



## Monte Patrick O'Dell

May 1, 1958 - March 31, 2014

Monte Patrick O'Dell, "Mr. Vermontville", went home to be with the Lord March 31, 2014 at the way too young age of 55. He was born on May 1, 1958 in Inglewood, CA. In 1968 he moved to Michigan with his parents Harold and Patricia (Frye) O'Dell and his siblings. Monte graduated from Maple Valley High School in 1977. Shortly after that he started O'Dells Towing which he operated with his father until they sold it in 1996. Monte was known as the fella who "did everything and got things done" for the village of Vermontville since he went to work for the Village 1980. His outgoing personality as well as his selfless and caring concern for others made him a friend to many and an endeared leader of Vermontville. In addition to his duties as Village Department of Public Works Supervisor, he was a 35 year member of the Vermontville Township Fire Department serving as Fire Chief for the last 8 years. He was known for his big heart, and love of life. He helped many in the village, whether it was rescuing dogs, horses, and cats, or looking after the elderly residents of the village. Monte loved time spent tinkering in his big garage on his car, or anyone else's. His love of automobiles may explain his enthusiasm for NASCAR and his favorite driver #3. In his earlier days he enjoyed campaigning his own stock car on the local tracks of Michigan. Monte always had a smile on his face, even when in the midst of winter...cold weather was not his favorite time of year. He preferred 90 degrees. Monte is survived by his wife, Theresa; children, Christi (John) Perich, Tyler O'Dell, step-children Travis (Jessica) Malcuit, Lucas Malcuit and girlfriend Alicia

Smith, grandson Roman Wilde O'Dell, siblings, Michael (Jamie) O'Dell, Shirley (Scott) Biggs, step-sister Cathy (Ed) Harris; Aunt Vinnie Pinzon, several cousins, and former wife Wendy Jorgensen. He was preceded in death by his parents Harold and Patricia O'Dell; daughter Niki Jo O'Dell, and Step-sisters Joyce and Betty. Visitation will be held Tuesday, April 1, 2014 from 6-9 PM, and Wednesday, April 2 from 2-4 PM and 6-9 PM at Pray Funeral Home. Funeral service will be held Thursday, April 3 at 11:00 am at Grace Community Church in Nashville. Memorials are suggested to the Vermontville Fire Department. The family is in the care of Pray Funeral Home, Charlotte. Family and friends are encouraged to share remembrances and condolences online in Monte's Book of Memories at [www.prayfuneral.com](http://www.prayfuneral.com).

# Tribute Wall



“ *Pray Funeral Home, Inc created a Tribute Video in memory of Monte Patrick O'Dell*



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**Pray Funeral Home, Inc.** - March 31, 2014 at 12:00 AM

GP

“ *Monte was such a great guy. He will live in our hearts forever. There was never enough time in the day for all the good things he did for his community, his friends, neighbors, and strangers in need. He is the friend everyone wished they had. He gave even the mundane some life and energy. He brightened up the day no matter where he was. God Bless Him. Assuredly he awaits us at the end of our journey. Monte, You left your mark on the wonderful village of Vermontville that formed you, and on those of us who loved you.*  
*Greg Poole*

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**Gregory Poole** - April 17, 2014 at 01:42 PM

MW

“ To the O'Dell family, I was Monte's teacher at Maple Valley High School many years ago. I had him in a Home Ec class his senior year. I left the area twenty years ago but heard of the many wonderful things Monte did from my brother, Larry. I totally enjoyed having him as a student. I remember his sense of humor and winning smile. He filled the room with enthusiasm and positive energy. I was sorry to hear of his passing. I would love to hear from Shirley when you are able. To his wife, children, and family I send my warmest condolences. May you find the memories of him a reason to smile. I find myself thinking of him and doing just that!  
Mary Fox White

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**Mary Fox White** - April 16, 2014 at 12:16 AM

