



## Carolyn Louise Hazel

March 31, 1937 - July 11, 2015

Carolyn Louise Hazel, 78, of Charlotte, passed away on July 11, 2015 in Lansing, MI. She was born on March 31, 1937 to Charles and Dolores (VanValkenburg) Smallwood in Charlotte, Michigan. She attended Charlotte High School, graduating in 1955. She pursued her love of teaching at Central Michigan University, earning a Bachelor's degree in Education. On July 20, 1959 she married Jack Hazel in Charlotte, and together they raised four children.

Carolyn was a life-long teacher. Even as a young teenager, her father built her a playhouse in the backyard and placed a sign 'Miss Carolyn's Nursery' where several neighborhood children would gather for planned activities. After obtaining her teaching degree, Carolyn began her teaching career at Calumet a small school in the upper peninsula Quantrell School. Although she left full time teaching to focus on her children, she was often drawn back as a long term substitute. As her children grew, Carolyn continued teaching young children in her home, tutoring math and reading. Her peers often commented that she could charge significantly more; however, Carolyn wanted to teach those that needed it most and would often continue tutoring even when a family fell behind in their payments. She tutored for so many years that many former students returned as parents with their own children. Carolyn and Jack both invested in books and computer based materials for kids. Within the school system she was the original 'Book Lady' developing and running the

school book sales where students could use their pocket full of change to purchase their favorite book from the latest books that Carolyn hand-picked. Even after her teaching days ended, she boxed up many children's books and shipped them to needy schools affected by disasters, like Hurricane Katrina.

Carolyn was an active member of First Baptist Church of Charlotte, attending bible studies, teaching Sunday school and leading young teens in a bible quizzing league. She was also a wonderful seamstress who loved sewing doll clothes for the Christmas Kiddies program, and was also known for her Raggedy Ann and Raggedy Andy dolls. Each doll was personalized with 'I Love You' and then child's name. Having made these dolls for over 40 years, she had multiple generations return to purchase dolls for children and grandchildren and many times shipped them across the country.

Her favorite times were spent with family, especially her grandchildren. There were countless hours spent in tea parties, make believe restaurants, and many games to feed the grandkid's imagination and learning. She also loved to cook and taught many life skills to grandkids in the kitchen. She loved to read to the grandchildren and they would run to grandma and climb up in her lap for a hugs, snuggles, and a good book. Carolyn loved to spend time up north with family and friends. As a little girl she spent many summers at Bay View near Petoskey and then Lake Charlevoix. In her retirement, she enjoyed her summer cottage in Charlevoix where there were many visits from neighbors, friends, and family.

Carolyn is survived by her husband Jack; three sons, William C. (Wanda Morrison) Hazel of Farmington Hills, MI, Steven M. (Monica) Hazel of Ada, MI, Andrew J. (Kelley) Hazel of Charlotte; Sister, Phyllis Straight, NY; seven grandchildren, Danielle, Joshua (Alexandria), Kamila, Samuel, Charles, Jacob, Olivia. She was preceded in death by daughter, Catherine Louise Hazel; father, Charles W Smallwood; and mother, Dolores M. Smallwood.

Funeral services are Friday, July 17, 11 AM with Rev Robert Weishart officiating at Pray Funeral Home. Visitation will be held Thursday, July 16, 2-4 PM and 6-8 PM at Pray Funeral Home in Charlotte. If desired, the family suggests memorial contributions to the Charlotte Education Foundation at [http://www.educationfoundationcharlotte.com/donation\\_to\\_church.html](http://www.educationfoundationcharlotte.com/donation_to_church.html). Family and friends are encouraged to share memories of Carolyn on her tribute page at [www.prayfuneral.com](http://www.prayfuneral.com). The family is in the care of Pray Funeral Home.

# Cemetery Details

## Maple Hill Cemetery

801 Tully Brown Rd.  
Charlotte, MI 48813

# Tribute Wall

FL

“ To Carolyn's Family, especially Jack who I see every summer in Charlevoix,  
Oh how I will miss sitting in your living room at the cottage talking with Carolyn. We had so many mutual interests; teaching, children's books, grandchildren, love of being up north. It was vey easy to spend a couple hours just enjoying each other's company. We also discovered that there was just six months difference in our age! Like many of my Michigan friends and relatives, I only see them once a year when we fly from Portland, Oregon to Traverse City, I will always remember Carolyn, and miss her, as I look at your cottage while sitting on the back deck of the Hogan cottage. My deepest sympathy to all of you.  
Florence Hogan Lersch

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**Florence Hogan Lersch** - July 20, 2015 at 04:29 PM

DE

“ Dave & Gwynne Ellegood purchased the Pink Poupourri Bouquet for the family of Carolyn Louise Hazel.



