



## Fowler Dudley Kirby

August 11, 1935 - December 24, 2017

Kirby, Fowler "Dudley" ("Pops" and "Gega"), 82, of Charlotte, passed Sunday, December 24, 2017 at Hayes Green Beach Memorial Hospital, Charlotte, MI. Dudley's family will receive visitors Friday, December 29, 2017 from 10:30 a.m. to noon at St. Mary's Catholic Church, 807 St. Mary's Blvd., Charlotte, MI 48813. A funeral mass will be celebrated following at 12 noon with Rev. Fr. Dwight Ezop officiating.

Dudley was born August 11, 1935 in Cookeville, TN, the son of General Newton and Lulabelle Rogers Kirby. At an early age, his family moved to Owosso, MI, where he graduated high school before enlisting in the U.S. Army as a 17-year-old - serving as a paratrooper in the 82nd Airborne during the Korean Conflict.

After returning from the service, Dudley married his life-long love, best friend and dance partner, Helen Mudar, on June 6, 1959 at St. Paul Catholic Church, Owosso, MI. In 1965, they relocated to St. Charles, MI, where Dudley and Helen built a successful accounting business and had 8 of their 12 children. Dudley served as the town's mayor, on the Board of Education and pitcher for the men's-league champion softball team. After selling the business in 1980, Dudley and Helen moved to Charlotte. He served as chief financial officer until retirement at SET-SEG. He was a member of the Knights of Columbus and Lions Club.

Dudley was a rock to all and provided service to family, friends and so many others throughout his life.

He had a lofty and unmistakable presence. His family stands as an example of love expanded with his 12 children, 30 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren. Nieces, nephews, cousins and a host of friends of friends can count innumerable and immeasurable experiences with Pa Kirby.

Dudley was an avid reader with a keen intellect. He had an unmistakable competitive and fiery spirit. His voice spoke of accountability and he was just as quick to share his wry smirk of approval. He taught his family that hard work trumps all.

Dudley loved to have fun. A crooner to his dance partner and beloved Helen, he loved games - mostly winning at cards, golf, horseshoes, volleyball, bocce and whatever other games he could entice us all to play. Dudley was a master chef - seemingly using any and all ingredients to mix up the "dad" touch. Crosswords and puzzlers were favorites and he was always willing to share his opinions on issues of the day. He wintered south, traveling the countryside's backroads and rural towns; his curiosity never ceased.

Most of all, he showed us what true love really looked like.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 50 years, Helen; parents, General Newton and Lulabelle; and brothers, Pete, Ken, Dallas and Herbie.

Surviving are Dudley and Helen's 12 children, their children and grandchildren: Leo (Kathy, Helena, Candice and Paul); Theresa (Duane Hein, Danielle, John, Cameron, Hannah and Max); Denise (John Jasinski, Matt, Joe, Leah and Lucas); Mark (Jayde, Evan, Charlie and Amber); Patrick (Justin

and Josh); Wil (Michael, Zak); Brian (Dyane, Brian Jr., Hunter, Caitlyn and Sophia); Kevin (Andrea, Sophie and Miles); Molly (Jase Bolger, Nick and Megan); Dudley (Jonathon, Benjamin and Miles); Eric (Niki, Van and Che); and Sara Jayne (James Minden); and sisters-in-law, Rita Kirby and Kathy Kirby.

Gone from here, but with us always. We love you, Dad. We love you, Pops. We love you, Gega.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Eaton Area Senior Center, 804 S. Cochran Rd., Charlotte, MI 48813. Friends and family are encouraged to share memories of Dudley on his Tribute Page at [www.PrayFuneral.com](http://www.PrayFuneral.com). Other remembrances can be sent to Pray Funeral Home, 401 W. Seminary St., Charlotte, MI 48813.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

DEC **29**. 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

St. Mary Catholic Church  
807 St. Mary Boulevard  
Charlotte, MI 48813

## Mass

DEC **29**. 12:00 PM (ET)

St. Mary Catholic Church  
807 St. Mary Boulevard  
Charlotte, MI 48813

# Tribute Wall

AF

“ I am sorry to hear of Dudley's passing. He had the best laugh I ever heard. He was also a genuine person. I will always think positive when I think of him.  
Alan Fergin

alan fergin - January 03, 2018 at 12:04 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Fowler Dudley Kirby .



December 29, 2017 at 08:07 AM

JH

“ My condolences to all who knew and loved Mr. Kirby. My heart goes out to all of you and I wish you peace and healing. ~Jennifer Hensley, MSU

Jennifer Hensley - December 29, 2017 at 08:04 AM



“ Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of Fowler Dudley Kirby .



December 28, 2017 at 12:18 PM

DH

“ Dudley was a man for men. Always courteous, and for 30 some years always had a smile for me. He was a jokester. He is now with Helen, love of his life.

Diane Hudson - December 28, 2017 at 10:18 AM

EB

“ I used to work at SET with Dudley. He was such a nice many and usually had a smile on his face. So sorry for your loss. Sending sympathy to your family. Edna Burgess

Edna Burgess - December 27, 2017 at 11:23 PM

NN

“ Northwest Missouri State University NLT purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Fowler Dudley Kirby .



Northwest Missouri State University NLT - December 27, 2017 at 06:58 PM

NJ

“ I am sorry to hear of Dudley's passing and will always remember the working relations and great times we had for several years working at SET SEG. He was a very special friend. It was so nice to see him this past summer at our SET SEG retirees luncheon. I will always remember his nice smile and fun, caring personality. My thoughts and prayers are with his family who was most important to him always!!!  
Nancy Johnson

Nancy Johnson - December 27, 2017 at 03:14 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Fowler Dudley Kirby .*



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December 26, 2017 at 08:48 PM