SJ

“ Our hearts go out to Theresa and family. Monte was a great guy, and is gone much too soon. Our many thanks to Monte for his dedicated service to the Village and residents of our hometown, Vermontville. He will be sorely missed. Susan & Andy Joostberns

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**Susan & Andy Joostberns** - April 10, 2014 at 07:18 PM

KM

“ Monte touched people's life's .He led the way for so many .Its amazing when you think about him,he will truly be missed & remembered . We send our love and prayers to the family ,and will light a candle here in Virginia .Our sincere condolences,Bob and Kathy (Yost)Main

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**Kathy (Yost) Main** - April 03, 2014 at 10:47 AM

MB

“ We send our sincere condolences to all of the O'Dell family. We have many memories of Monte from his school years to the many years he worked for the Village. He always had a smile and something smart to say; and he always made me smile. He will certainly be missed by the community! Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

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**Mike & Jill Booher** - April 03, 2014 at 10:13 AM

NL

“ Our condolences.



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**Nicholas and Katrina Lumsden** - April 03, 2014 at 07:55 AM

HF

“ Theresa and family, We can't tell you how much we enjoyed Monte. We'll miss him very much. Take care, and know that we are there for you. Hope and Kenny Freeman

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**Hope and Kenny Freeman** - April 02, 2014 at 08:05 PM

JJ

“ It's been years since I have had the pleasure of having a beer with Monte...that's what happens when you move away from the area you grew-up in. You don't just move away from an area, but away from great people that you would see now and then and share a beer or a story. The thoughts of your High School days, and the friends you had at the time, and all of the things that you have done are always with you, but you miss out on the ability to have those great times over and over with the good people like Monte. I so treasure those memories, and will truly miss the opportunity to see Monte again, and share a beer and a story. I can see his smile as I type this. A sad time for all of us, and God bless Monte for all he did for people in his short life, and for all that he will continue to do because of his generosity now that he is not here with us.

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**Joe Jarvie** - April 02, 2014 at 07:51 PM

MB

“ It is with heavy heart I learned of Monte's passing...I knew he was fighting a battle and now I know for certain he has gone home to join his daughter and his parents...He was one of a kind for sure.....always had a smile and was always willing to lend a hand to anyone..... My daughters & I had a roll over accident into our front yard in 1976 and he got me out of where I had landed, which was the back window...He comforted the girls as we were being put into the ambulance for the trip to Pennock....I cannot say enough kind words about Monte....such a sad lose..... My condolences to his wife and to his children in this time of grief.....

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**Marilyn Butcher** - April 02, 2014 at 02:58 PM

TF

“ Theresa and all the O'Dell Family, Have you all in my thoughts and prayers. Hold all the love and special memories close to your hearts. Cherish them always. And remember to laugh - that would make Monte happy. Blessings to all of you.

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**Tracey Fox** - April 02, 2014 at 12:43 PM

RB

“ Theresa, I am so sorry for you loss. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. Rick Bushong

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**Rick Bushong** - April 02, 2014 at 11:29 AM

BG

“ This is the Uncle Monte I knew. From the time I can remember, Uncle Monte has been a part of my life. We grew up knowing that if Dad wasn't around, Uncle Monte was. I remember sitting down at the Village Garage, hanging out and watching them work on different equipment, riding our bikes down knowing he'd buy us a scoop of ice cream at the restaurant. I remember going to Spartan Speedway and watching him race and being TERRIFIED for him, and relieved when we got our hugs and smiles after the races. When I got older, I knew that when I ran out of gas uptown, I could find one or the other to get me gas and get me started again - it only happened about 3 times, and I never lived it down. When I turned 21, it was my Dad and Uncle Monte who took me to the Carpenter's Den and bought my my first shot. When I got married and had kids of my own, he was always there to give us all hugs and hook us up with tickets for the rides at syrup festival. I remember his smile, his cans and bottles of Coke, his willingness to do anything for anyone. Nikki was my first experience with death, in fourth grade, and I remember how he handled his child's loss with an amazing dignity. He wasn't afraid to talk to us kids and explain to us how his heart was hurting but how Nikki was in a better place with God. He was an amazing person with a heart as big as the universe, and I will miss him always.

