



Charles Edward Viele Sr.

October 19, 1925 - February 1, 2022

Charles E. Viele Sr. was born to Rolla and Cleo (Crook) Viele on October 19, 1925 in Vermontville. The third of five children, he was raised on the family farm on Brown Road in Sunfield Township. He graduated from Vermontville High School in 1943 and tried to enlist in the military during WWII but was refused because of his colorblindness and instead found other ways to serve and contribute. On May 19th, 1946, he married Louise Joppie. Together they had five children and were married for 75 years. Charles passed away on February 1, 2022 at age 96 after living a long and very full life. Charles was very community conscious. He joined the Volunteer Vermontville Fire Department in 1953 and served into his 80's, even becoming Fire Chief. He served nearly 30 years on the Vermontville and Maple Valley school boards. He was a member of the village council for many years, retiring in 2020. His volunteering extended beyond the village to the county level as well. He was a member of the Eaton Intermediate School District Board for many years and also a member of the Eaton County Road Commission for 10 years.

Charles started out farming but after watching some heavy equipment working on a neighboring farm, he fell in love with Caterpillar bulldozers. He bought his first CAT, a D6 dozer, in 1954 and formed the Charles Viele Bulldozing Company, adding other CATs one by one over the years. He worked hard, following his passion until he was in his early 90's. Though Charles was usually all business, he did have one hobby and that was snowmobiling. He and Louise owned a place near Cadillac for that purpose and enjoyed many

years of friends, family, and fun.

What Charles loved the most was his 5 great-granddaughters: Juliana, Charlotte, Mary Louise, April, and Evelyn. He took great pride in them and always had the biggest smile for them. He also loved and was very proud of each of his 5 grandchildren: Brandy, Justin, Ethan, Nichole, and Eren. He was predeceased by his parents; son, Raymond N. Viele, DVM; brother, John Viele; and his sisters, Jeanette Strait and Mary Trowbridge. He is survived by his wife, Louise; son, Charles Viele Jr. (Kathy Kolodica) of Charlotte; daughters, Jeanne Straub (Mel) of Lowell, Denise Berry (Dale) of Vermontville, and Maurene Viele (Karl Sorensen) of California; sister, Rachel Weiler of Pennsylvania; grandchildren and great-grandchildren, as well as many nieces and nephews.

There will be no services at this time but a memorial will be held in the summer of 2022. Burial will be at Woodlawn Cemetery, Vermontville. Memorial contributions can be made to either the Maple Valley Memorial Scholarship Fund, Box 715, Nashville, MI, 49073, or the Vermontville Fire Department, 125 W. First Street, Vermontville, MI, 49096. Friends and family are encouraged to support Charles' family by sharing memories on his tribute page at www.prayfuneral.com. The family is in the care of Pray Funeral Home.

Cemetery Details

Woodlawn Cemetery

10911 Vermontville Hwy
Vermontville, MI 49096

Tribute Wall

BR

“ Our condolences go out to the whole Viele family, and his sister Rachel. I got to spend time with Mr. Viele a couple of times when he helped me bury some very loved farm animals. I was very new to keeping animals, and the tasks were not pleasant by any means. Charlie was calm, very friendly and really put me at ease. He was very easy to talk to and I enjoyed learning some of the history of my home and the area. He was johnny-on-the-spot when I needed him, and affordable when I was strapped. I've met a lot of great people in the Vermontville area in the last 20 years, but Mr. Viele has a special place in my memories. Really just a terrific person.

Bob Rulison - February 14, 2022 at 04:09 PM

MM

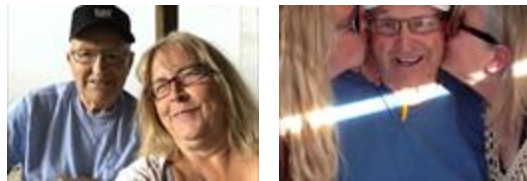
“ I do believe that Charlie possessed the skills of a neurosurgeon. He worked miracles helping me landscape my yard.



Marianne Martin - February 12, 2022 at 11:50 AM

MG

“ Charlie would always stop in at the Mapleleaf whenever he saw my car in town just to chat and share his latest joke. He will truly be missed.



Marcia Grant - February 06, 2022 at 03:45 PM

DW

“ Do you remember your dad stopping me for speeding through Vermontville. I was scared and you were embarrassed. I would know your dad anywhere . He looks the same to me. I am so very sorry to hear of his passing. Please give my heartfelt sympathy to your dear mother and your siblings. May you Rest In Peace Mr. Viele. He was a wonderful man. Vermontville will miss you. Xoxo

dorothy wice - February 03, 2022 at 09:22 AM