



Leo Daryl Baker

May 27, 1938 - June 9, 2022

Leo “Daryl” Baker, a pillar of our Charlotte community, died June 9, 2022 at the age of 84. Daryl’s accomplishments throughout his life are many and his involvement with organizations has been an example of wonderful leadership. The Charlotte Rotary recognized Daryl with the “Hero Award” in May, giving a well-deserved standing ovation for his lifelong servant nature. Daryl served as Mayor of Charlotte for 14 years; Eaton County Commissioner for 22 years; Charlotte City Council for 30 years; Eaton Federal Bank Board for 30 years; Airport Advisory Board; Charlotte Jaycees; United Way; Charlotte Community Nursery School Board Member; Charlotte High School Building Committee Chairman; Club master, Cub Scouts of America; St. Mary Church, Pastoral Commission and Finance Committee; St. Mary, Knights of Columbus; Charlotte Community Recreation Committee; coached baseball and soccer; Michigan Air National Guard/part-time for 4 ½ years with honorable discharge; Charlotte Rotary Club, 53 year member, and President of the Rotary Club in 83/84; Can-Do Committee for 2 years; Charlotte Rising; as well as owning and operating an insurance agency that was well known and trusted for 55 plus years. Once he reached retirement age, he sold his business to his daughter, Charla and another associate, Brian Lautzenheiser, but he didn’t ever retire. Seemingly, he wouldn’t have any free time to speak of, but he enjoyed using the construction skills he learned from his father and attending trade school to build their home in Charlotte, as well as their cabin in the U.P. Among some of Daryl’s favorite memories are great times with grandkids at the cabin (often

with his straw hat on and his chainsaw within reach), running the trails on their ATVs, and of course time on the golf course.

Daryl was born on May 27, 1938 in Lake Odessa, Michigan to Leo James and Margaret L. (Powers) Baker. His quiet demeanor and ability to be a great salesman who cared deeply about the community helped his reputation grow. He said, "I enjoy working with the citizens, listening to the needs and concerns and acting on reasonable fulfillment of those needs." Daryl served as a Cub Scout leader and followed the motto and creed that it taught, to look around the community for projects that improve. He adored and cherished his family, making many memories they will carry in their hearts.

Daryl is survived by his wife, Mary Jean (Martens) Baker; children, Charla (Chris) Parkinson, Michael Baker, Thomas Baker, James (Amy) Baker, Matthew Baker, and Marcus (Cherish Passeno) Baker; ten grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren; siblings, Marcelyn Kelley, Darlene (Robert) Raymer, Doyle (Jackie) Baker, Rosemary (David) DeWaters; and many nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his parents; and his brother-in-law, Sherman Kelley.

Friends are encouraged to support Daryl's family by attending services or sharing memories on his Tribute Page at www.prayfuneral.com. Visitation is Tuesday, June 14, 2022, 3-5:00 p.m. and 7-9:00 p.m. with a Rosary at 8:30 p.m. at Pray Funeral Home. Funeral Mass will be held at St. Mary Catholic Church in Charlotte on June 15 at 11:00 a.m. with Rev. Fr. Dwight Ezop officiating. The funeral will be webcast so you may watch it from any computer, smartphone, or mobile device that has internet access. Go to www.prayfuneral.com, click on Daryl's tribute, then click on Photos and Videos from your computer (or Media from your smart phone). If desired, the family suggests memorial contributions to St. Mary's Building Fund or Eaton Community Palliative Care. The family is in the care of Pray Funeral Home,

Charlotte.

Cemetery Details

Maple Hill Cemetery

801 Tully Brown Rd.
Charlotte, MI 48813

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 14. 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

Pray Funeral Home
401 W Seminary St
Charlotte, MI 48813

Visitation

JUN 14. 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM (ET)

Pray Funeral Home
401 W Seminary St
Charlotte, MI 48813

Rosary

JUN 14. 8:30 PM (ET)

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

Funeral Ceremony

JUN 15. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Mary Catholic Church
807 St. Mary Boulevard
Charlotte, MI 48813

Tribute Wall



“ *Pray Funeral Home, Inc created a Webcast in memory of Leo Daryl Baker*



Pray Funeral Home, Inc. - June 14, 2022 at 09:35 PM



“ *Pray Funeral Home, Inc created a Tribute Video in memory of Leo Daryl Baker*



Pray Funeral Home, Inc. - June 13, 2022 at 06:44 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Leo Daryl Baker.*



