



Robert Willis Fulton

October 3, 1921 - August 15, 2014

Robert Willis Fulton passed away quietly at his home August 15, 2014. Born October 3, 1921 to Clyde A. and Bess O. (Whitcomb) Fulton in Grand Rapids, Bob lived his entire life in Charlotte. Bob studied Business Management at Michigan Agricultural College and participated in ROTC, receiving his commission and diploma prior to Army service during World War II. Following the war, Bob returned to Charlotte and joined his Dad in business at Fulton Lumber Co, where he worked into his 90's. Bob married Evelo Michael on July 24, 1948 and they moved into the house where they resided for the rest of their lives. Second only to his devotion to his family was Bob's commitment and dedication to his community. A member and Past President of the Charlotte Rotary Club, he recently received his pin for 58 years of perfect attendance. Serving on the Board of Trustees for Hayes Green Beach Memorial Hospital for 35 years, Bob led the board as Chair for over 20 years, then continued as Emeritus. When Mayor George Dean created the Safety Council, he recruited Bob as a member which he remained through the evolution of the council to the planning commission, later becoming chair. Bob joined the Free Order of Masons at the age of 21 and progressed through the Blue Lodge. Joining the Consistory in 1946, he received his 33rd degree in the mid-1950s. Bob and Evelo faithfully served 1st Congregational Church on boards and committees, and felt a strong relationship with their church family. Summers at Green Lake were Bob's favorite place to be from his earliest days to his final ones. He passed that love on to his children, grandchildren, great

grandchildren and innumerable friends. Holidays and special events always meant dinners and parties with his extended family. He was preceded in death by his wife of 56 years, Evelo; sister, Jerre Fredenburg; and niece, Connie Miller. He is survived by his children: Christi (Tom) Dutcher, Barbara (Richard Tone) Fulton, Kathie (Chuck) Cook, and Mike (Janice) Fulton; 7 grandchildren: Jennifer (Doug) Reed, Becky (Bob) Elkins, Matthew (Jessica Hix) Cook, Robert (Shannan) Cook, Benjamin Fulton, Emily Fulton and Andrew Fulton; 10 great grandchildren; nephew, Wes Fredenburg and family; and great niece, Sarah Collick. Visitation will be on Tuesday, August 19, 2014, from 3:00-5:00 p.m. and 7:00-9:00 p.m. at Pray Funeral Home in Charlotte, MI. Funeral services will be Wednesday, August 20, 2014, at 11:00 a.m. at the First Congregational Church in Charlotte, MI, with Rev. Dick Bayles officiating. The family is in the care of Pray Funeral Home, Charlotte. Memorial contributions may be made to Hayes Green Beach Memorial Hospital or to the First Congregational Church UCC of Charlotte, MI. Family and friends are encouraged to share remembrances and condolences online in Robert W. Fulton'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 Robert Willis Fulton*



Pray Funeral Home, Inc. - August 15, 2014 at 12:00 AM

DC

“ *I asked Bob Fulton to attend Troop 45 special night to honor a local successful business person. I asked him if there was anything that he regretted in life. He replied yes. He stopped short of getting his Eagle award. You*

Dennis Cates - August 23, 2014 at 02:20 PM

JF

“ *Our condolences to your family.*

Joy & Ray Flower - August 22, 2014 at 07:48 PM

PS

“ *The Fulton and Charlotte have lost a very great man the day that Mr Fulton went home to be with the Lord. Our loss is heavens gain. Rest in peace Mr. Fulton.*

Pam Schultz - August 21, 2014 at 07:19 PM

DM

“ My deepest sympathies and condolences to Tom, Christi and all of family. I went to CHS with Tom and Christi. In fact, our families have known each other for many many years. There is a photo of my Grandfather: Paul Lee driving a truck/tractor for Mr. Fulton many many many years ago hanging in the office.

