



Gordon Warren Crippen

October 1, 1930 - April 16, 2011

Gordon W. Crippen, 80 , of Charlotte, MI died Saturday April 16, 2011. Mr. Crippen was born October 1, 1930 in Potterville, MI the son of Wayne and Olive (Larowe) Crippen. He is survived by his wife, Marjorie, and his children: Don Crippen, Ellen (Bill) Courier; grandchildren Heather Johnston (her father Todd Johnston), Joe Crippen, Sean Crippen (their mother Valisa Crippen); siblings, Joyce Love, Eunice Frost, Wayne (Kathy) Crippen, and Loyd (Merna) Crippen; stepchildren, Karen Watkins, Mark (Julie) Stenske, Tom (Sandy) Stenske, Peter (Patty) Stenske, Ann (John) Tierney, Ellen (Jim) Block, John Stenske, Paul (Michelle) Stenske, and Michael (Vivian) Stenske. He was preceded in death by his parents, first wife Linda and siblings Carolyn Allen, Nancy Crippen, Lester Crippen and Leon Crippen. He retired from Auto Owners Insurance Company in the Maintenance Department. He was very handy and was able to fix anything. Gordon enjoyed fishing in the U.P., hunting, gardening, woodworking, golf, square dancing. He enjoyed spending time with his family on camping trips, and vacations. Funeral services will be 11:00 am on Tuesday, April 19, 2011 at Pray Funeral Home with Pastor Ed Owens officiating. Interment will be at Deepdale Memorial Gardens. Visitation will be Monday, April 18, 2011 from 2:00 – 4:00 pm and 6:00-8:00 pm. If desired memorial contributions may be made to a Charity of your Choice. Arrangements by Pray Funeral Home, Charlotte. Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.prayfuneral.com

Tribute Wall



“ Pray Funeral Home, Inc created a Tribute Video in memory of Gordon Warren Crippen



Pray Funeral Home, Inc. - April 16, 2011 at 12:00 AM

KW

“ I will never forget the first time I met Gordon. He had been dating my mom and she really liked him. I came to Michigan and Mom took me over to meet him at his home in South Lansing. There were a few quiet moments and then he asked me what I wanted to do. "Do you have any bird books?" I asked. I loved to watch birds and had just seen a bird that I didn't recognize. Gordon went to his bookshelf and it was filled with books about animals. He found a bird book and we looked through it until we found the bird I had seen. I was an adult but I felt like I was six years old again. Gordon was so kind and sweet. We always had a love of nature to share even if I didn't like hunting. It would have been nice to have more time with Gordon when he was healthy but that was not to be. I really enjoyed the time I had with him and I'll miss him.

Karen Watkins - April 21, 2011 at 12:39 AM

DR

“ So sorry to hear of Gordon passing. I knew Gordon from Auto-Owners, he always had a smile on his face. He was a pleasure to be around and we always new if we needed anything we could count on Gordon. You are in My thoughts and prayers. Diana Bruce Riddle

Diana Bruce Riddle - April 19, 2011 at 09:04 PM

JM

“ My name is Jack Minnema. My father Henri Minnema worked at Auto Owners for over 30 years. My dad passed away in 1995. When I was a little boy I remember always seeing Gordie working at Auto Owners when they were in downtown Lansing. He was always very friendly and did such a nice job of keeping Auto Owners looking nice. My dad really respected Gordie for doing such a great job for Auto Owners and for being such a good person. I am very sorry for your loss. Jack Minnema

Jack H. Minnema - April 18, 2011 at 06:13 PM

BK

“ Marge: This is the first time I have used the internet to express my sympathy for you and your family, so please bear with me. When you feel like a break, give me a call and we will meet for lunch/brunch or whatever. Would like to see you. Bea

Bea Karber - April 18, 2011 at 01:37 PM

BK

“ Marge: This is the first time I have used the internet to express sympathy so please bear with me. You have been through so much and, hopefully, you will recover from your loss with time as a healer. When you feel like you need to get away for a few hours, give me a call and we will meet somewhere for lunch. My prayers are with you.
Bea

Bea Karber - April 18, 2011 at 01:34 PM

KT

“ Ellen, Heather and family - You've been in our thoughts and prayers. Wish I could be there to give you a great big hug. Love you! Karen and Ron. Phil. 4:7

Karen Thorrington - April 18, 2011 at 02:32 AM

MB

“ Ellen, Your father was a true blessing from God. We know he will be sadly missed. Please know that our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. We love you.

