

Donald Kenneth Tirrell

June 10, 1932 - December 13, 2024

Donald Kenneth Tirrell, a long-time steward of the land known for his humble spirit, compassionate family values, and service to his community, passed away peacefully in his Charlotte home on December 13, 2024. Don, 92, was born June 10, 1932 in Charlotte to Kenneth Tirrell and Dorothy (Bell) Tirrell.

Don lived his life by his own terms. He is remembered by his family as a man who knew how to do everything, and he particularly enjoyed sharing his knowledge and experience by helping others. Don was especially intuitive with animals, as he had a knack for reading their body language and cared for them fittingly. Although Don could be more "prickly" than loving at times, he made friends easily and always had a story to share.

Don graduated high school in 1951 after an unforgettable trip to the nation's capital for a 4-H convention, an experience that sparked his lifelong passion for agriculture. As a farmer and seed dealer for 42 years, Don worked his own farm south of Charlotte, tending to the soil with a responsible and patient hand. He diligently maintained his property, always ensuring that his buildings were kept in excellent condition. An accomplished farmer, Don acquired the first self-propelled combine in the county and assisted local farmers in custom combining. Don generously gave his time to support the farming community through the Eaton County Farm Bureau and by serving on the 4-H Fair Board where he sowed the seeds of wisdom and growth in the youth of Eaton

County. Don was also a well-known regular at the Eaton Place in Charlotte, sitting in the back corner booth every day for dinner and offering his help to the wait staff and fellow patrons.

At the heart of Don's life was his family. Cherished moments spent with loved ones were the true harvest of his days. Some of Don's fondest memories were spent camping and boating on the Indian River with his family. Don is now reunited with his beloved wife, Donna Jeanne Tirrell, who preceded him in death. Don's legacy lives on through his daughter, Vickie (Greg) Shaver; sons, Bill and Tom (Deanna) Tirrell; grandchildren, Dan (Jill) Shaver, Megghan (Niki) Ravan, Alex (Sarah) Tirrell, Maggie Tirrell, Donnie (Caitlin) Tirrell, Chad (Stacy) Weldon, and Jamie (Travis) Reed, and 10 great-grandchildren.

As the sunset paints the sky over the fields he loved, we remember Don—a humble steward of the land, a pillar in his community, and a devoted family man. His kind heart and dedication to his community and family will continue to inspire us all. May his gentle spirit find rest, and may we carry his legacy in the seeds we sow and the lives we touch.

Friends are encouraged to support Don's family by attending services or sharing memories on his Tribute Page at www.prayfuneral.com <<http://www.prayfuneral.com>>. Visitation is Tuesday, December 17, 2024 from 4-7:00 p.m. Funeral services are Wednesday, December 18, 2024 at 2:30 p.m. at Pray Funeral Home in Charlotte with Pastor John Messner officiating. Interment will take place immediately following the funeral service at Maple Hill Cemetery in Charlotte. The funeral will be webcast so you may watch it from any computer, smartphone, or mobile device that has internet access. Go to www.prayfuneral.com <<http://www.prayfuneral.com>>, click on Don's tribute, then click on Photos and Videos from your computer (or Media from your smart phone). If desired, the family suggests memorial contributions to Eaton Community Palliative Care or Lawrence Avenue United Methodist Church. The family is in

the care of Pray Funeral Home, Charlotte.

Cemetery Details

Maple Hill Cemetery

801 Tully Brown Rd.
Charlotte, MI 48813

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 17. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Pray Funeral Home
401 W Seminary St
Charlotte, MI 48813

Funeral

DEC 18. 2:30 PM (ET)

Pray Funeral Home
401 W Seminary St
Charlotte, MI 48813

Burial

DEC 18. 3:30 PM (ET)

Maple Hill Cemetery
801 Tully Brown Rd.
Charlotte, MI 48813

Tribute Wall



“ *Pray Funeral Home, Inc created a Webcast in memory of Donald Kenneth Tirrell*



Pray Funeral Home, Inc. - December 18, 2024 at 07:15 PM

JE

I'm so thankful to be able to share in this video across the miles, as our families have so much history. I couldn't think of a better song to end with. Beautifully done.

Jennie - December 18, 2024 at 08:55 PM



“ *Pray Funeral Home, Inc created a Tribute Video in memory of Donald Kenneth Tirrell*



Pray Funeral Home, Inc. - December 16, 2024 at 09:06 PM

KH

“ We are so sorry to hear of Don's passing! He and Donna were such wonderful neighbors! He brought me cuttings of Donna's peonies back in the late Summer for me to plant in our garden! He always had a smile and wave when he would see us on the road with our dog or in our yard! He will be missed! It was our honor and privilege to know him! Sending prayers of comfort during this time! May your cherished memories allow you to celebrate his life and legacy! Lynn & Karen Hard

Karen Hard - December 23, 2024 at 09:18 AM

VS

Thank you for your sweet memories of our dad.

vickie shaver - December 27, 2024 at 06:17 AM

JT

“ John H Trumley lit a candle in memory of Donald Kenneth Tirrell



John H Trumley - December 19, 2024 at 06:27 AM

VS

Thank you so much.

vickie shaver - December 27, 2024 at 06:17 AM

TH

“ Sending our sympathy to your family...Donald was a good friend to our family (and we just can't refer to him as "Don" because Dad always called him Donald! Terry and Leah Horn

Terry and Leah Horn - December 18, 2024 at 11:31 AM

VS

Thank you so much.

