



Russell L. Kiplinger, Jr.

December 7, 1969 - June 26, 2024

Russell L. Kiplinger, known affectionately as Russ, lost his battle with Cirrhosis and passed away on June 26, 2024, at the age of 54, in Lansing. He was born on December 7, 1969 in Charlotte to Russell Kiplinger Sr. and Shirley Barlund. Russell was lifelong resident of Charlotte and Olivet, and cherished his roots of both communities.

Russell was a vibrant and spirited individual. Always the life of the party and known for his unique Russell-isms. He had a profound love for both Michigan and Missouri. While in Michigan he spent countless hours farming alongside his father. While in Missouri he spent time fishing, gigging, socializing with friends and going to the Creek. A skilled handyman, Russell could fix nearly anything. A talent that often had him in high demand, among family and friends. Professionally Russell was a dedicated employee at General Motors, where he applied his mechanical skills. His true passion however lay in farming and mechanical work, which he regarded as his main vocations. Russell loved tractors, would attend tractor shows whenever he could. His favorite tractors were John Deere and he could be seen driving his tractors all over town. Russell's hobbies included farming, fishing, four-wheeling and making circles of friends; activities that brought him immense joy and allowed him to connect deeply with nature and loved ones.

He was the heart of his family and his love for them was boundless. Russell

met his first love, Tonda, at the age of 15 and they were reunited years later. Everyone was aware of the love these two shared. Often times they were affectionately known as the "Bickersons". They both were stubborn and wanted to get in the last word. From their union they were blessed with two wonderful children. Jeffery born in 1986 and Morgan born in 1988. In his younger years Russell struggled with settling down and raising a family. Later years would find him trying to be a devoted dad to his children. Russell was his son Jeffery's "Best-Friend"; his daughter and he shared a similar goofy humor and always laughed at each other's jokes. Russell adored and doted on his grandchildren, especially his granddaughter, Natalee, who was only female to break him down and he constantly gave in to all of her demands. Russell enjoyed taking his grandsons, Jonah and Archie, fishing.

Russell is survived by his wife of 20 years, Tonda Jean (Hakeos) Kiplinger; children, Jeffery Aaron (Florence), daughter, Morgan Hakeos. Russell has three other children from Hillsdale Michigan, daughters, Jessica and Kayla; and a son; step-children, Lacy (Jesse) Monceaux and Tony Worden; grandchildren, Natalee Ann Michelle Wireman (15), Aaliyah Shay Marie Monceaux (12), Jonah Thomas Arlo Sebastian (12), Sterling Jay Monceaux (7), and Archie Worden Jay Sebastian (5). He also leaves behind his father, Russell Kiplinger Sr.; mother, Shirley Mckeller; mother-in-law, Barbara Hakeos; three brothers, Randy Winegar, Mark Winegar, Greg Winegar; two sisters, Brenda Blakeney, Rhonda Riley; several in-laws; aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews and cousins; and several special friends. He was preceded in death by his maternal grandparents, Glenn and Berdina Barlund; paternal grandparents, Dale and Esther Kiplinger; brother-in-law, Thomas Jeffery; father in-law Thomas; two dear friends, Gene Williams and Dennis Jensen, both from Missouri.

A memorial service to celebrate Russell's life will be held at Pray Funeral Home on July 15, 2024, with visitation beginning at 12:00 noon, followed by a

service at 1:00 p.m. with Pastor Charles Jenson officiating. Friends and family are encouraged to support the family by attending services or sharing memories on his tribute page at www.PrayFuneral.com. If desired, memorial contributions are suggested to the family, payable to his daughter, Morgan Hakeos. The family is in the care of Pray Funeral Home, Charlotte.

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 15. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (ET)

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

Memorial

JUL 15. 1:00 PM (ET)

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

Tribute Wall



“ Pray Funeral Home, Inc created a Webcast in memory of Russell L. Kiplinger, Jr.



Pray Funeral Home, Inc. - July 15, 2024 at 04:27 PM



“ Pray Funeral Home, Inc created a Tribute Video in memory of Russell L. Kiplinger, Jr.



Pray Funeral Home, Inc. - July 10, 2024 at 05:47 PM

LO

What a wonderful tribute to Russell and for his beautiful wife and children.

London - July 10, 2024 at 05:00 PM

TO

Thank you my dear sweet friend ❤️❤️❤️❤️ it's hard to watch, when Nat seen it, was the first time she broke down over the loss of her Papa. They had an unspeakable bond 🥹

Tonda - July 10, 2024 at 11:18 PM

DI

This is a beautiful tribute to Russell, it shows his love for his wife and family. RIP

Diana - July 11, 2024 at 06:17 PM

SC

*Wow thank goodness you were a pitcher taker Tonda it was beautiful
💙💙💙RIP love you little brother 💙💙I'm a better person for knowing
you .. till we meet again fly high..*

sherrie class - July 15, 2024 at 01:34 AM

TO

Thank you ❤️

Tonda - July 15, 2024 at 07:37 PM

PH

*Beautiful tribute. Sorry I couldn't make. My thoughts and prayers are
with you and family. Love Aunt Pat*

Pat Hakeos - July 16, 2024 at 12:35 AM

TO

*Thank you Aunt Pat we love you too. Russell and I had some good
times throwing our Pig Roast, and enjoyed seeing you all every year ❤️*

Tonda - July 16, 2024 at 03:00 PM

TK

“ I tried to honor your legacy the way you always shared it. Playing Six Pack to Go, and Would You Lay with Me?

