



## Ronald J. Schunk

April 25, 1933 - May 2, 2022

On Monday, May 2, 2022, Ronald J. Schunk, loving husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather, passed away at the age of 89 at Horizon Senior Living, surrounded by family. Ron was born April 25, 1933 in Clare to George Stanley Schunk and Hattie Florence (Hilborne) Schunk. He was raised in Sheridan Township at the family homestead. He attended Carrow School and graduated from Beaverton High School in 1951. Afterward, Ron completed the agricultural short course at Michigan State University. On October 15, 1955, he married a city girl, Darlene Elsie Lear, and for 66 years they shared life's journey together. Raised on the family farm, Ron's love for agriculture was present his whole life, from milking cows to raising sheep and beef cattle to being an agricultural equipment salesman. Ron and Darlene had a portable feed grinder in the 1960s and a custom farm sprayer unit in the '70s. Schunk's Farm Supply served the Clare, Beaverton and Gladwin area, also selling fertilizer and seed.

In the mid 70s, Ron and Darlene opened the first restaurant on "hamburger hill" near the US 127 North exit. It was called the House of Flavors and located where Arby's currently stands. They enjoyed all their employees and customers throughout their 12 years in business. Ron also inspired the entrepreneurial spirit in each of his children, encouraging them to try new things. He was a proud Farm Bureau life member, active 4-H leader and volunteer for the Clare County Fair. His involvement with 4-H continued through the years with his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. In

spare time, Ron also loved fishing, especially with family. It was common in his retirement years to invite family over for an annual blue gill fry. And he enjoyed woodworking, creating projects for friends and family. Other people meant everything to Ron. He loved to be around them and hear their story. Ron is survived by his loving wife, Darlene; his sister, Darylene Pennington of Missouri; his children, Byron (Jennifer) Schunk, Lee (Bobbie) Schunk, Diane (Kurt) Kolka, Jeff (Deb) Schunk. Max (Joan) Schunk; 15 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by parents and siblings, Lucille, Mark, Annabelle, Barb and Joseph.

Visitation will be held at the Clare Chapel of Stephenson-Wyman Funeral Home on Tuesday, May 10, 2022 from 2 to 9 P.M. Services will take place on Wednesday, May 11, 2022 at 11 A.M. at the Clare United Methodist Church with Pastors Jackie Raineri and Jeremy Bear officiating. Burial will follow in the Cherry Grove Cemetery. Memorials may be directed toward one of the following: The Ron Schunk- Buy a kid a fishing pole fund (thru Jay's Sporting Goods), the Clare Junior Livestock Assn., the Clare United Methodist Church. or to MidMichigan VNA-Hospice. Online condolences may be left at [www.stephenson-wyman.com](http://www.stephenson-wyman.com)

# Cemetery Details

## Cherry Grove Cemetery

1000 Cedar St.  
Clare, MI 48617

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAY 10. 2:00 PM - 9:00 PM (ET)

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

## Visitation

MAY 11. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

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

## Service

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MAY **11**. 11:00 AM (ET)

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

# Tribute Wall

JB

“ *Janice Buckley lit a candle in memory of Ronald J. Schunk*



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**Janice Buckley** - May 11, 2022 at 08:28 AM

RK

“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*

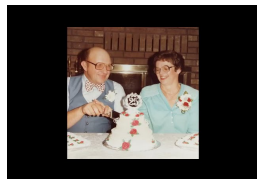


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**Rebekah Kolka** - May 10, 2022 at 11:08 AM

RK

“ *1 file added to the album Video*



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**Rebekah Kolka** - May 10, 2022 at 11:06 AM



“ *Lily and Rose Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Ronald J. Schunk.*



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May 10, 2022 at 08:44 AM



“ *Crystal Cross Bouquet was purchased for the family of Ronald J. Schunk.*



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May 09, 2022 at 09:03 PM



“ *Nancy & Bruce Bauer lit a candle in memory of Ronald J. Schunk*



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**Nancy & Bruce Bauer** - May 08, 2022 at 08:59 PM