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**Dave & Gwynne Ellegood** - July 16, 2015 at 09:28 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Carolyn Louise Hazel.

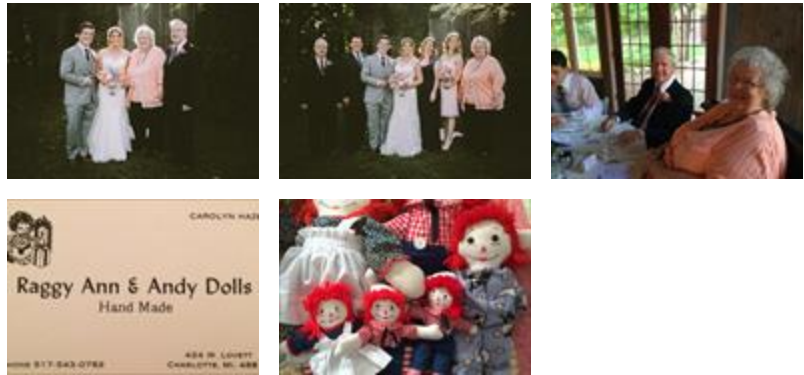


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July 16, 2015 at 08:43 AM

AH

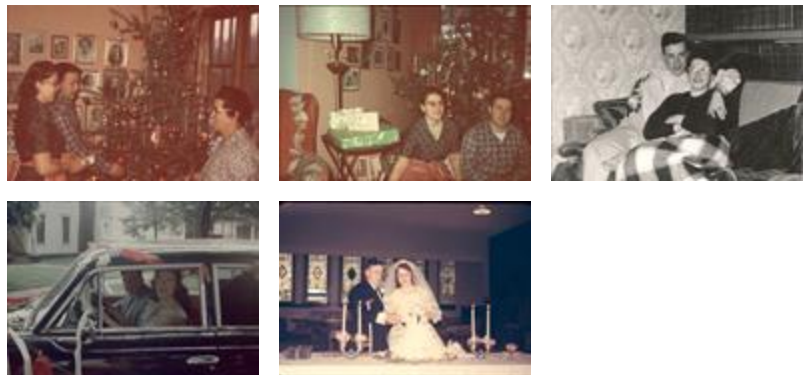
“ 101 files added to the album *Family*



Andy Hazel - July 16, 2015 at 04:34 AM

AH

“ 15 files added to the album *Marriage*



Andy Hazel - July 16, 2015 at 04:33 AM

AH

“ 45 files added to the album *Growing Up*



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**Andy Hazel** - July 16, 2015 at 04:32 AM

WH

“ *With love to you all, James, June Sophia & Joseph Horsch purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Carolyn Louise Hazel.*



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**With love to you all, James, June Sophia & Joseph Horsch** -  
July 15, 2015 at 11:09 PM

BW

“ *I began my teaching career at Weymouth Elementary in Charlotte. I had a class of 40 third graders. My principal took pity on me because of having such a large number of students. He hired Carolyn to help me with my reading program. She was a tremendous help and added a great deal to my education teaching small children. As a mentor to me she was instrumental in helping me grow as an educator. She was one of the teachers that made my 40 year teaching career possible. Barbara Reed Wambold*

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**Barbara Wambold** - July 15, 2015 at 05:17 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Carolyn Louise Hazel.*



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July 15, 2015 at 03:43 PM



“ *Heidi Smith , family , and Elaine Lenon purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Carolyn Louise Hazel.*



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**Heidi Smith , family , and Elaine Lenon** - July 15, 2015 at 01:21 PM



“ *Secret Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Carolyn Louise Hazel.*



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July 15, 2015 at 08:27 AM



“ *Lily and Rose Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Carolyn Louise Hazel.*



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July 15, 2015 at 08:09 AM

CH

“ My parents, Smitty & Dema Smith became friends with Carolyn's parents when I was a baby. We lived about two houses away from their home on Lovett. I think I was about 9 months old. I took my first steps in their home around 1942. I knew Carolyn my entire life and am so sorry we lost touch over the years. My family always had Christmas dinner with her family. I always loved their tree with the lights that looked liked candles bubbling. I recall that her parents would come out to our then family farm on Bradley Road each summer to can corn as a joint venture. My Mom and Carolyn's Mom would can the corn and my Dad and Carolyn's Dad would cut and husk it. BTW - all the cooking was done on a wood stove. Very hot in the kitchen during the summer. They were always the best of friends. Carolyn's Mom was my second grade teacher. I also admired Carolyn, as she was a great person. I have such fond memories of her and of all of us. I didn't know Phyllis as well, however, as she was older. Am so sorry we lost touch.

