



Gaylen Verl French

June 6, 1926 - July 3, 2016

Gaylen Verl French, 90, of Charlotte, passed away on July 3, 2016 in Charlotte, MI.

He was born on June 6, 1926 to Clair and Laura (Black) French in Emmett Twp, Calhoun County, MI. Gaylen grew up in Bellvue and graduated from Bellevue High School.

Gaylen served as an M.P. in the U.S. Army at the end of World War II. He often referred to his duties as "cleaning up after the war."

In his earlier years Gaylen owned a truck stop in the small town of Earlington KS for a short time. That is where he became a fabulous cook, a trait he and the family enjoyed ever since. When he returned to Michigan, Gaylen worked for a short time at Kelloggs in Battle Creek and later came to work at Aluminum Extrusions in Charlotte, retiring as a Quality Control Inspector when A.E. closed. In recent years, many will remember Gaylen as one of the greeters at the Charlotte Walmart store.

Gaylen was a very gentle and quiet man who provided balance for his family. In his leisure time he enjoyed the outdoors. Deer and pheasant hunting were a favorite past time with the summers often spent fishing. Many people will remember Gaylen as a great friend who was most proud of his family, his wife

Melba, and the fact that he lived to the great age of 90.

Gaylen is survived by his wife Melba, son, David French of East Lansing, MI; three daughters, Judy Cox of Dimondale, MI, Chris Kunkel of Eaton Rapids, Cindy Bassler, of Charlotte; step son, Tom Wells of Roseville, MI; two step daughters, Pat Towe, and Betty Wells, both of Charlotte; 11 grandchildren, 5 great grandchildren, and 1 great great grandchild. He was preceded in death by father, Clair Wesley French, mother, Laura Augusta May French, and two sisters, Arlene, and Bonnie.

Visitation will be held Wednesday, July 6, 2016, 9:00 am - 11:00 am at Pray Funeral Home, Inc., Charlotte, MI. Graveside services will be held on Wednesday, July 6, 2016, 11:30 am at Gresham Cemetery, Charlotte, MI, with Pastor Charles Jenson, officiating.

The family has suggested memorial contributions to the Eaton Community Palliative Care .

The family is in the care of Pray Funeral Home, Charlotte. Family and friends are encouraged to share remembrances and condolences online in Gaylen's Tribute Page at www.prayfuneral.com.

Cemetery Details

Gresham Cemetery

4100 Mulliken Rd
Charlotte, MI 48813

Previous Events

Graveside Service

JUL 6. 11:30 AM (ET)

Gresham Cemetery
4100 Mulliken Rd
Charlotte, MI 48813

Tribute Wall

EW

“ 5 files added to the tribute wall



Ed Whiting - July 05, 2016 at 09:51 PM

TR

“ Tracy purchased the Blooming Garden Basket for the family of Gaylen Verl French .



Tracy - July 04, 2016 at 08:29 PM

CW

“ Loved him dearly! He was a wonderful big brother!!

Carol Whiting - July 04, 2016 at 05:41 PM

Laurie
Whiting
Hillegas

“ *Uncle Gay was such a precious man. I was always excited when I knew he was coming over to Grandma French's house. He was one of those men who made the world better by his presence in it. Oh how I love him.*



Laurie Whiting Hillegas - July 04, 2016 at 11:16 AM

Laurie
Whiting
Hillegas

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Laurie Whiting Hillegas - July 04, 2016 at 11:14 AM

TV

“ *My uncle Gay was so gentle and calming to be around, always kind, always a smile. He will be missed by his family greatly. His Alabama family will think of him fondly and know his long life was well deserved.*

Telisa Lee Vida, Chris Vida and Betty Lee

Telisa Lee Vida - July 04, 2016 at 06:57 AM