



Eldon Delos Howe

September 4, 1930 - November 24, 2023

Eldon Delos Howe, a pioneer in the automotive industry and a beloved pillar of the community, passed away on November 24, 2023, marking the end of an era. Born on September 4, 1930, to Chester and Beulah Howe in Charlotte, Michigan, Eldon was the last surviving of five brothers.

From his formative years, Eldon was intricately involved in the family's grocery and service station business located at the intersection of Clinton Trail and Vermontville Highway. School didn't align with Eldon's passions, leading to a pivotal moment when, in elementary school, he sought refuge from the school bus in the garage's oil pit. This incident became a turning point as Eldon's affinity for mechanics emerged, eventually propelling him into the world of cars.

His father's decision to put him to work at the filling station turned out to be serendipitous. Eldon's adeptness at fixing cars led him to venture into car sales in 1947, at the remarkable age of 17. He became one of Michigan's youngest car dealers. His dealership flourished under his guidance after being christened "The Beacon."

Eldon's dedication to his work was unparalleled. His unwavering commitment saw him laboring until November 15, 2023, despite being under hospice care. His love for vehicles extended beyond the showroom; he remained a licensed

driver until the age of 93, showcasing his passion and resilience.

Eldon married Patricia Moreland in 1962 and together they raised their son David. Family was at the core of Eldon's being. He cared for his parents while managing the market, actively engaged in his family's pursuits, and maintained a strong family-centric ethos throughout his life. He embodied the belief that a robust work ethic was the cornerstone of success, a principle he instilled in his family.

Eldon's community contributions were significant. He held profound respect for emergency and first responders, and supported both the Charlotte Fire Department, Eaton Area EMS and a supporting founder of ALIVE. He was also supportive of the welfare of his community. Despite his numerous accomplishments, Eldon remained humble, never having boarded an airplane or taken a vacation. His dedication to Beacon Sales and Service was unwavering, evident in his mere ten days of work missed throughout his extensive 76 year career.

Known for his formidable spirit, Eldon was an avid debater on politics and various topics. His love for reading spanned diverse subjects, and his encyclopedic knowledge of car makes and models was impressive. He harbored affection for animals, especially the family's lineage of dogs, and in his later years found solace in observing and feeding birds.

Eldon's resilience was evident when, at 87, he overcame a grievous injury, a testament to his indomitable spirit and work ethic. His legacy is etched in the hearts of those who knew him, a legacy of determination, wisdom, and kindness.

He is survived by his beloved son, Dave and his wife Eldora; granddaughters, Erron Sparks (Mick Bazaire) and Keisha Howe (Brian Miller); great-

grandchildren, Ty Pion, Brooke (Daniel) Miller, Caiden Bailey, Brody Miller, and Izzy Miller; nephews, Ron Howe and Don Howe; niece, Annette Florence; close family friend and caretaker, Dawn Howlett; loyal employees; and his four footed companion Shiloh II. Eldon was predeceased by his wife of 50 years, Pat; four brothers, Menzo, Garland, Bart, and Louis; and five furry four footed friends, Ginger I, Ginger II and Ginger III, Babe, and Shiloh I.

The stories and "legends" of Eldon Delos Howe will endure through the generations. He will be deeply missed and remembered fondly by all whose lives he touched.

Friends are encouraged to support Eldon Delouse Howe's family by attending services. Visitation is Tuesday, November 28, 2023 from 2-4:00 PM and 6-8:00 PM at Pray Funeral Home. Funeral services are Wednesday, November 29, 2023, 1:00 PM Pray Funeral Home in Charlotte with Pastor John Bailey officiating. Interment will follow in Maple Hill Cemetery. Family and friends are also encouraged to share memories on his Tribute Page at www.prayfuneral.com <<http://www.prayfuneral.com>>. 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 Eldon D. Howe'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 Charlotte Fire Department Christmas Kiddies. The family is in the care of Pray Funeral Home, Charlotte.