Diana L. Hussey Moore - August 21, 2014 at 02:50 PM

DL

“ I literally grew up as a customer of Fulton Lbr. and remember Clyde Fulton and Jerre Fredenburg and, of course, Bob. It was often just a business transaction where I came in to get lumber or something else, Bob would extend his usual courtesy; or it might have been a slower day for the both of us and the conversation would lead to other things, often some thing or event from Bob's past, maybe a vacation trip, maybe something about the changing lumber and hardware business--always interesting. In these later years it was always good to see Bob at his desk, even if I didn't get to talk to him. I vividly remember purchasing a storn door lock for a wooden door and being regaled with a story of his first sale of such an item and maintaining it in inventory. Or my finding some old coal bills in the family archives, which I brought in for some discussion of the various varieties, their qualities, and their heating qualities. Always good reminiscences. It was certainly a notable summer this year with Bob absent from his chair at the business. I missed the obituary, and, hence, the funeral and was sorry for that. Bob will continue to be missed as the years go by. Each of us has lost a friend for whom business was as much about the people as the sale. My condolences to the family in this time of loss and transition.

Dr. John W. Lightner - August 21, 2014 at 01:17 PM

JH

“ I did not know Bob, but, like most people in Charlotte, I knew OF him. I knew that he left behind an amazing family that will continue his legacy of generosity, community, and kindness. You are all in my thoughts and prayers as you say goodbye to your dad and as the community says goodbye to an amazing man.

Jessica Edel Harrelson - August 21, 2014 at 06:35 AM

TE

“ I can only admit to knowing Bob in the most casual way, and that as a businessman. BUT, I always enjoyed him and his banter when I came around. After hearing his eulogies, I have a much better understanding of the man he was, and can say honestly that had I spent time getting to know him on a more personal level, I would have come away a better man. I will miss him and the lost opportunity to know him better. Terry Eaton

Terry Eaton - August 20, 2014 at 06:37 PM

JA

“ So sorry for your loss. Bob will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

Jim and Jeanie Ackerman - August 20, 2014 at 12:14 PM

CH

“ So sorry to hear of your loss. My thoughts and prayers are with the entire Fulton family during this most difficult time.

Chris Heisler - August 20, 2014 at 06:41 AM

TF

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with the entire Fulton family. I am saddened at the loss of Bob, who was a mentor and role model for me as a young man. I will be forever grateful for the generosity of Bob, Evelo, and the Fulton family, also for the opportunity to learn from such a great man. Bob will continue to live on in the thoughts, deeds, and actions of the many he influenced over the years.

Todd Baum & Family - August 19, 2014 at 11:08 AM

MT

“ Christi & Family **WONDERFUL** Man! We here at Seal-Rite door send our condolences to your family and everyone that Bob touched there is not enough words to describe Bob so we will say **WONDERFUL!**

Maria Townsend - August 19, 2014 at 09:56 AM

NF

“ Sincere condolences to the Fulton family from the Mayhew family.

Nancy Mayhew & family - August 18, 2014 at 08:01 PM

JT

“ My sincere condolences to the Bob Fulton family in the loss of Bob this past weekend. Bob was a longtime lumber customer of mine and I respected and appreciated his daily contributions to the lumber industry.

Jim TeBos - August 18, 2014 at 12:07 PM

KS

“ Mike, Cathy and Christy; My sincere wishes and prayers for peace and strength to you at this difficult time. I remember being waited on numerous times by your father at the lumber company and my memories are of a kind person who was very helpful and professional. He would answer my questions even when I wasn't sure what I needed to ask about. I admired his ability to continue working at his business beyond the time when most folks would have retired.

Ken Struble - August 18, 2014 at 09:26 AM

WS

“ Dear Family, we are saddened to hear of Bob's passing. May the love of your family bring you peace during this difficult time. God Bless you.

