



Murray 'Mule' Marsh

September 20, 1940 - December 3, 2020

Murray “Mule” Marsh died saving puppies from a burning building. Well, maybe not. We all know how much he loved telling stories. Saying goodbye to a man like Murray is hard because he was larger than life. He was a presence in more ways than one. Physically, you couldn’t miss him. His shoulders alone cleared the way in many crowds. Many of you may have seen more of him than you wished to at the dinner table but as he would say “if you don’t like it, don’t look.” His style was one of a kind. Yes, he was a physical legend, but his personality shone even brighter. Murray was an honest, kindhearted, hardworking, generous man who was also a little stubborn sometimes – okay, all the time. He was someone you trusted, that you could call on when you needed a lift or a laugh. His humor was unbridled and often told jokes at your expense and we loved it. He’d often steal your milk when you weren’t looking or shift the car into neutral from the passenger seat just to see the look on your face when you noticed what he’d done.

He was a wonderful son, husband, father, grandfather, and a devoted friend. He was a retired welder for General Motors, an Army veteran, a township official, and champion weightlifter, and a very proud farmer. He was a simple man. He travelled the world but always found home to be his favorite place. He took great pride in caring for the people and land around him and he was never without a four-legged buddy by his side. He taught us so much about life and when we look to the future without him, we will find ourselves asking,

“what would Murray do?”

With Murray you knew exactly where you stood because he did not waste his time. When he loved you, he really loved you, and you knew it. Murray leaves behind countless individuals whose lives will not be the same without him, including his wife of nearly 60 years, Betty; his daughters, Terri (Dean) Hanton, Jerri (Jeff) Blust, and Kelli (Col. Mike) Shreves; eight grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; and his brother, Morris (Joan) Marsh; and many very close friends. He was predeceased by his parents, Garry and Jackie Marsh. We will miss him every day, but will remember him whenever we smell the scent of fresh-mowed grass or enjoy some butter pecan ice cream.

Join us in honoring the life of Murray “Mule” Marsh on Sunday, June 13, 2021, 2:00 PM at 8495 Bridge Highway, Dimondale. For your comfort, please bring your own chairs. “Murray casual” dress is required. A sweatshirt with cut off sleeves is optional. 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 Murray’s tribute, then click on Photos and Videos from your computer (or Media from your smart phone). The family is in the care of Pray Funeral Home, Charlotte.

Cemetery Details

Dimondale Cemetery

5661 N. Canal Rd.
Dimondale, MI 48821

Previous Events

Memorial Service

JUN 13. 2:00 PM (ET)

The Marsh Residence
8495 Bridge Hwy.
Dimondale, MI 48821

Tribute Wall



“ *Pray Funeral Home, Inc created a Webcast in memory of Murray 'Mule' Marsh*



Pray Funeral Home, Inc. - June 07, 2021 at 10:10 AM



“ *Pray Funeral Home, Inc created a Tribute Video in memory of Murray 'Mule' Marsh*



Pray Funeral Home, Inc. - December 10, 2020 at 04:22 PM

JB

This is an incredible video. Murray was a great man and I am proud to say that I had the opportunity to know him.

Jim Barrix - January 31, 2021 at 05:06 PM

ES

Proud to have known him as a classmate, friend and Brother-in-law

Elmer C Snow - December 09, 2023 at 11:53 AM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Murray 'Mule' Marsh.*



June 11, 2021 at 10:21 AM



“ *I'm so sorry to hear of Murray passing. He was one of my favorite farmers I've had the pleasure of working with for the past 7 1/2 years. I will miss my conversations and words of wisdom from him when he would come in or call into the elevator. I would always ask him how he was doing and he'd always tell me: better than I deserve! In one of our conversations he provided this advice to me that I will pass on to others: there's no point in worrying about things you can't change because it's not going to change anything. If it's something you can change, don't waste time worrying about it--go ahead and make the change! (This might now be the exact wording he used, but this is what I got from it). My heart breaks for your whole family. The world has lost a great man, RIP Murray, you will be missed by many. Keeping Betty and their family in my thoughts and prayers.*

Amber Bovee, Citizens, LLC

Amber Bovee - February 01, 2021 at 01:08 PM



“ *Murray was special friend and farmer. He will be truly missed, so sorry for your loss.*

John and Judy Locke - December 18, 2020 at 05:31 AM



“ 38 files added to the album Life Tributes



Pray Funeral Home, Inc. - December 10, 2020 at 04:24 PM

PC

“ *My heart goes out to the Marsh family. The world will miss this man. Murray was the kind of person that everyone should want to be like. He always had a smile or a kind word. I will miss the talks that we had and his joking. Like when he come into Janson Equipment's office and told me he had good news and bad news.. The bad news was his wife was leaving him, and the good news was she is coming back. I will miss our talks of world travels and everything else. I know that my life was better by knowing "Mr. Marsh" God be with you at this time,*

