



John Allen Caughey

January 28, 1923 - September 20, 2011

John Allen Caughey was born January 28, 1923 to Birdie Lou and John Alexander Caughey, in Sunfield, Michigan. Allen "Bud" Caughey continued his parent's tradition in agriculture as a crop farmer for 68 harvests. As of the Fall of 2010, Allen celebrated his long career in farming with friends, family, and loved ones at the pond he had dug over forty years ago as part of a conservationist project. The celebration was symbolic of the many things Allen loved including family, friends, farming, and a deep appreciation for the outdoors. Allen's love of agriculture started at a young age as documented by a photo of a three year old Allen holding the reins of a full size work horse in front of the family farm. Allen was later instrumental in assisting his father John with the transition from horse-powered farming to tractor farming. Following his graduation from Charlotte High School, Allen worked for a short time at General Motors, but soon realized his passion was in agriculture and he returned to the family farm. Later he became re-acquainted with fellow Charlotte classmate Donna Jean Sutherland and the two were married on June 22, 1947. Their partnership and dedication to building the next generation of J.A.C. farms continued until D.J.'s passing in 1995. Throughout their 48 years together they built a farm (tile) drainage business, were active in sheep, poultry, and crop farming, and raised their two children Jack and Nancy together. It was a true partnership of two people who worked in harmony as custodians of the land. Allen was honored to be recognized in 2000 when he was inducted into the Michigan Farmer of the Year Hall of

Fame. His son Jack continues the family farming tradition today. In addition to his love of the family farm, Allen was active within his community and served on the boards of the Eaton County Soil Conservation District, the Lawrence Avenue United Methodist Church, and as a Farm Bureau member. Allen was instrumental in uniting area farmers in opposing the proposed I-69 route, resulting in the 1980s relocation out of prime Eaton County farmlands. In addition, Allen was an avid hunter and outdoorsman. He loved his many hunting excursions to Canada, Alaska and Wyoming with his hunting partner Neil Southworth. He was proud of his trophies that included moose, bear, elk, caribou, mule deer, antelope and many white tail deer. He was often accompanied by one of the family hunting dogs who loved nothing more than to be on the trail with him. Family members remember how with one twitch of his pinky finger, Mickey the Fox Terrier would turn circles before laying down next to Allen's recliner after a long day of hunting. Allen also enjoyed many years of friendship as a member of the Charloteers Camping Club. He hosted an annual October camper club weekend at his farm pond where a pole barn served as home base for club hay rides, deer sightings, crafting, and spirited card playing. Not to forego the details, Allen ensured that the pole barn had a functioning wood stove and personally constructed a nearby out-house for his guests. Allen also enjoyed metal and wood working in his farm shop where his attention to detail could be viewed by his resourceful use of old gadgets re-worked for new uses or his meticulous organization of hardware through the use of labeled and recycled milk jugs. Allen loved to sing, tell stories, read, tinker, visit with friends, research family genealogy, drive his John Deere tractors and combine, and watch Fox News. Cherished by the many friends and community members with whom he shared his time, Allen gave a tremendous amount of unconditional love and care to his family. His children remember him using a hatchet to check the ice depth of the farm pond before allowing them to play hockey and ice skate, a memorable trip out West to Yellowstone and Mt. Rushmore, and endless patience while dealing with their antics. His grandchildren remember fun motor home trips to Northern

Michigan while perched in the "Crow's Nest" and riding in the cab of the combine during harvest season. A man of strength, kindness, and integrity, Allen died on September 20, 2011. He was preceded in death by his wife, Donna Jean (Sutherland) Caughey, and his sister Mary Lou (Caughey) Southworth. Allen will be kept forever in the hearts of his children Jack (Tina) Caughey and Nancy (James) Gensel, grandchildren Justin Caughey, Ericah Caughey, Meghan Sifuentes, and Antonio (Nicole) Sifuentes, great grandson Alec Pruden, many nieces and nephews, cousins, and friends from over the years. The family will receive visitors at Pray Funeral Home, Friday 3-5 pm and 7 to 8:30 pm. Funeral Services will be held 11:00 am Saturday September 24, at the Pray Funeral Home with Rev. Terry Fisher officiating. Interment will follow in Needmore Cemetery. The family has suggested memorial contributions to the Eaton County Medical Care Facility Horticultural Center or to the Lawrence Ave. United Methodist Church Work Camp.

Tribute Wall



“ *Pray Funeral Home, Inc created a Tribute Video in memory of John Allen Caughey*



Pray Funeral Home, Inc. - September 20, 2011 at 12:00 AM

PH

“ *So sorry to hear about your Dad. My Dad (Willis Dalton) and John were first cousins. I remember John Allen being such a friendly guy and easy to talk to. I had a nice visit with him when he came to my Dad's funeral in 2008. He will be missed. May God be with you, Jack and Nancy and your families, and may you feel God's strength and peace. God Bless, Sharon and Paul Halladay*

Paul & Sharon (Dalton) Halladay - September 24, 2011 at 11:17 AM

DT

“ *I was honored to get to know Mr. Caughey in his last several months of his life. I was his social worker at Eaton County Medical Care Facility. He was a joy to talk with and hear his stories. I wish for the family much peace and comfort during this time. He is truly missed and will be cherished in our hearts as well. Thank you for sharing him with us in the last several months and last days of his life. Blessings to you and all who knew him.*

Dawn Tomlin - September 22, 2011 at 04:46 PM

DT

“ I want to say I am pleased to have shared in the last several months of Mr. Caughey's life. I enjoyed working with him as his social worker at Eaton County Medical Care Facility. He was a joy to talk with and share his stories. He is and was a wonderful man who truly loved his family and his life long love of the great outdoors/farm. I am wishing the family much peace and comfort during this time.

Dawn Tomlin - September 22, 2011 at 04:42 PM

BW

“ Jim & Nancy, The prayers of our family are with you in this time of grief. May GOD give you strength and peace in your time of sorrow.

Bill & Vivian White - September 22, 2011 at 03:28 PM