



## John Arthur Simpson

February 1, 1931 - September 20, 2021

John Arthur Simpson, 90, died peacefully on Monday, September 20, 2021 at his home in Charlotte surrounded by family. John was born February 1, 1931 in Roxand Twp., MI, the son of Kenneth and Eathel (Boyer) Simpson. He graduated from Charlotte High School in 1950, and married Phyllis Barney on August 29, 1954 at Gresham United Methodist Church.

John devoted his life to family, his community, and farming. John and Phyllis loved their farm, where they lived since 1963. They raised three children there, and it has been a beloved home for their children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren who visited as often as they could for fish fries, hunting, or ice cream. John regularly attended and faithfully supported the church where he and Phyllis were married. He was a hardworking, honest, and generous man who set an example of lifelong love and respect for his family and all who knew him.

John started farming in 1950, working the land for 68 years, before finally retiring in 2018. It was a source of pride that his son, Wayne, farmed with him for the last several years. In addition to farming, he and Phyllis built a good business selling Pioneer Seeds for 40 years. With his father, and later his son, John spent over 25 years building bean headers for harvesting navy beans. He also worked he at Fascut Tools from 1955 to 1961.

The couple were well-known in the community for their contributions. John served in volunteer capacities, including 5 years as a 4-H leader, 10 years on the Chester Township Board of Review, 21 years on the Eaton County Soil

Conservation Board of which he served as Secretary, the Farm Service Agency Board. He was a member of Farm Bureau since 1950 and volunteered for many projects and activities with that organization.

Together, John and Phyllis were inducted into the Michigan Farmers Hall of Fame in 2002. John received many other awards and recognitions along the way, including Conservationist of the Year from the Thornapple Grand Soil Conservation District, and the Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award from Eaton County Farm Bureau.

When not on the farm, Phyllis and John loved to travel - often on farm tours or with friends - and they were proud to say that they had been to all 50 states. They traveled together, with their kids and grandkids, taking each of the grandkids to Disney World. John enjoyed fishing and hunting, especially a week or two of deer camp with brothers and friends every year.

John is survived by his three children, Marilyn (Stanley) Marshall, Wayne (Sandy) Simpson, Diane Enterline; grandchildren, Angel Andrews, Kathleen Marshall, Samantha (Lam Pham) Marshall, Josh (Lindsay) Simpson, Jason Ross, Josh Ross, and Jeff Ross; great-grandchildren, Kalli (Matt) Mongar, Kadence Andrews, James Pham; great-great-granddaughter, Aubree Mongar; siblings, Marvel Weers, Max (Sandy) Simpson, Lois (Ken) Klumpp, Albert (Jayne) Simpson, and Roy (Krys) Simpson; siblings-in-law, Louise (Richard) Todd, Leonard (Bonnie) Barney. He was predeceased by his wife of nearly 64 years, Phyllis Jean Simpson; beloved grandson, Clifford Marshall; son-in-law, Sheldon Enterline; and brother-in-law, Clifford LaMarr Weers.

The funeral service will be held outdoors in the Pray Funeral Home Gardens on Friday, September 24, 1:00 PM with Pastor Bryce Feighner officiating. Visitation will be Thursday, September 23, 2-4 PM and 6-8 PM inside at Pray Funeral Home. Interment will take place in Gresham Cemetery alongside Phyllis. In lieu of flowers, the family asks memorial contributions may be made to Hospice of Lansing, Charlotte FFA, or Eaton County 4-H. Friends and family are encouraged to share memories of John on his tribute page at [www.PrayFuneral.com](http://www.PrayFuneral.com). The family is in the care of Pray Funeral Home.



# Cemetery Details

## Gresham Cemetery

4100 Mulliken Rd  
Charlotte, MI 48813

# Previous Events

## Visitation

SEP 23. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Pray Funeral Home  
401 W. Seminary St.  
Charlotte, MI 48813

## Visitation

SEP 23. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Pray Funeral Home  
401 W. Seminary St.  
Charlotte, MI 48813

## Funeral Ceremony

SEP 24. 1:00 PM (ET)

Pray Funeral Home Gardens  
401 W. Seminary St.  
Charlotte, MI 48813



# Tribute Wall



“ *Pray Funeral Home, Inc created a Webcast in memory of John Arthur Simpson*

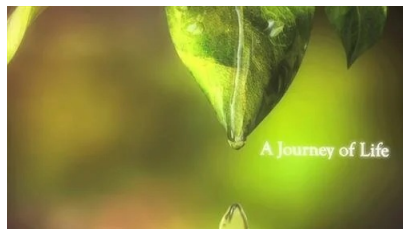


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**Pray Funeral Home, Inc.** - September 24, 2021 at 11:47 AM

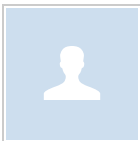


“ *Pray Funeral Home, Inc created a Tribute Video in memory of John Arthur Simpson*



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**Pray Funeral Home, Inc.** - September 22, 2021 at 07:25 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of John Arthur Simpson.*



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September 23, 2021 at 07:51 PM

MB

“ John will be well missed. The man had a huge heart and I cherish all the the moments I spent visiting with him. He helped me fix things that I needed help with. And he never hesitated when I called needing help pulling my UPS truck out of the snow when I got stuck. I will miss him dearly. RIP my friend!! Mike Brady

Mike Brady - September 23, 2021 at 06:53 AM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of John Arthur Simpson.



September 23, 2021 at 05:29 AM



“ Loving Lilies and Roses Bouquet was purchased for the family of John Arthur Simpson.



September 22, 2021 at 09:32 PM



“ 52 files added to the album LifeTributes



Pray Funeral Home, Inc. - September 22, 2021 at 07:07 PM

PW

“ I don't know where to start, you were more than a neighbor, friend. You and Phyllis were there when we needed some one to depend on, kept us up on what was happening, all we had to do was ask. I'll miss seeing your lights not being on, we always felt safe just knowing you were there. Phyllis and I spent alot of time togethere and running back and forth, plus our kids were good friend, them talking across the road, when they had to stay in their yard. Larry will miss you coming over and telling him what was happening. Oh yes we'll miss our friends. God Bless You! Larry and Patti Wright

Patricia Wright - September 22, 2021 at 03:44 PM

JS

“ Jeff Smith lit a candle in memory of John Arthur Simpson



Jeff Smith - September 22, 2021 at 03:23 PM



“ *Family of John Simpson:*

*John was a pillar of the Simpson family. For many years he and Phyllis hosted the Simpson reunion. He was of course very dedicated to Chester Township and surrounding community. John was the perfect example of what a farmer should be. He helped many over the years with their seed choices. John will be missed by many. My deepest condolences to each of you. Fortunately you have many good memories of John to hold forever.*

*With deepest sympathy,*

*Daniel Bargy*

*(Family of late Gertrude Simpson Walker and Dorothy Walker Bargy)*

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**Daniel Bargy** - September 22, 2021 at 01:41 PM