“ *Barry, I and our family wish to send prayers to the family of Ron. He was a wonderful friend. He and Barry talked on the phone often and they had such enjoyable talks. He will be missed.*  
*Barry and Reva Henry*

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**Reva Henry** - May 08, 2022 at 12:54 PM

HA

“ To Darlene, Byron, Lee, Diane, Jeff, and Max:

*I'm certain that your hearts and those of your children and grandchildren are full of sorrow at the passing of the patriarch of the family. Ron Schunk was a man I associate with honor and productivity. His moral compass was on the mark: Faith, Family, Friends.*

*He had been a lifetime friend to my parents and to my aunts and uncles (Bryan D & Shirley Miller, Jake & Marye Miller, Lewis & Maryann Dull, and Rilla & Duane Seibt). Each shared a love of the land and a commitment to the agricultural community. After I married and returned to Clare with a native of Peru, Ron...and Darlene...opened their arms in welcome. They were like mentors, displaying the best of America. Ron took Herberth under his wing. He once took us on a day trip to all the Schunk farms in the area. My husband was positively influenced by Ron's character and generosity.*

*Grieving will take time.*

*To close on a high note, I must say that (in my world) no men donned a Stetson finer than my dad, Jim Sykora, and Ron Schunk. Tilled soil beneath their feet...Stetsons framing their countenances...may they forever Rest In Peace. ❤️✚☮️🙏👤🌿🐄*



*Herberth and Ann Alvarado*

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**Herberth & Ann Alvarado** - May 07, 2022 at 08:47 PM

PL

“ Penny Leeth lit a candle in memory of Ronald J. Schunk



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**Penny leeth** - May 05, 2022 at 02:04 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Ronald J. Schunk.*



May 05, 2022 at 11:52 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Ronald J. Schunk.*



May 05, 2022 at 03:32 AM



“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



**Diane Kolka** - May 05, 2022 at 12:07 AM



“ *West Bay Exploration purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Ronald J. Schunk.*



**West Bay Exploration** - May 04, 2022 at 04:23 PM

JM

“ *Darlene and family  
Thoughts and prayers for all of you at this  
difficult time.  
Sharon and Jeff Michels*

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**jeff michels** - May 04, 2022 at 03:49 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the  
family of Ronald J. Schunk.*



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May 04, 2022 at 01:33 PM

MP

“ *Marjorie (Bradley) Park purchased the Fairest of  
All for the family of Ronald J. Schunk.*



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**Marjorie (Bradley) Park** - May 04, 2022 at 01:10 PM

JH

“ *I knew Mr.Ron Schunk from a very young child.... Prayers for the  
Families at this very difficult time.....*

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**Janet Green Huntoon** - May 04, 2022 at 01:04 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Ronald J. Schunk.*



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May 04, 2022 at 12:35 PM



“ *I think the first time I met Ronald was when I came up for Diane and Kurt's Wedding and I went to dinner with the family after rehearsal. From time to time I would be at family events and got a chance to say hello. He will be greatly missed, until we all are reunited by our Lord. The family is in my thoughts and Prayers.*



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mary curtis-barrett - May 04, 2022 at 12:20 PM



“ *On behalf of Kay and Betty Green, we send our heartfelt condolences to Darlene and all the Schunk family on the passing of Ron. There are many decades of close family friendship that were spent with he and Darlene that will be always be fondly remembered and never forgotten; visits to their family farm north of town; conversations around a local restaurant table catching up on what all the kids are up to; the many family get-togethers reminiscing about the old days; years spent wintering in sunny Florida with family, friends and Clare snowbirds; a lazy afternoon car ride down a dusty dirt road. He will be so sadly missed.*

*Respectfully, Mark, Lynn and Alison Green*

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Mark Green - May 04, 2022 at 12:17 PM

ML

*My sympathy goes out to all of Ron's family. My parents owned a farm in Sheridan Township about a mile and a half from the Stanley Schunk farm, so I knew the family. I also went to Carrow country school, was friends with their family. Many years passed, but Ron always had a friendly "Hello" whenever I saw him.*

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**Marjorie (Bradley) Lynch-Park** - May 04, 2022 at 12:55 PM