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**Brandy (Wawiernia) Garrett** - April 02, 2014 at 10:53 AM

RF

“ Monte was a super young man and a good friend. I am saddened to hear Of his passing. he will forever be remembered in my heart and the hearts of All who knew him. My condolences to his family. God Bless You All. Ray Foote Whetstone,, Az

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**Ray Foote** - April 01, 2014 at 08:33 PM

RF

“ Monte was a super young man and a good friend. I am saddened to hear Of his passing. he will forever be remembered in my heart and the hearts of All who knew him. My condolences to his family. God Bless You All. Ray Foote Whetstone,, Az

Ray Foote - April 01, 2014 at 08:33 PM

BR

“ Monte was one of the kindest people to live in Vermontville. He always had a smile, and a wave, and would always beep his horn when he saw any of us town people (we were all his friends & he was our friend too). He was the backbone of our little community, he will be deeply missed by everyone.

Bob & Linda Randall - April 01, 2014 at 07:57 PM

EM

“ What a loss this community will feel. For having such a rough and rugged job dealing with nasty fires, he sure was the nicest, sweetest, kindest person Vermontville ever had. You will be missed Monte. Rest in peace up there.

Eric & Diana Morehouse - April 01, 2014 at 05:56 PM

TA

“ Words are not enough to describe how much this man is beloved in Vermontville. I have known Monte and his family since I was a teenager, and it saddens me to loose him at such a young age. My father was the same age as Monte when he passed, and this is another Man that God must have needed his help in Heaven for to take him this soon. Bless you Teresa and the kids as you make your way thru life now without him here on earth. He is know watching over All of us from Heaven. God Speed. Prayers, Tammy

Tammy Sargent Aspinall - April 01, 2014 at 05:54 PM

KP

“ We are saddened by his loss, praying for the family. He will be missed by All of us in Vermontville very much. Monte was a great man and friend to us All. God Bless the O'Dell family.

Kaye & Steven Pitchford - April 01, 2014 at 05:48 PM

FW

“ Theresa, I am so sorry for your loss. Thinking of you and praying for you and your family. With deepest sympathy. Fran Wirt

Fran Wirt - April 01, 2014 at 05:19 PM

TF

“ To all of Montes family, He was such a great guy. Monte rescued my son out of many tight places many times. May God keep you all wrapped in his arms and gives you strength through this hard time.

The Vaughan Family - April 01, 2014 at 05:15 PM

JS

“ Thresa I'm so sorry for your loss. Let God help you through this. It is said time heals gut I beleive it just makes the heart a little lighter so days get easier. You take care of yourself jeanette

jeanette schultz - April 01, 2014 at 12:51 PM

TB

“ Monte always had a good word and a smile for me and my band mates. We will miss him. A fine Parrothead he was.

The Grand River Band - April 01, 2014 at 12:37 PM

WS

“ Monte was a true friend, who you never had to ask twice for help! Not only would he fix your problem, but he would teach you how it was done. Monte could also have been an instructor in the common sense class. There was no job he wouldn't tackle. One adventure I will never forget was the time we moved the log cabin from Grand Ledge to my place. I remember looking at each other, and Monte saying, so what do ya think? We both started laughing, and did it anyway! Thanks for being such a great friend and all the great memories!!! Wayne

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**Wayne Stine** - April 01, 2014 at 11:02 AM

CV

“ The long road has ended and he can walk with family in heaven today. Monte was so kind and caring. Alicia loved him like a Dad and he was always ready to help anyway he could. I can't tell you how much I appreciate his patients and willingness to fix her car sooo many times, even tho it's a Ford. Many will sadly miss him, but no one could ever forget that huge bright smile! God be with you all and comfort you.