June 15, 2022 at 05:51 PM

GR

“ *Uncle Daryl was truly a great man who gave so much back to the community, his friends family and beyond. He will truly be missed!*
Greg Martens and Family

Greg - June 15, 2022 at 10:08 AM

CD

“ *My heart hurts hearing of Daryl's passing...thinking of all the family as you go through this grieving process. Daryl's warm smile always made me feel special, and I will never forget that. May you all find comfort in the memories of his giving spirit. Rest well, my friend.*

Cora

Cora Dee - June 14, 2022 at 09:30 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Leo Daryl Baker.*



June 14, 2022 at 11:50 AM

GT

“ *GM - Global ME Body Team purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Leo Daryl Baker.*



GM - Global ME Body Team - June 14, 2022 at 11:22 AM

DB

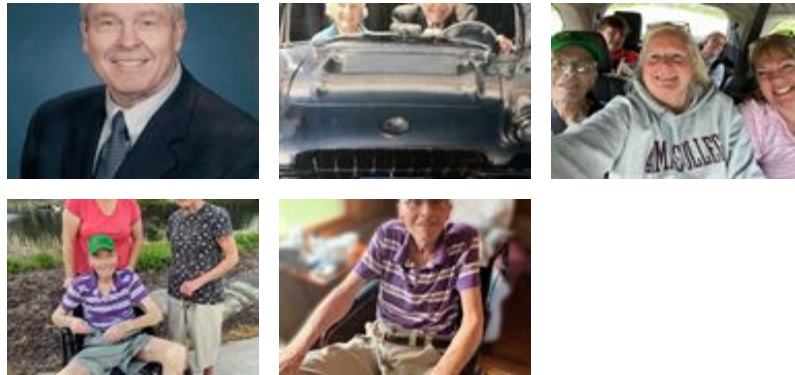
“ Douglas & Karen Baker purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Leo Daryl Baker.



Douglas & Karen Baker - June 13, 2022 at 10:09 PM



“ 57 files added to the album Life Tributes



Pray Funeral Home, Inc. - June 13, 2022 at 06:44 PM

CF

“ I was sad to hear of Daryl's passing. He was the kindest gentleman with a big heart. My prayers for Mary Jean, who is my classmate, and her family. Daryl was my insurance person years ago and was kind and considerate as that was his way.

Carole McClure Barnhill Franciscotty

Carole Franciscotty - June 13, 2022 at 12:07 PM

JC

“ *Mary Jean and family. I'm so sorry for your loss. Daryl was just a great guy. I had the opportunity to work with him on a few construction projects while working summers for his Uncle Vance Baker. We had lots of fun while doing work on the girl's dorm at Olivet College. John Colizzi*

John Colizzi - June 13, 2022 at 11:09 AM

JB

“ *So sorry to hear of Daryl's passing. My deepest sympathy and condolences to Mary Jean and the family.*

Jeanne Baird - June 12, 2022 at 09:56 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Leo Daryl Baker.*



June 12, 2022 at 04:21 PM

MD

“ *Please accept our deepest condolences during this difficult time. Your husband and father was a very kind and giving gentleman. We admired his devotion to his family and his community.*

You are in our thoughts and prayers.

- Matt Gager, Mary Gager Drew and Megan McCall

Mary Drew - June 12, 2022 at 11:00 AM

JG

“ *Baker Family,
Please accept our most sincere condolences and sympathy in the loss of Daryl One of my highlights of a 4 year interim appointment as Director of Eaton County Parks, I could not have had a better Commissioner, mentor and new friend.
His patience, calm demeanor and civility is a role model for all of us, let alone public service. He touched many corners of the Charlotte and Eaton County communities. Thank you for sharing him with us. He made a difference.*
John/Pat Greenslit

John Greenslit - June 12, 2022 at 08:13 AM

BA

“ *To the entire family of Daryl Baker, I wish to send my heartfelt condolences - to Mary Jean, my cousin, and to their children and families and to my old friend and neighbor, his sister Marcelyn. I am sorry I have lived away from Charlotte for 60 plus years and didn't know the family as well as I would have liked, but you have always been in my thoughts and I will always remember your wedding day. May God bless you all on this sad week - Daryl was quite the gentleman and what an upstanding member of the community. You have been blessed.*
Love to all
Nita Anzivino
Huntington Beach, California

Bernita Anzivino - June 11, 2022 at 12:53 PM

GP

“ So Grateful for the Life of Daryl, he was there for me at Charlotte Insurance Agency when I needed someone to help me with my insurance needs after my husband, Herb Wilson, passed away so unexpectedly, Daryl was such a kind and caring person and helped me through such a tragic time in my life, answered every question in his slow-easy compassionate manor; thank you Daryl with such gratitude; you will be sadly missed.