Mike and Rhonda Bailey - April 17, 2011 at 09:54 PM

MC

“ Our hearts and prayers are with Ellen, Heather and the whole Crippen family. So sorry for your loss.

Marlene and Steve Curtis - April 17, 2011 at 06:06 PM

BM

“ Marjorie and Family, Our deepest sympathy and prayers are with you at this time. From your neighbor's. Betty and Joyce Masters

Betty and Joyce Masters - April 17, 2011 at 02:05 PM

SL

“*Heather & Ellen, We are so sorry for the passing of your Father/Grandfather. Saying goodbye is very hard to do and the tears are just an outward sign of the love you had inside that special person. Please know that our prayers go out to you as we have both been through a passing of a father and grandfather. The pain of the loss will soon pass as the wonderful memories begin to flood back in and the tears begin to be replaced by smiles and laughter as you reminisce of the good times. We wish we could be with you.*

Stacey & Dave Lander - April 17, 2011 at 01:34 PM

“ Saying goodbye is never easy. My mind has been flooded with so many wonderful memories of my childhood and life with my daddy. He has been a constant in my life and has always been there for me. He has rejoiced with me, cried with me, and encouraged me when things were tough. My dad was a hard worker and never gave up easy. He could do anything he set his mind to. He was a man of his word and taught me that when you give a person your word you stick to it. He told me, "don't be afraid to shake a person's hand; don't give them a wet noodle to shake". As a child I looked forward to him coming home from work so that I could sit on his lap and watch the evening news with him. I always felt safe when I was with him. He gave the best bear hugs. To me, he seemed so big and important. I remember a time when he took me to work with him and he had so many keys and I was amazed that he knew what each key was for. When I was little and he was working around the house or on the farm I would follow him around and ask questions, "what are you doing daddy?", "can I help?". He never seemed to mind me being his tagalong. As I grew older he encouraged me to work hard at whatever I was doing, he said that nothing in life comes easy so you have to work hard at it and don't give up. My dad always seemed so strong. He stood by my mother Linda with all of her health issues; he was her rock. I never remember seeing them fight but I am sure they had their moments as married couples do. After my mom died my father and I shared some real heart to heart emotions. He showed me a more tender emotional side that I had never seen. He spent a lot of time with Todd, Heather, and I while Don was still in the Navy and away from home. My dad loved being a grandpa and Heather had her grandpa wrapped around her finger. There wasn't anything that my dad wouldnt have done for his grandkids. When the day came that we knew we were moving to the U.P. and I had to tell my dad that we were moving it was one of the hardest things I have ever had to do. We both cried, but my dad reassured me that he would make many trips to see us. He loved coming to the U.P. and fishing; one time I told him that I would outfish him and I caught a big walleye and he didnt catch anything. There was another time that we went fishing that he forgot his net

and we didnt know it; the first fish got away because the line broke and the second fish we brought to the boat and, because we didnt have a net, my dad stuck his hand into the water and pulled the fish into the boat. Again, there are so many memories to tell about my father. He has been there for everything I have gone through in my life, for both the good times and the hard times and I will miss him deeply. I was so glad that I was able to be here during his last few days and hear him tell me he loves me and to give me a kiss. I know that I will see him again in Heaven, so it is only for a short time that we will be apart.

Ellen Courier - April 17, 2011 at 01:14 PM