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**Chuck & Kathy (Kolodica) Viele** - April 01, 2014 at 10:58 AM

BK

“ Theresa, we are so sorry for loss. Our thoughts and prayers go out to you and your family at this difficult time. May God comfort you and give you peace.

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**Bob & Tina Kellogg** - April 01, 2014 at 10:31 AM

MM

“ You always know that Monte was done with a conversation with his popular sign off "MAKE IT WARM UP!!" and then a smile

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**Mike Mater** - April 01, 2014 at 09:17 AM

VN

“ Prayers and love always.



Vinnie Pinzon, Leisa Brubaker and Jan Nebgen - April 01, 2014 at 08:28 AM

DL

“ Our Dear Family, We continue to keep you in our prayers. We loved Monte so very much. He was such a loving person and we hold wonderful memories. Love you. Your Arizona Cusions, Don and Ruthe

Don and Ruthe Lindsey - March 31, 2014 at 11:17 PM

GV

“ Although we have not lived in the Vermontville area for quite a few years, we recall the wonderful times we had going to the Detroit Boat Show and staying at the Omni Hotel in downtown Detroit. Fond memories. Monte will be missed. Heaven is rejoicing while we shed our tears. Praying for you and the family through this very difficult time.

Garry and Pat Vander Vlucht - March 31, 2014 at 10:59 PM

SJ

“ Monte was a special man. A Man young men could look up to and by watching him learn to become what a man should be. He was a special friend to us as he was to a lot of other people. He Loved his Family, His Job, Being a Firefighter. He will be missed but never forgotten.

Steve & Janice Jackson - March 31, 2014 at 10:32 PM

DK

“ So sorry and many condolences to the entire family. He was a great man I remember from school and many of you still agree today. GOD Bless!

Deborah (Barton) Knowles - March 31, 2014 at 10:10 PM

JO

“ I just wanted to share with the everyone how blessed and proud I am to be a part of this family. Monte was a wonderful person to have been a part of my life. I will miss him dearly. My heart is very sad to have lost such a special man. He always made me smile, no matter what the mood was, and I will always remember him for that. My condolences go out to the rest of his family, friends, and anyone else who ever had the pleasure of meeting him.

Jamie O'Dell - March 31, 2014 at 10:03 PM

LT

“ God rest his soul. Monte was such a wonderful person and friend. I am sure that anyone who knew Monte loved him. I know that it did not matter how much time passed and we would meet somewhere, he always remembered me and was so happy to see me. Such a kind and gentle man. My heart goes out to the family. God bless them.

Laura Taylor - March 31, 2014 at 09:33 PM

JD

“ Rest in Peace Dear Monte. To his beloved wife, his children, grandchildren, siblings and the entire family: Monte was always such a gentleman in our eyes. He never had nothing but the biggest smile ever for me especially. Vermontville folks will also miss him so much. God has certainly called another earthly angel to his heavenly home. Praying, and thinking of you all.....

Junie and Larry Decker - March 31, 2014 at 09:09 PM

BE

“ So sorry for the family and their loss. I could always count on a smile and wave from Monte when going through town. Always positive to be around, a total shock, an impossible void for the town of Vermontville to fill.

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**Brian Elliston** - March 31, 2014 at 08:37 PM

MS

“ He was always the cool older cousin that always made me laugh. I always loved the O'Dell family gatherings and fun times and will always hold monte in my heart it was awesome being his little cousin

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**Mellonie Swinford** - March 31, 2014 at 08:34 PM

AR

“ I dont think that I ever saw anything but that wonderful smile on Monte's face. He was such a caring person and his wonderful attitude was an inspiration to all. He will be deeply missed by everyone who knew him. It was a pleasure knowing such a wonderful kind soul.

