



Harold 'Spanky' McDonald Sr.

September 14, 1932 - November 16, 2020

Harold Earnest "Spanky" McDonald, a dependable and supportive person to all he met, died Monday, November 16, at his residence at the age of 88. Harold was born September 14, 1932 in Lansing, the son of Roscoe and Bessie (Rogers) McDonald. Harold, or "Spanky" as his grandfather called him, was a self-proclaimed "wild child" with an ambitious streak as he was growing up. As a youth in Lansing he delivered papers for both the Lansing State Journal and the Detroit Free Press. He became well known around the neighborhood and it wasn't unusual for him to be invited to breakfast at one of the neighbors' homes, (after he had eaten breakfast at his own home).

Harold also loved visiting the farm of his grandparents where he would often follow his cousin's lead . . . pulling the goat's whiskers, terrorizing the chickens, pulling each other around in a toy wagon and riding an old "doodle bug" around the countryside. One of his favorite stories is the day he and classmates climbed up on the schoolhouse roof to fix the school bell rope. They pulled the ladder up and stayed up there the rest of the day. However, the teacher came to his house to inform his parents, and that "earned him a whippin."

As he grew older his attention turned to tractors and cars. He often recalled his first car as a green '36 Chevy with, no shift, no brakes, no gas, and no glass. Spanky entered the U.S Army in 1950 and served in Korea where he was one of the survivors of the Iron Triangle. Upon returning from service overseas he escorted dignitaries around Ft. Custer and helped indoctrinate new troops.

Harold met his wife, Vera, while hanging out at the Gas Station of Vera's father, Harold Brown. Spanky and Vera were married in 1953 in Muir, Michigan at her grandparent's farm. Together they raised two sons, Harold Jr. and Steven. They moved to a farm outside of Charlotte where Harold developed his love of farming and tractors. His ambition lead him to several other jobs at the same time which included his work at Aluminum Extrusions (AE) in Charlotte where he a was one of the longest term employees. He also began work as a minister, helping to establish the RLDS church in Charlotte, where he

served as treasurer for many years, and at the same time owned and managed several rental apartments. After AE closed, Harold and Vera moved to Leslie where they ran a motel. In 2002 they returned to Charlotte. During all that time Harold's favorite hobby was "bookkeeping." He reveled in keeping track of numbers and accounts.

Harold is survived by his wife Vera; his two sons, Harold Jr, and Steven; four grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren; five great-great grandchildren; and his sister, Hazel Whitford Bowen Smith. He was predeceased by his parents; his sister, Clara Belle; brother, Leon; and two great-grandchildren.

Friends are encouraged to support Harold's family at their visitation and funeral services are Friday, November 20, 1:00 at Saints Church of Jesus Christ in Charlotte with Pastor Martin Garn officiating. Visitation is Thursday, November 19, 6-8:00 PM at Pray Funeral Home in Charlotte. Mask, group capacity, and distancing guidelines will be practiced. The funeral will also be webcast so you may watch it from any computer, smartphone, or mobile device that has internet access. Go to <http://www.prayfuneral.com>, click on Harold's tribute, then click on Photos and Videos from your computer (or Media from your smart phone). Just prior to the beginning of the service, a link will appear on this page to watch the webcast.

Friends and family are encouraged to share memories of Harold on his Tribute Page at <http://www.PrayFuneral.com>. The family is in the care of Pray Funeral Home, Charlotte.

Cemetery

Perry Cemetery

2688 Stevens Hwy.
Charlotte, MI, 48813

Events

NOV **Visitation** 06:00PM - 08:00PM

19

Pray Funeral Home

401 W. Seminary St., Charlotte, MI, US, 48813

NOV **Funeral Ceremony** 01:00PM

20

Saints Church of Jesus Christ

125 E. Stoddard, Charlotte, MI, US, 48813

Comments



“ A webcast video has been added.



Pray Funeral Home, Inc. - November 20, 2020 at 10:29 AM



“ A tribute video has been added.



Pray Funeral Home, Inc. - November 19, 2020 at 12:12 PM



“ Beautiful, this was very thoughtful and well planned. You will be missed grandpa. Love you always!

Niki - November 19, 2020 at 07:42 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Niki Proffitt - November 20, 2020 at 04:57 PM



“ Niki Proffitt lit a candle in memory of Harold 'Spanky' McDonald Sr.



Niki Proffitt - November 20, 2020 at 03:21 PM



“ Services went great thank you to all those who were able to attend.



Niki Proffitt - November 20, 2020 at 03:21 PM



“ 5 files added to the tribute wall



Niki Proffitt - November 19, 2020 at 07:44 PM



“ 13 files added to the album LifeTributes



Pray Funeral Home, Inc. - November 19, 2020 at 12:10 PM



“ True angel on earth . I'm blessed to call you Grandpa, you will be missed I love you always

Heather - November 19, 2020 at 05:36 PM



“ It was always a good time to be with Harold, Vera, Butch & Steve when we all lived in the same neighborhood, on Perkey & Stewart RIP Harold, my dad will really MISS you Our deepest condolences Vera, Butch & Steve

Marsha McDonald - November 17, 2020 at 07:19 PM