Wayne and Sandy Simpson - August 18, 2014 at 08:20 AM

NS

“ I had the wonderful privilege of escorting my parents to the monthly reunion of the Charlotte graduates at the Eaton Place. Mr Fulton was incredibly nice and had a wonderful smile. What a wonderful group of "kids" my father went to school with - and what a great gift to be in their company. On behalf of my family - Godspeed Mr. Fulton.....

natalie spaniolo - August 18, 2014 at 07:13 AM

LH

“ Bob was a very intelligent, caring, committed man. A wonderful father and grandfather. He and Evelo were always happy to see us when we would come to Charlotte, always a smile and made us feel like we were part of the family. He left a great impact on a lot of people, but especially his grandchildren. I know that Ben, Emily and Andrew had a great respect and love for Bob. His love and respect for the community was passed down to them. It is so wonderful to see that in young people in this day and age. A blessing Bob gave to them. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him. Our love and prayers go out to the entire Fulton family, you are all wonderful and I pray for you to see God's peace in this time of sorrow.

Linda Hughes - August 17, 2014 at 11:33 PM

SJ

“ My condolences to the Fulton family and the entire Charlotte community on the passing of Bob Fulton. I am eternally grateful I had the opportunity to know Bob and to work with him on behalf of several community organizations, most notably Hayes Green Beach Hospital and Charlotte Rotary. A mentor as well as a friend, he could always be counted on to offer wise and thoughtful answers and solutions, and to provide perspective and knowledge of the community dating back generations. Evelo and Bob treated Andy and I like a part of their family and on our returns home it was always a joy to see them. They and Charlotte are inextricably linked in my mind and in my heart. With Bob's passing we have lost someone irreplaceable, but Charlotte did and will forever benefit from Bob and Evelo's love of and tireless commitment to their community. That is their legacy, and they were an example for us all. Bob, I wish you "Godspeed" on your journey home to a well deserved rest and to rejoin your beloved Evelo. You will be sorely missed, but your mission was accomplished. You made your community, and consequently this world, a better place.

Susan Joostberns - August 17, 2014 at 10:48 AM

SM

“ *Christi and Family I am so sorry to hear that Bob passed away and your Mom some time ago. I have not been back to Charlotte since 1999, since I moved to Bradenton, FL. Bob, Evelo and your grandfather were truly the greatest generation. I really grew up with your father. He accepted this bearded young boy, green behind the ears in 1979 to operate his Hospital. And yes, it really was his Hospital as he and Evelo donated so much of their time, energy and funds to help it along to be where it is today. I remember my first week, going with Bob and about 35 other Charlotte residents to the Health Planning Agency when they were trying to shut HGB down. We prevailed and progressed under Bob’s Board Leadership. I remember fondly, meeting with him every Saturday morning at the Lumber yard, his desk always piled high with paperwork, as we went over checks, invoices and he counter signed them. He certainly could talk your ears off. It was always great to see your whole family there, as I was always stopping by for his advice on this or that. He certainly did so much for me in my growing into my shoes a budding young CEO. Your Family has done so much for the Charlotte Community and especially Hayes Green Beach. Bob’s contributions to his Community and to me personally was and is deeply appreciated and will be sorely missed. He now gets to be with Evelo, smiling down on a Community they did so much to help build. Please give my best to your family in this time of sorrow, but yet a celebration of his contributions as a great Father and Community leader. God Bless him. Stephen Mapes*

Stephen Mapes - August 16, 2014 at 06:56 PM

PR

“ *Our prayers are with your family. Bob was always a kind and generous man. May the Lord give you comfort during this time of loss.*

Pastor Randy Royston - August 16, 2014 at 06:00 PM

TB

“ *Our sympathies to the family.*

The Beckers - August 16, 2014 at 05:07 PM

MF

“ *To the entire Fulton family - Greatly saddened to hear of Bob's passing. What a wonderful gracious man that we all had the fortune to know. My family will be forever indebted to the kindness and generosity Bob shared with me as a young man. His guidance and influence in shaping what became my life for my family and me cannot be put into words. I know that in this I was one of many. Lucky us for knowing such a great man. I am certain your family has many fond memories to cherish. Rest in peace Bob. Mike Curtis & Family.*

Mike Curtis & Family - August 16, 2014 at 12:25 PM