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV **28**. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Pray Funeral Home
401 W. Seminary St.
Charlotte, MI 48813

Visitation

NOV **28**. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Pray Funeral Home
401 W. Seminary St.
Charlotte, MI 48813

Funeral

NOV **29**. 1:00 PM (ET)

Pray Funeral Home
401 W. Seminary St.
Charlotte, MI 48813

Tribute Wall



“ *Pray Funeral Home, Inc created a Webcast in memory of Eldon Delos Howe*



Pray Funeral Home, Inc. - November 28, 2023 at 05:07 PM



“ *Pray Funeral Home, Inc created a Tribute Video in memory of Eldon Delos Howe*



Pray Funeral Home, Inc. - November 27, 2023 at 08:29 PM

AS

“ I guess I’m seeing this a little later than anticipated, but I want to share my fond memories of Mr. Howe. My dad initially was a customer of Beacon Sales, having had an engine replaced by them in 1990. I started using the dealership service department when I had my own vehicles years later, and Eldon and Louis were always there, always helpful and pleasant. The last time I saw Eldon was in 2008 when my minivan had a starter issue, because of course the next year Beacon lost its Chrysler franchise. It’s unusual to see a dealership principal as present and engaging as Mr. Howe was, and I respect him for that. Heaven has gained an angel; now he can rest in peace in his eternal home. My thoughts and prayers are with all of his relatives who are left behind.

Andrew Shah - January 25, 2024 at 03:22 PM

KA

“ Back when we first moved to Charlotte when I was 11 (I'm 41 now), my dad got a job working for Eldon in car sales. Eldon let my dad bring me in on "bring your daughter to work day" and he let me clean and organize the empty sales desks. He personally came in to check in on me a few times that day and answered every question I had. He seemed pleasantly entertained that I was so excited about learning what all they did at a dealership, and that I was so intrigued by the typewriters he had on one of the back desks. I definitely don't remember everything from that day, but I do remember how kind he was to me. That was probably my favorite day for a very long time because I got to hang out with my dad and the awesome guys at Beacon Sales. I still love working in an office, but I'm more in the medical field now. But I will never forget how Eldon and everyone else there that day made me feel welcome. It ignited my passion for helping other people and continually learning. Over the years, I've been back a few times to get car parts, and I've always made sure to say "Hi" to Eldon and Dave. Rest in Heaven Eldon. And may your family find peace in the memories you left behind.

Kathryn L Aldrich - December 11, 2023 at 12:28 PM

MM

“ Just talked to Eldon a few weeks ago, on the job as always. Have know him and his Beacon family since we came to Charlotte in the 70's. We shall truly miss him and his sound advice. Sending love and sympathy to Dave and all the family.

Bruce and Margaret Meilstrup

Margaret E Meilstrup - November 29, 2023 at 08:57 PM

SR

Eldon was such a kind soul and always took great care of us over the years. Rest in peace you loving, generous, kind, hard working soul. Prayers lifting for all his precious family. May you feel God's love in each reach out and hug...

Shannon Rogers - November 29, 2023 at 09:38 PM

JB

“ Jerry & Diane Baum planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Eldon D Howe.

Jerry & Diane Baum - November 29, 2023 at 08:53 AM



“ Blue Caribbean Bouquet was purchased for the family of Eldon Delos Howe.



November 28, 2023 at 10:55 PM



“ *Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Eldon Delos Howe.*



November 28, 2023 at 06:54 PM



“ *I was deeply saddened to hear of Eldon's passing. He was a GREAT man and so much more than just the owner of one of the most successful car dealerships ever. He was a job provider, a mentor, a friend, a motivator, an educator and demonstrated a work ethic that is unheard of now days. Above all he was generous to his family, his friends and to the community he served. He was the hardest working man I have ever known up to the very end. What an example for those of us who worked for him. He gave me the opportunity to work for him starting when I was a senior in high school working co-op. I had a tremendous amount of respect for him right from the start. Beacons was so much more than a dealership, it is where a lot of us got our start and has provided the livelihood for a great deal of families over the years. He made a difference in my life and my family's. It was privilege to have known him. Rest in piece Eldon God certainly knows you deserve it ! We love you.
Randy and Debbie Kelley*

Randy E. Kelley - November 28, 2023 at 12:50 PM



“ 3 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Pray Funeral Home, Inc. - November 28, 2023 at 11:13 AM



“ *Sacred Duty Spray* was purchased for the family of Eldon Delos Howe.



November 28, 2023 at 09:13 AM



“ *Beautiful Heart Bouquet* was purchased for the family of Eldon Delos Howe.



November 28, 2023 at 08:43 AM



“ *Enchanted Cottage* was purchased for the family of Eldon Delos Howe.



