



George Raymond Wildern

November 20, 1925 - September 15, 2010

George Wildern, 84, of Charlotte, MI died Wednesday, September 15, 2010. Mr. Wildern was born Nov. 20, 1925 in Ashville NC, the son of Harper and Flora (Ball) Wildern. After growing up in Charlotte, George served in the U.S. Army Air Corp as a tail gunner in a B-17 during WWII. Following the war George graduated from Ferris Institute School of Pharmacy in 1949 and joined the family Pharmacy at Wildern Drug Store, a long time family owned business in Charlotte eventually becoming the owner. Many will remember George for his wide ranging involvement in the Charlotte Community. George was an Eagle Scout and a former Boy Scout Troop 46 leader. He also was a Charter Member of the Charlotte Kiwanis Club, and the Charlotte Downtown Development Authority. He also served the community as a member of the Charlotte Frontier Days Board, and was Grand Marshall of Frontier Days. His many other community memberships included the Lawrence Ave. United Methodist Church, the Charlotte Chamber of Commerce, the Masonic Lodge #120 and the Shriners. Many will remember George's love of flying and downhill skiing in Colorado. George and his wife Dolly started the Ski Loft and were credited with encouraging numerous local people to join the sport. George had earned numerous awards throughout his years, most recently being presented with the Ferris State University Pharmacy Alumni Award and the Charlotte Rotary Community Service Award both in 2008. He is survived by his sons, Jeff (Beth) Wildern of Charlotte; Dr. Steve (Toni) Wildern of Hastings, MI; Dr. Kent (Coni) Wildern of Grand Rapids; 8 grandchildren

Harper (Mandy) Wildern, Joseph (Wendy) Wildern, Danielle (Nick) Juhle, John (Larah) Wildern, Christopher Wildern, Chad (Kara) Wildern, Kyle (Loni) Wildern, Kristen Wildern; 7 great grandchildren Marilyn, Andie Elizabeth, Jakson, Bridger, Catherine, Maxwell, and Kaden; brother-in-law, Don Molinaro of Clearfield, PA. He was preceded in death by his wife of 60 years, Esther "Dolly" Wildern in February of 2008. Funeral services will be held at 3:30 PM Sunday September 19, 2010 at Pray Funeral Home, Charlotte, MI with Reverend Karen Wheat officiating. Interment will be in Maple Hill Cemetery, Charlotte, MI. Visitation will be Saturday September 18 from 6-9PM at Pray Funeral Home. If desired, memorial contributions may be made to Lawrence Avenue United Methodist Church in Charlotte.

Tribute Wall



“ *Pray Funeral Home, Inc created a Tribute Video in memory of George Raymond Wildern*



Pray Funeral Home, Inc. - September 15, 2010 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ *Our family has always appreciated the personal touches from the Wildern's Pharmacy and the friendship of George and my mom, Florence Royston, since they knew each other from CHS. Since she passed on September 1, our family knows what you are feeling. Also, Dr. Wildern in Hastings has been my aunt's (Phyllis Goodrich)doctor and she has always spoken so well of him. I remember her telling me that she remembered when George and Dolly got married and she thought Dolly was so special. You are all in my prayers and our parents are in loving arms.*

Jill (Royston) Smith - September 24, 2010 at 10:55 AM

NB

“ *Please accept our condolences.*

Neil Becker - September 20, 2010 at 01:08 PM

JF

“ Dear Wildern Family : So sorry about the loss of George (it seems strange calling him George, since he was always Mr. Wildern to his girls at the Pharmacy) . We have very fond memories of him and he was a blast to work for ! We all learned a lot from him . He will be missed. Take care and remember , when someone you love becomes a memory, the memory becomes a treasure. Jenny Fuller-Mahlich and Family

Jenny Fuller-Mahlich - September 20, 2010 at 10:46 AM

GH

“ Our condolences to the Wildern family and all who knew and loved George. Greg and I have fond memories of George, who was one of what we called 'our faithful remnant' who attended our Sunday evening service. We are thankful that we had that time to get to know and appreciate him. Even after his bouts in the hospital, he would come when he was able. He always seemed more concerned about the health of others than his own. George loved his family and talked often of his wife, children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. In our eyes, he was a wise, generous man who lived life to the fullest. Our times with him will be among our fondest memories. God bless you all.

Greg and Stephany Humenik - September 19, 2010 at 09:10 AM

AS

“ Dear Wildern Family, We are saddened to hear of the loss of George. What a great man who will be truly missed. Mom will often tell the story of her first time skiing and George helping up the lift. Our thoughts and prayers are with you at this difficult time, Amy, Andy and Austin Smith Dot Toutant

Amy Toutant Smith - September 18, 2010 at 02:33 PM

JM

“ Dr. Wildern, So sorry to hear about the passing of your father. He was always a pleasure to be around. Our thoughts and prayers are with you! Jane McCarthy, Kristin Bies and Julia Wolf-Duis

Jane McCarthy - September 18, 2010 at 10:32 AM

RG

“ We are very sorry of for you loss. We will be praying for your family. God's Blessing. The Gareiss'

Roger and Darlene Gareiss - September 17, 2010 at 10:53 PM

PB

“ Jim and I are so sorry for your loss. George will always be part of great memories from my childhood. I considered him my "second" father and your parents did so much for me. Jim will remember many hunting stories from the past. George will be missed and I am sorry that we are not in Michigan for the funeral. Please know that you are in our thoughts and prayers.

Patricia Bryan Bueter - September 17, 2010 at 01:10 PM

CP

“ George was a truly wonderful person! He will be greatly missed. My thoughts & prayers are with the Wildern family.

Charla Parkinson - September 17, 2010 at 12:46 PM

AB

“ We are so very sorry for your loss. You have been like family to us and we want you to know that you are in our thoughts and prayers. Sincerely, Abbi and Phil

Abbi and Phil Balger - September 17, 2010 at 09:19 AM

SS

“ I was very sadden to hear of the passing of George. He was always a pleasure to work for and was always very pleasant in church. He was a great man who served and loved his community. He will surely be missed!

Sarita (Hoekzema) Shetenhelm - September 16, 2010 at 09:04 PM

RW

“ I am saddened to hear of Mr Wildernâ€™s passing. I remember going to his store to â€œbarrowâ€œ medicine for Browns Pharmacy in the late 70â€™s early 80â€™s. He was always so kind and greeted you with a great smile. He will be missed by many. May your memories bring you comfort. My prayers are with the Wildern family in there time of sorrow. Roxanne Minarde Wooley & Family.

Roxanne Minarde Wooley - September 16, 2010 at 09:16 AM

SC

“ Beth and family, My deepest sympathy on the loss of dad and grandpa. When we lose a parent, it seems to shake our very foundations. May God dull the sharp edge of grief for you. With prayers, Sandy Carey

sandy carey - September 16, 2010 at 09:10 AM

KH

“ *To the Wildern Family: I have so many wonderful memories of Mr Wildern and the time I spent at the store. I was so lucky to have worked and to have been a part of the Wildern life for many years. Mr Wildern was an amazing man and I think of him every time I peel a potato or clean a sink (he loved to tell old army stories:-) He was one of the most influential men in my life and I am so appreciative of all he taught me. He was the man who told me I could be anything I wanted to be and actually made me believe it, he helped me become the person I am today. I am so sorry for your loss, he was a special man who held a special place in many hearts.*

Kerrin Hetland - September 16, 2010 at 08:30 AM