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**Angela Remsing** - March 31, 2014 at 08:26 PM

MU

“ Theresa and Family, I am so sorry to hear about Monte passing. There are few words that can be said to help to ease the pain that you are feeling now. The stories and memories that you and your family have of Monte will be cherished even more and will produce many smiles. Theresa, your endless devotion to Monte has been amazing. I admire you so much for that and it makes you an even dearer friend.

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**Mary Uerling** - March 31, 2014 at 08:23 PM

JD

“ I was so sorry to hear of Monte's passing. He was a super young man. My son, Cam Jarrard was a friend. Whenever I saw him, he always had a happy greeting. Our prayers are with you. Jan Dixon

Jan Dixon - March 31, 2014 at 08:22 PM

GM

“ So sorry for your loss I experienced first hand how much you loved each other, please know I am praying for you love Gloria Martin

gloria martin - March 31, 2014 at 08:10 PM

RB

“ We are shocked to hear of the passing of Monte. He was a wonderful man, a great ambassador for the Village of Vermontville, and a man of integrity. His smile, friendly face and helpful attitude will be missed. We will hold his family in our prayers. Heaven has a great addition today.

Richard & Jeri Baker - March 31, 2014 at 08:08 PM

AS

“ I was so sad to hear this news. Monte always had a friendly smile and was so great with all the Maplewood students for fire safety week. He made everyones day better with his great attitude and smile. Sending my thoughts and prayers to the family. Amy (Toutant) Smith

Amy (Toutant) Smith - March 31, 2014 at 07:57 PM

JW

“ it is sad to hear of this great man and close friend passing my thoughts and prayers are with his family. Rest in peace my friend.

James Wright - March 31, 2014 at 07:52 PM

LM

“ Monte was an outgoing, friendly, thoughtful student of mine at Maple Valley. His bright energy filled the room. He will be missed. May all his friends and family be filled with peace and love.

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**Lucinda martin** - March 31, 2014 at 07:44 PM

ME

“ You have touched so many hearts. Monte will be deeply missed. Thoughts and prayer go out to the O'Dell family.

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**Matt, Zania Emery** - March 31, 2014 at 07:29 PM

AW

“ Praying for you to be filled with the love, strength and comfort of Jesus, Theresa and Family, during this time. Love and prayers. Amy Warder

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**Amy Warder** - March 31, 2014 at 07:25 PM

JF

“ My heart is deeply saddened. Monte, your smile and your caring loving spirit shined in our village. Always there to lend a hand and give advice whenever we needed it. May you rest in peace my friend. Our deepest sympathy to Monte's family. We mourn with you.

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**Jon & Marion Griffin & family** - March 31, 2014 at 07:25 PM

RL

“ Many years ago, I headed for the woods on my Minneapolis Moline G-1000 tractor with a trailer to get some wood. It was a winter similar to this years. The snow was quite deep and I misjudged the location of the pond. Into it I went. The sound of that tractor breaking through the ice will never be forgotten. I called Monte for wrecker assistance and he came out. First attempts almost pulled the wrecker into the pond. However, Monte' was determined we could get it out. We chained the wrecker to two large trees at the top of the hill. I had to reposition the chains and cable to the tractor. As I finished, I saw Monte at the top of the hill taking pictures of the tractor and me in about three feet of icy water. I believe he called that evidence! The picture later appeared on the bulletin board in his wrecker office. It stayed there for many years, probably until he sold the business. Although we did not get the tractor out, he knew a guy with a semi-truck wrecker who was able to retrieve the Moline from the pond.

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**Russ Laverty** - March 31, 2014 at 06:19 PM

BL

“ My heart is sad to hear this news. He was the one person I knew I would run into when I came home to Vermontville. Loved his smile and his HUGE heart! He will be missed by an old friend! So long, Monte.....see ya on the other side. God Bless your family! Sending prayers your way.

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**Brenda Musser Lynch** - March 31, 2014 at 05:48 PM