November 28, 2023 at 08:35 AM



“ Kim and Ronnie Netterfield planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Eldon D Howe.

Kim and Ronnie Netterfield - November 27, 2023 at 11:41 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Eldon Delos Howe.



November 27, 2023 at 11:41 PM



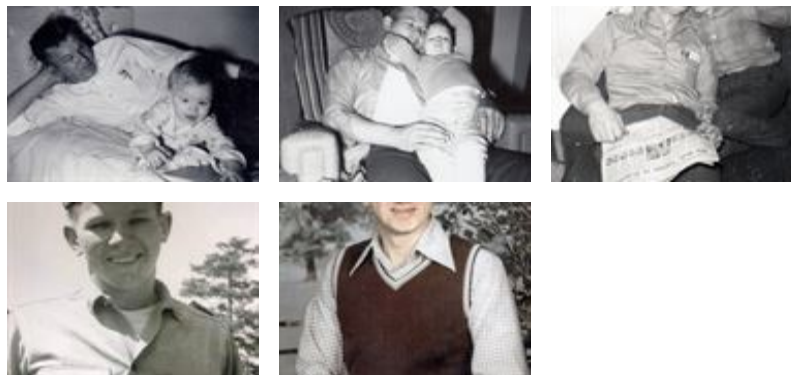
“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Eldon Delos Howe.



November 27, 2023 at 10:06 PM



“ 38 files added to the album Life Tributes



Pray Funeral Home, Inc. - November 27, 2023 at 08:29 PM

MC

“ *Michigan Auto Racing Fan Club purchased the Tender Tribute for the family of Eldon Delos Howe.*



Michigan Auto Racing Fan Club - November 27, 2023 at 07:34 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Eldon Delos Howe.*



November 27, 2023 at 06:05 PM

BW

“ *It is not often that you get to meet and know an individual like Eldon Howe. I feel that my life has been blessed just to have had him as a friend. He will be missed and may he rest in peace!*

Bob Wilson - November 27, 2023 at 04:52 PM

BG

“ *Bart Howe Clan (Jim, Annette, and girls planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Eldon D Howe.*

Bart Howe Clan (Jim, Annette, and girls - November 27, 2023 at 02:24 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Eldon Delos Howe.*



November 27, 2023 at 02:24 PM



“ *Williams Farm Machinery Inc. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Eldon D Howe.*

Williams Farm Machinery Inc. - November 27, 2023 at 02:24 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Eldon Delos Howe.*



November 27, 2023 at 02:24 PM



“ *Dave and family, Hoping you may find peace in knowing how many of us Eldon helped over the years. I feel honored to have been a friend to such an honest and hard working soul. God Bless you all.*

Jeff Smith - November 27, 2023 at 12:24 PM

PB

“ Dear Dave & Family,

I'm so very sorry for your loss. I didn't know Eldon but your family has always been very good to me. I so enjoyed being your neighbor.

Pauline Borgman

Pauline S Borgman - November 27, 2023 at 12:06 PM

RC

“ Eldon was a man, and businessman, of integrity. We conducted business back and forth for the last 25 years, and he will be missed by all here at Riversidegear. Rest now Eldon my friend, you earned it and then some.

Robert Casaday

Robert Casaday - November 27, 2023 at 11:32 AM

DB

“ Eldon was a pillar in the community. Last of the Howe boys. My Mom said there were many good ball games years ago by "The Beacon" at vermontville and m50. The old neighbors are pretty much all gone now. He will be missed by many.

With deepest sympathy,

*Daniel Bargy
(Son of the late Dorothy Walker Bargy)*

Daniel Bargy - November 27, 2023 at 11:26 AM

FF

“ From the Miller family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Eldon D Howe.

From the Miller family - November 27, 2023 at 11:23 AM

FF

“ From the Miller family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Eldon Delos Howe.



From the Miller family - November 27, 2023 at 11:23 AM

CB

“ Chuck Brandon lit a candle in memory of Eldon Delos Howe



Chuck Brandon - November 27, 2023 at 10:24 AM

DH

“ 12 files added to the album Old Family Photos



Donald Howe - November 27, 2023 at 09:50 AM

TG

“ From: The Reed Financial Group planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Eldon D Howe.

The Reed Financial Group - November 27, 2023 at 08:21 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Eldon Delos Howe.



November 27, 2023 at 08:21 AM