My Condolences to Mary Jean, may the Lord hold you in the Palm of His Hand!

Genevra Wilson / Post

Genevra Wilson / Post - June 10, 2022 at 11:02 PM

SJ

“ So very sorry to hear of the passing of Daryl Baker. Andy and extend our deepest condolences to Mary Jean and his family. I had the great pleasure and honor of getting to know Daryl and Mary Jean when I was with the Chamber of Commerce. For much of that time Daryl was Mayor and always gave generously of his time to support the Chamber by attending our functions and being the official ribbon cutter for many new businesses. In thanks and recognition of his service and dedication to Charlotte the Chamber hosted a "roast" for him upon his retirement as Mayor. Of course Daryl continued to be active in the community, and we served together as Rotarians and on the Frontier Days and United Way Boards. Mary Jean was a huge help assisting at the Chamber when needed, and her knowledge of the community was invaluable as was her friendship. I will always have fond memories of them both and I know all of those who knew Daryl share my deep sense of loss and sadness today.

- Susan Joostberns

Susan Joostberns - June 10, 2022 at 01:49 PM

LP

“ What a loss to the community. My sympathies to the family. May he Rest In Peace. Amen.

Lori Poyer - June 10, 2022 at 09:50 AM

CF

“ I am so saddened to read about Daryl's passing, he was a wonderfully kind man and such an incredibly hard worker. I learned a lot from Daryl working for him for a short time, yet I value that time and knowledge I gained from him to this day. I am sorry for your loss and will be thinking of you all and prayers for you during this time. Regards, Colleen French

Colleen French - June 10, 2022 at 09:14 AM

CW

“ Chad & Carol Walker lit a candle in memory of Leo Daryl Baker



Chad & Carol Walker - June 10, 2022 at 08:56 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Leo Daryl Baker.



June 10, 2022 at 08:02 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Leo Daryl Baker.



June 09, 2022 at 05:27 PM

AG

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Amy Gilson - June 09, 2022 at 05:00 PM

DS

“ *Marcus my condolences to you and your family, may your father rest in peace*

Duane Sherman - June 09, 2022 at 04:53 PM

GC

“ *We are very sorry to learn of Daryl's passing away. Our sincere condolences to Daryl's family. He lead by example, of what we should all strive for, a good citizen, Patriot, volunteer, public servant and so much more. He lead in a calm common sense manner. A great loss to our community.*
Gene and Ruth Conley

Gene Conley - June 09, 2022 at 04:50 PM

JA

“ *Jane lit a candle in memory of Leo Daryl Baker*



Jane - June 09, 2022 at 04:48 PM

DM

“ *My kindest thoughts and deepest sympathy to all of Daryl's family. I am so sorry to hear of his passing. As Mayor, Daryl officiated at Jim and my 1983 marriage; and I later worked with him for several years on Charlotte City and community projects. It seemed he never passed an opportunity to help someone with something - like riding a bike in my St. Jude Children Hospital BikeATHon fundraiser ! We all enjoyed his kind nature and sense of humor. Daryl will be so missed. Deb Moore*

Deb Moore - June 09, 2022 at 04:20 PM

KV

“ Kelly (Nichols) Vermillion lit a candle in memory of Leo Daryl Baker



Kelly (Nichols) Vermillion - June 09, 2022 at 04:13 PM

CB

“ Chuck Brandon lit a candle in memory of Leo Daryl Baker



Chuck Brandon - June 09, 2022 at 03:29 PM

BW

“ It is not often in one's lifetime, that you can say that one person has affected a person's life the way Daryl has affected mine. We met sometime in the late seventies and became fast friends. We went to hundreds of football and basketball games, walked the City of Charlotte at night and solved the world problems. We became neighbors through his help on East Third Street and then struggled to keep our lawn up to Daryl's standards. You are an outstanding individual and Gloria and I have been blessed to know all these years. God Bless You!!

Bob & Gloria Wilson

Bob Wilson - June 09, 2022 at 03:15 PM

PJ

“ I met Daryl in 1977 when I started in the insurance business. He was always a soft spoken, kind man and we crossed paths many times over the years in our career. He will be missed by many. My thoughts and prayers are with his family.

Pam Johnson - June 09, 2022 at 02:51 PM