PM

EA

“ I met Neal when he lived in Zihuatanejo. We shared a love for music and would often jam in my apartment kitchen. I still have your guitar books Neal! And some of the songs you wrote. I know you're in heaven right now and jamming with all my other friends. But we will all miss you so much. Until we meet again!

Elisabeth Ashe - October 15, 2015 at 07:25 AM

DB

“ Worked for this man when he owned Chrysler Dealership. Good man. He will be missed. Prayers for his family. Dennis Brown

Dennis Brown - October 15, 2015 at 03:58 AM

PP

“ *Patria Mestey Perez sent a virtual gift in memory of Neal Erickson*



Patria Mestey Perez - October 14, 2015 at 07:05 PM

PA

“ *Patria lit a candle in memory of Neal Erickson*



Patria - October 14, 2015 at 06:30 PM

PP

How can I sum up years of friendship in a small paragraph?? It will be difficult.. Neal n I arrived around the same time n became friends, like so many of us, at the DUBLIN CAFE. My memories of him started then more than 10 years ago, here in his Paradise away from home... Neal's love of music spilled into dancing. He took dance classes And later He n I had many fun moments dancing at several of the local clubs..

I remember the Thanksgiving Dinner he had. He invited many friends, so many, the party extended out to his terrace of the apartment at that time. It started at 6:00pm, we had all eaten, drank, n partied, cleaned everything up for him, ready to leave when; His last guests arrived at 11:00pm, we had already put everything away... But Neal insisted we reheat the dishes n serve them, so we did!! That's who he was, early or late, a friend was a friend... Early or late!! Jajaja. I have many more instances of his kind n magnanimous acts of random acts of kindness, but as I've already mentioned, too many for this small space... I'm thankful to him for when out of the blue, he put this guy who was annoying me in his place.. I said thanks for that, he said, What are friends for!! Indeed that's what friends are like!!

I'm lucky, I feel to have these many memories to keep me smiling every time I think of Neal!! As one of the songs he sang said, THERE WERE TOO MANY MILES, N TOO MANY SMILES, BUT I STILL WILL REMEMBER YOU! 🌹🥹

Patria

Patria Mestey Perez - October 14, 2015 at 07:01 PM

JM

We will miss Neal's pleasant personality.

Jeanie and Bill Mishler - October 15, 2015 at 06:43 PM

DU

“ *Our sincere condolences to Neal's family. We met Neal 9 years ago when we bought our condo in Huatulco. We spent many a time watching him sing and play. Even got together a few times for Christmas turkey. We will always remember, as many other people have mentioned, his smile and easygoing attitude. His friends, Doug&Wendy from Canada.*

Doug ulmer - October 14, 2015 at 06:07 PM

CS

“ A great guy never negative and lived life to its fullest every day.

Charles Sharrow - October 14, 2015 at 05:12 PM

RP

“ There are far too many memories to put in any space smaller than an average sized book. My condolences to Lynn, Jim and Mark as well as all the nieces and nephew. I think the world was a better place with Neal in it, much better. I will miss you dude.

Rod Plagens

Rodney Plagens - October 14, 2015 at 03:47 PM

SR

“ My husband Lou and I met Neal in Huatulco 9 years ago and looked forward to seeing him every November when we took our annual trip - we will miss him dearly - he really was a wonderful person to know and spend time with. Our deepest sympathy to the family.
Starr Rempel, Vancouver, BC

Starr Rempel - October 14, 2015 at 11:51 AM

PM

“ So sorry for the family's loss. He was a wonderful guy and I am proud to say, a friend. Will be missed.
Pat and Jack Maurer

Patricia Maurer - October 13, 2015 at 08:27 AM