Penny Carpenter

PENNY CARPENTER - December 09, 2020 at 04:34 PM

WC

“ Our family is saddened to hear of Murray's passing. Dimondale will never be the same without him. He was such a fun "grandpa" figure for Caleb, and we just loved Grandma Betty and Murray. He loved to tease, and he had a way of making you feel not quite sure if he was teasing or not!! Terri, we loved him because of you. I see you in him so much...he is not gone, he is in you. We love you.
Tim, Wendy, and Caleb Curtis

Wendy Curtis - December 09, 2020 at 10:52 AM

AH

“ Murray will be deeply missed, the world was a better place with him in it. One of the best men I ever knew. R.I.P. Mule!!! We send our sincerest condolences to the Marsh family

The Hemenway's

andy hemenway - December 07, 2020 at 08:36 PM

MG

“ A true gentleman farmer , good neighbor, good person. Mark Gensterblum

Mark Gensterblum - December 07, 2020 at 04:50 PM

DF

“ Murray - We are going to miss your smile that could light up a room. We will think of you every time we see someone planting or harvesting a field. Thanks for giving my wife a ride in your new combine. Dave & Lisa Felice

Dave Felice - December 07, 2020 at 01:03 PM

MG

“ Betty, my heart breaks for your family. I'm going to miss the phone calls with my friend and his loving nature. I'll miss hearing, "I love ya my dear" when we hung up. He was a true friend and supporter. He was like a Grandpa to me and was such a special friend. I'm praying for your family. I know that I'm just one of so very many people that Murray left a lasting impact on. All my love.

Mandy Grosshans - December 06, 2020 at 09:45 PM

DP

“ Prayers are with the family! MULES GYM.....as a youngster growing up in Dimondale I would ride my bike to work out at the hidden gem. It wasn't till years later I realized only a select few had the privilege to come and go as they pleased "sort of a golden pass". There is Murray Marsh and there's Paul Bunyan.....that's how I see it! RIP

DP - December 06, 2020 at 10:23 AM

LB

“ Mr Murray. Was a very kind gentleman.always pleasant. Always smiling it was my pleasure to check him in on the kisos A very humbleman indeed Lisa the Greeter

Lisa Ballard - December 06, 2020 at 08:48 AM

EO

“ While most people were lucky just to know Murray I was extra lucky and got to grow up right next door. I would catch the bus at Murray and Betty’s house each morning. I remember sitting at the kitchen counter with him when he got home from the night shift at GM while he ate his breakfast, an english muffin with peanut butter and honey. I have lots of memories with Murray. He liked to tease and one day I had enough and decided I would show him and I slugged him in the arm. Murray loved it and thought it was funny. I thought I was a real dummy afterwards with a sore hand. He made sure I knew how to swim when I went to California for the first time when I was nine, just in case there was an earthquake and part of the state ended up in the ocean while I was there. Murray was like a grandpa to me and a father to my dad and for that I am eternally grateful. He was someone who could always be counted on for a listening ear and some good advice. Murray helped raise and blessed me with a very dear friend in his daughter. Men like Murray are very few and very far between. He was a great role model, he was caring and a generous man and the world would be a much better place if there were more Murray’s out there. He was truly a one of a kind. I will miss hearing “love ya kid” Murray left the world a better place than how he found it and for that we are all so lucky.

Ember Osborn - December 06, 2020 at 06:56 AM

“My earliest memory of Murray was him as our basketball coach. He gave me tips on rebounding: “Grab that ball, bring it down, and hang on to it for dear life. If someone tries to take it from you, swing your arms and throw them three seats back into the stands.” I guess that’s what you’d call “barn ball.”

When I reached high school, he gave my friends and I a summer job picking up rocks in his fields. We also started weightlifting with him every Sunday morning. We had a routine. Lift weights, afterwards Murray would make us eggs and Betty would make us a tray of her amazing cinnamon rolls. Once breakfast was done we would spend time catching up with Murray’s Dad, Garry. Such a great family to spend time with. High school transitioned into college and we came around less often. When my wife and I got married Murray and Betty were in attendance. They had a blast. Afterwards, he would remind me of how much fun they had as well as how much he could tell my wife and I loved each other. He had a way of always making you feel important, because to him, you were. I’d seen him every now and then over the next few years at Union Bank, while he was visiting with Jerri. We’d briefly catch up but I would have to run off too soon. He would always end the conversation with, “Now you give that wife of yours a big hug for me.” And I would; a big Murray hug (which did no justice to an actual Murray hug).