The song I picked was Rascal Flats "What Hurts the Most." Can you say, "They call that country?" "That Ain't Country" I felt the song was fitting; you know I'm a sap.

"It's still harder getting up, getting dressed, and living with this regret.

But I know if I could do it over

I would trade and give away all the words that I had saved in my heart.

That I left unspoken."

I never realized the last time I saw you would be the last time I saw you. I hope you know how much you are loved. You were our son's best friend. There are thousands of memories between the two of you.

Our daughter had the same sense of humor as you, "What Went Wrong?" It was embarrassing.

Nat misses you, Please visit and let her know it's okay. You never really left; Papa is always going to be with her ❤️. She tried hard to honor your wishes; she was not crying, Unfortunately, the bond you two shared would not allow it. I'm smart enough to know that she's the only female who never broke your heart; she was her papa's number one.

You loved "all" your grandkids; Papa Russ was hands-on goofy; they adored beating you up and all the craziness you threw back. Jonah and Archie miss your off-the-wall sayings, but unfortunately

for the rest of us, they know them all.

Loving you wasn't always easy; I didn't care. I knew parts of you that no one shared. The soft side, taking my mother to radiation treatments every single day, driving us to Cleveland when my sister was on her death bed—I'll never forget you running into my dad's hospital room after I made the decision to take him off life support. Your embracing hug is always with me. You never let me live it down. Morgan came up to our room, thinking she was in labor. I told her she ate too many Thanksgiving dinners and went back to bed. Things between us weren't always easy, and as a mother, it was hard to let our past go. I always wished you were a better father, not only to our children but to your other three as well. That was a part of you I never understood. You're dealing with your own demons. I will never forget the first time you cried in front of me. We were living at my parents house when, at the age of 16, you said it's hard to love me because you felt like no one loved you. I cried with you and assured you that was not true.

I miss you; my heart aches; it's broken; you were my soulmate; we were messed up; we fought like crazy at times; our love was strong. It had to be; we stayed together for several years. All of our sappy talks are what help me get through." How you always said, "Darlin, it's always been me and you; I knew that the first night on my sister's couch." I looked straight into your eyes, and you looked back at mine. "We were hooked." How you professed, "I love you, Tonda; I always have, I always will." There's no getting around it. "It's always going to be me and you."

I thank you, Russell, for the love we shared. I thank you for our kids, our memories, and our time together on this earth and in eternal life. I thank you for everything. I love you, always have, and I always will.



Tonda Kiplinger - July 16, 2024 at 10:13 AM

SS

“ Thank you for my 3 beautifully amazing children for which I am eternally grateful

Sandi Stalhood - July 12, 2024 at 07:27 PM

TO

You are very blessed with Beautiful amazing children.

Tonda - July 16, 2024 at 03:04 PM



“ 45 files added to the album Life Tributes



Pray Funeral Home, Inc. - July 10, 2024 at 01:36 PM

MH

“ Russ was a good man, a family man. I grew up knowing Russ since I was about 4 years old. Always enjoyed hearing his stories & seeing him in town on his tractor. One time he drove over to my mom's on a riding lawn mower to hang with my oldest brother Dave & I remember going out on the front porch & telling them to quite down as they could be heard a mile away. Lol. Keep it golden up there my friend & may you RIP. I'm gonna miss ya until we all see you on the other side.

Monica Hubartt - July 09, 2024 at 07:50 PM

TO

Thank you, your whole family, along with The Bodo's have always been a big part of Russell life ❤️

Tonda - July 16, 2024 at 03:02 PM

PH

“ *So sorry for your loss. There was never a dull moment with Russ. He always had some funny stories to tell. Will miss him. Love Aunt Pat*

Pat hakeos - July 09, 2024 at 05:38 PM

TO

Very true he had some doozies, thank you Aunt Pat love you too ❤️

Tonda - July 11, 2024 at 11:50 AM

TK

“ *Our love, our history, our good times, our bad times, our children, our grandchildren, They were ours and no one will truly know what we shared between us, except us. I love Russell always have always will , ❤️❤️❤️❤️*

Tonda Kiplinger - July 09, 2024 at 01:57 PM

2P

“ *21st Century Plastics planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Russell L. Kiplinger, Jr..*

21st Century Plastics - July 09, 2024 at 11:08 AM

2P

“ 21st Century Plastics purchased the Basket of Memories for the family of Russell L. Kiplinger, Jr..



21st Century Plastics - July 09, 2024 at 11:08 AM

SC

“ Deepest condolences to Tonda, Jeff, and Morgan and families. I've watched you all welcome Russ back into your lives when he was ready to be a loving husband and father. You have been there for every slip, stumble, and fall. Never giving up on your family. I commend you all for standing firm and being patient. I pray for your strength and comfort in the days ahead. Know that Russ loved you all so very much.

Sandra Hamilton Courter - July 08, 2024 at 10:21 PM

KF

“ Prayers and love to Tonda, Jeff, Morgan and the rest of the family.

Kline Family - July 08, 2024 at 03:44 PM

LK

“ Thanks for bein my safe haven for when I lit firecrackers off at fair n the carnies chased me out!

Lane Kiplinger - July 05, 2024 at 07:52 PM

MH

Love it!

Morgan Hakeos - July 06, 2024 at 02:08 PM