



Vernon A. Fitzpatrick

September 22, 1929 - June 21, 2015

Vernon A. Fitzpatrick, age 85, of rural Beaverton, passed away on Sunday, June 21, at his home surrounded by family. He was born the son of Bernard and Emma (Brubaker) Fitzpatrick on Sept. 22, 1929 in Clare County's Arthur Township. After he graduated from Beaverton High School, he earned a BS in General Forestry from Michigan Tech. University and served in the US army during the Korean War. His career with the Michigan Dept. of Natural Resources had him working as a Fire Officer on Beaver Island, as an assistant Park Manager at Ft. Wilkins State Park, and finally as the Park Manager at McLain State Park on the Keweenaw Peninsula in Houghton County until his retirement. He returned to his lower Michigan boyhood homestead in 2002 from Ripley, Michigan. Vernon married Florence Grandmason on Jan. 20, 1960 and she died on Sept. 13, 1982. He later married Leah M. Fleck on Mar. 24, 1990 and she preceded him in death on Oct. 15, 2008. He was a member of the Our Lady of Hope Catholic Parish in Clare and a member of the Knights of Columbus Council # 5280 (Gladwin). Vernon is survived by his daughter, Jennifer (James) Arduis of Calumet, brothers, Leo, Gerald, and Glen, his sister, Emma Jane Reid, and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services will be held on Thursday, June 25, at 11 AM at the Our Lady of Hope Parish, St. Cecilia Site in Clare with Fr. Prentice A. Tipton, Jr. officiating. Friends may meet with his family at the Clare Chapel of Stephenson-Wyman Funeral Home on Wednesday from 2 to 8 PM. A

scripture Vigil service and the Rosary will be prayed at the funeral home on Wednesday beginning at 7:00 PM. His final place of rest will be in the Arthur Township Cemetery, Clare, Michigan.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Hospice of Gladwin Area. On-line guestbook at www.stephenson-wyman.com

Cemetery Details

Arthur Township Cemetery

2500 S. Athey Ave.
Clare, MI 48617

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 24. 2:00 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/>

Scripture Vigil Service

JUN 24. 7:00 PM (ET)

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1005 North McEwan St.
Clare, MI 48617
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wymanhf@chartermi.net
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Service

JUN **25**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Our Lady of Hope Parish, St. Cecilia Site
106 E. Wheaton Street
Clare, MI 48617

Tribute Wall

KB

“ I was so very sorry to hear of Vern's passing. My family got to know him (and Leah) very well when we were neighbors in Ripley. His patience was abundant when he built and flew kites with our young boys and he generously allowed them to play with his antique toy collection. We lost touch shortly after we moved from Ripley, but I often thought of both Vern and Leah.

Kim Beyer - June 23, 2015 at 07:20 PM

 Kelli
Fitzpatrick

“ Vernon was one of the kindest and smartest people I've ever met. He tended his flowers, fed the birds, built a swing in his yard for a child. It was in his backyard my family gathered every Sunday night to sit around the campfire and enjoy each other's company. He talked with people all over the world on his radio, painted beautiful pictures, built model airplanes and flew them to make people smile. He loved knowledge and history and facts. I once asked him a question about Israel and he pulled out maps and encyclopedias and we talked for hours. Vern never got old. Even in his 80s he was just as sharp as ever. Just a few weeks before he died, when I was visiting, he told me stories of being stationed in Japan during the Korean War. The thing I will never forget is that these weren't war stories--they weren't about battles and fronts and ammunition--he talked about the culture. The conversations he had with locals. The questions he asked them and how he listened to what they said. He was a wise man who cared very deeply about humanity, and he will be missed very much by us all.

Kelli Fitzpatrick - June 23, 2015 at 10:10 AM



“ *my thoughts and prayers go out to all of the family at this time of great loss in their life. if their is anything i can do just give me a call . he will be missed by many people but he will never be forgotten.*

Carla Walters - June 23, 2015 at 06:48 AM



“ *Uncle Vernon was always ready to help a "Neighbor" out, whether it be a ride when your car broke down or help with a lathe project....Rest well.....Neighbor....*

John Reppert - June 22, 2015 at 11:40 PM