*Carol Smith Halsey*

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**Carol Halsey** - July 14, 2015 at 10:19 PM

MO

*Thank you for these great memories, Carol.*

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**Monica** - July 15, 2015 at 05:38 AM

SH

*Thank you so much for sharing this. It means a lot to read about times with my mom.*

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**Steve Hazel** - July 15, 2015 at 10:04 AM

AH

*Thank you for these shared memories. I remember loving the bubbling candles also. We put them on a small evergreen tree right outside the back door for many Christmases when I was young.*

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**Andy Hazel** - July 15, 2015 at 02:56 PM

AH

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



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**Andy Hazel** - July 14, 2015 at 09:22 PM

AH

*If video above does not appear please try this link:  
<https://vimeo.com/133513268>*

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**andy Hazel** - July 15, 2015 at 03:09 PM



“ *Sweet Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Carolyn Louise Hazel.*



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July 14, 2015 at 09:03 PM

SS

“ *We are sadden to hear of Carolyn's passing. We have spent many birthdays talking with her. Our thoughts are with your family and may God help you through this time.*

*Joe, Sarita, Anne and Emma Shetenhelm*

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**Sarita Shetenhelm** - July 14, 2015 at 04:24 PM

ES

“ Dear Precious Family, Our deepest sympathy goes out to each of you. As you well know my dear aunt Maxine dearly loved Carolyn & Jack. Aunt Maxie used to recollect fond memories of times spent with your loving family. In recent years Carolyn and I emailed one another regarding updates on her physical condition and my aunt Maxie's health prior to her death. In recent months your precious Carolyn and I continued our correspondence. Always a reminder to each other of our deep faith & trust in The Lord was included in our note. I am reminded that she is now at peace and no more suffering or pain , as she is with our Lord in heaven.  
Please know I will continue to pray for your comfort and well being .  
Love to all, Lizzy and Charlie Swift

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**Elizabeth & Charlie Swift** - July 14, 2015 at 01:24 PM

MO

Thank you, Lizzy! Ever since Carolyn went into the hospital, I have wanted to reach out to your Aunt Maxine. I miss her very much, too.  
Monica

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**Monica** - July 15, 2015 at 05:37 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Carolyn Louise Hazel.



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July 14, 2015 at 01:13 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Carolyn Louise Hazel.*



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July 14, 2015 at 10:16 AM

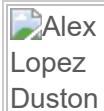


“ *Richard & Kathleen Horsch Family purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Carolyn Louise Hazel.*



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**Richard & Kathleen Horsch Family** - July 14, 2015 at 09:29 AM



“ *Bill, I was saddened to hear of your mother's passing. Time has been difficult these last few weeks with such loss. Please know that you are in my thoughts and prayers. ~ Alexandra Duston*

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**Alex Lopez Duston** - July 14, 2015 at 08:04 AM



“ *We are saddened to learn of Carolyn's death. She will leave a massive hole in your family and her community. Please don't hesitate to contact us if there is anything we can do to help with the house and grounds Up North. Regardless, we'll keep the lawn mowed for you. Judith and Paul Ivan*

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**Judith Ivan** - July 14, 2015 at 06:46 AM

SH

*Thank you so much Mr. & Mrs. Ivan. This is so kind of you! My mother and father have always loved and appreciated you as neighbors and friends.*

Steve Hazel - July 14, 2015 at 06:38 PM

WC

*“ I'm so sorry to hear of Carolyn's passing. She was a good friend and we always had a lot to talk about whenever we saw each other. She will be missed.*

*Wilma Whiting Campbell*

Wilma Campbell - July 13, 2015 at 06:16 PM

KS

*Steve, we are so sorry to hear about your mom's passing. Joey and Maggie remember her fondly from the cottage! She was a special lady. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. Praying you all find comfort in being with each other this week. Love, the Sullivans*

Kristin Sullivan - July 14, 2015 at 10:06 AM

SB

*Bill - I was saddened to hear of your Mom's loss - Time has been difficult these last few weeks that you spent with her. I wish to extend my heartfelt Condolences to you and your family. Also pray that GOD give you the strength perseverance and Courage to come out of this. Our deepest sympathies.*

Shankar Basa - July 14, 2015 at 11:15 PM