vickie shaver - December 27, 2024 at 06:18 AM

LC

“ *A sweetheart of a man.... We enjoyed catching up with him at The Eaton Place. He was a regular and cherished customer of the restaurant. It delighted me to see him grab the menus or coffee pot to attend to other diners and visiting tables and catching up with others. We will miss the twinkle in his eye and the stories he shared! Prayers of comfort for his beautiful family. R.I.P. with love, from Steve and Lori (Campbell) Coplin*

Lori Coplin - December 18, 2024 at 09:49 AM

VS

Thank you so much for being so kind to our dad during the times that he enjoyed his meals at The Eaton Place.

vickie shaver - December 27, 2024 at 06:20 AM

JD

“ *Joe & Cyndi DeMike planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Donald Kenneth Tirrell.*

Joe & Cyndi DeMike - December 18, 2024 at 08:46 AM

JD

“ *Joe & Cyndi DeMike purchased the Beautiful Dreams for the family of Donald Kenneth Tirrell.*



Joe & Cyndi DeMike - December 18, 2024 at 08:46 AM

KF

“ Kevin, Nancy, Sonny and Tyger Fullerton purchased the *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* for the family of Donald Kenneth Tirrell.



Kevin, Nancy, Sonny and Tyger Fullerton - December 18, 2024 at 05:52 AM

OG

“ Our hearts, prayers & love are with you. May God comfort you & give you strength. David & Karen Brandreth, Ryan & Sarah Enlow, Andrew and Angela Goff planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Donald Kenneth Tirrell.

Our hearts, prayers & love are with you. May God comfort you & give you strength. David & Karen Brandreth, Ryan & Sarah Enlow, Andrew and Angela Goff - December 17, 2024 at 01:16 PM

OG

“ Our hearts, prayers & love are with you. May God comfort you & give you strength. David & Karen Brandreth, Ryan & Sarah Enlow, Andrew and Angela Goff purchased the *Beautiful in Blue* for the family of Donald Kenneth Tirrell.



Our hearts, prayers & love are with you. May God comfort you & give you strength. David & Karen Brandreth, Ryan & Sarah Enlow, Andrew and Angela Goff - December 17, 2024 at 01:16 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Donald Kenneth Tirrell.*



December 17, 2024 at 11:27 AM



“ *LaTonya McClinton lit a candle in memory of Donald Kenneth Tirrell*



LaTonya McClinton - December 16, 2024 at 05:42 PM



Eaton Community Palliative Care

LaTonya McClinton - December 16, 2024 at 05:44 PM



“ *32 files added to the album LifeTributes*



Pray Funeral Home, Inc. - December 16, 2024 at 04:03 PM

PF

“ Pat . Ben & Missy Tirrell and family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Donald Kenneth Tirrell.



Pat . Ben & Missy Tirrell and family - December 16, 2024 at 02:03 PM

EB

“ Elva B. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Donald Kenneth Tirrell.

Elva B. - December 16, 2024 at 01:50 PM

LF

“ Linda Tirrell and family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Donald Kenneth Tirrell.

Linda Tirrell and family - December 16, 2024 at 12:56 PM

LF

“ Linda Tirrell and family purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Donald Kenneth Tirrell.



Linda Tirrell and family - December 16, 2024 at 12:56 PM

RM

“ Don was a fixture in Charlotte.
Charlotte will not be the same without him.
Ron Monk

Ron Monk - December 15, 2024 at 09:14 AM

RL

“ Randy Linn purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Donald Kenneth Tirrell.



Randy Linn - December 15, 2024 at 07:58 AM

RL

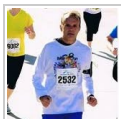
“ Randy Linn planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Donald Kenneth Tirrell.

Randy Linn - December 15, 2024 at 07:58 AM

MS

“ Tom I'm so sorry about your dad. I talked with him at my mom's funeral and he was reminiscing about how many classmates had passed. Now they can have a reunion in heaven. May the Lord God bless and keep your family during this time.

Mary Spagnuolo Stout - December 14, 2024 at 10:09 PM



Thanks, Mary.

Tom Tirrell - January 29, 2025 at 10:24 AM

KC

“ Don & Donna Jeanne were two of my favorite people in Michigan. Whenever my wife & I made our trek to Charlotte, to see family. Stopping in to the Tirrell's was a "must" within 24 hours of arriving. We will cherish the memories we built with them and their family members. "Salt of the Earth" comes to mind when describing them. They were separated only by death in 2020 and now they are together again, FOREVER! Kevin & Shannon



Kevin Cooksley - December 14, 2024 at 09:34 PM

JW

“ This solitary tree sits in Dons field across from my house. It daily reminds me of his strength and perseverance. My dog and I would stop in and chat on our walks and we will miss him!



Jill Withey - December 14, 2024 at 08:31 PM

JE

“ Don was one of a kind. Unsung hero comes to my mind personally and a loyal friend to the bone. I have loved this family for as long as I can remember. I pray that I will pass on to others the blessings I have received from knowing you. May peace be with u.

Jennie - December 14, 2024 at 07:04 PM

AD

“ Aaron Day lit a candle in memory of Donald
Kenneth Tirrell



Aaron Day - December 14, 2024 at 04:24 PM

CB

“ Chuck Brandon lit a candle in memory of
Donald Kenneth Tirrell



Chuck Brandon - December 14, 2024 at 03:13 PM