Reflecting back on my relationship with Murray, I came to the realization that when someone makes a significant impact on your life, you remember the details. I remember him wearing grey sweatshirts with the arms cut to 3/4” length. Walking through poison ivy without a care. Johnny Cash. That, “I’m up to something,” grin. Me reaching for a handshake, not knowing if I’d get my knuckles back fully intact. Important individuals are more likely to emboss your memory with the details.

Murray certainly moved more weight than the average man, but what is even more impressive is the number of lives he moved. He

meant something to everyone he met. To me he was a mentor, a friend, and an inspiration.

My sincere condolences to Betty, Jerri, Terri, and the rest of the family.

Chad Rogers - December 05, 2020 at 08:48 AM

“ Murray was my cousin, my friend, someone who could always make me laugh when I felt down, my news reporter...always kept me up on what his family was doing, and I told him about mine. He was so proud of his family and loved them so much, I could "see" his smiling face even through an e-mail. He was interested in what mine was doing, and was proud to know them to. My daughter's family loved him and loved when he and Betty came to visit a few times.

We had lost touch in years past, but when my Mom died, Murray found me and sent me a letter...then to the e-mail conversations. We willed each other in on all our life happenings and gained another family. I complained once about "getting old" when a birthday rolled around. He fixed that...he starting subtracting several years instead of adding them on every birthday I had after that. I think I got down to my 40's again.

The last e-mail was a couple of weeks ago, and he talked about his "darn" tractor that was giving them problems, and he was worried about the Soy Beans.

My heart aches and I am so sorry for all of you who loved him too...you have the same ache, I know. But, we are all so lucky to have known this sweet, kind, funny, joking, caring man.

The one good thing I can tell myself today....my big old teddy bear Cousin is now

safe and well again. Thank you, Murray for being in my life and letting me know you and your sweet Betty. God Bless you all, Murray's family...sending you a prayer for comfort.

Carol Delaney, Wisconsin

Carol Delaney - December 05, 2020 at 08:44 AM



“ *I'm very saddened at hearing about the lost of Murray. He was a giant of men. And one I was proud to have called my friend. Murray fought a courageous battle. I've had the pleasure of knowing the Marsh family since I was a young boy. And Murray use to farm my parents farm and was a excellent farmer. I had just been with Murray riding on his combined at the farm running beans. We talked about being in the Army as we both were at different times. R.I.P Murray and my God Bless you. Sincerely yours, David Fosket*

David Fosket - December 05, 2020 at 06:56 AM

BB

“ *Terri, I didn't know your dad, but reading about him it is clear that you are a chip off the old block. I know you're very proud and I ache for you and your family's loss. Peace*

Barb Burns-Briggs - December 04, 2020 at 08:58 PM

RH

“ I lost my best friend and confidant , I wish I could explain it better but I loved this man. A very honest and caring man, loved his family and friends, we will all miss him, but we have great memories to dwell on. Many years Murray and I trained lifting weights, he and his wife Betty and myself and my wife traveled all over our great country, we had great times with those two. I know " life gos on" but there will be a void in my heart, our prayers are with Betty and all the children.

Ronald Hemenway - December 04, 2020 at 08:13 PM

JA

“ It seems that God always surrounds me with a small group of people who are my rocks to hang on to when the river rages around me. These are people who, no matter how chaotic, uncertain, or fearful the situation I face - I know everything will be OK because of them. Some of these people come and go, some seem to always be there.

They are the angels God puts in my life to help me through it. For the past 47 years, Murray has been one of those angels. He is a man of great integrity, a real gentleman, with all the wisdom of Solomon. Murray has been a friend and big brother to me. There are no words to describe the impact he has had on my life. Murray, may the Lord grant you Eternal Rest. May Perpetual Light shine upon you. May you rest in peace. You may be gone now, and I will miss you, but I know you will still be there for me.

- John Amthor

John Amthor - December 04, 2020 at 08:13 PM

AA

“ I have known Murray since I was a child and will always remember the grip of that handshake. As I grew, I wanted to be as big and strong as him. When I graduated college and became a football coach, he shook my hand, put his arm around my shoulders, looked me right in the eye and made me promise him, that as long as I coached, I needed to always look like I could still play the game. Everytime we met after that, he made sure I was holding up my end of the bargain. I have spent the past 20 years keeping that promise and will not disappoint him. I will miss you Murray.

Love, Aaron Amthor

Aaron Amthor - December 04, 2020 at 03:12 PM

RS

Everyone should be so lucky as to have someone like Murray they could call their friend. Roy Simpson

Roy Simpson - December 11, 2020 at 09:37 AM