



Donald 'Art' McRae

April 29, 1931 - March 15, 2009

Donald "Art" McRae, age 77, a resident of Clawson, died March 15, 2009 in Ocala, FL. He was born April 29, 1931 in Argyle, MI. Mr. McRae was a 1950 graduate of Lincoln High School in Ferndale. He was in the U.S. Air Force from 1952-1956. He worked for GM Parts Fab from 1956-1989 as a wood pattern maker. He was a member of the Clawson United Methodist Church from 1957 to the present, where he was an usher and a trustee. Mr. McRae was a Clawson Lions Club member and the recipient of the Melvin Jones Fellowship award and Citizen of the Year. He was a resident of Clawson since 1957, and once the Grand Marshal of the 4th of July parade. He loved gardening and received the Clawson Home Beautification award for his flowers, as well as, winning several times for Christmas lights and decorations. Mr. McRae's retirement was spent doing volunteer work in the community, including delivering lunches to the shut-ins, building ramps for individuals with disabilities, coordinating volunteer drivers for the South Oakland Shelter, playing Santa for the city Christmas tree lighting and many other activities for the Lions Club, church and the community. He also loved traveling and spending time with his family, especially his granddaughters. He is survived by his wife, Gloria McRae, whom he married August 23, 1952 at Ferndale United Methodist Church; children, Catherine Ward McRae-Spisso of Tallahassee, FL, Donald Vivian McRae of Beaufort, SC, Julie Don Michel of Clawson and Jeffrey Erin McRae of Dallas, TX; and grandchildren, Lauren Spisso, Danielle Spisso, Stephanie Michel, Janie McRae and Darci McRae.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Peter and Janie McRae; and siblings, Isabella Watson, Jean Bishop and Donna Holmes. Visitation will be held Friday 2 – 9 p.m. at Wm. Sullivan & Son Funeral Home, 705 W Eleven Mile Road 4 blks. E of Woodward, Royal Oak. In state Saturday 10 a.m. until the time of service 11 a.m. at Clawson United Methodist Church, with the Rev. Thomas Keef officiating. Inurnment will be at White Chapel Cemetery in Troy. Memorials to Leader Dogs for the Blind, Memorial Department, P.O. Box 5000, Rochester, MI 48308-5000, Clawson United Methodist Church, 205 N Main Street, Clawson, MI 48017 or charity of the donor's choice. Share your memories at www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com.

Tribute Wall

MB

“ Jeff, I am sorry to recieve the news about your father. You and your family are in my thoughts and prayers. I am sure you are proud of your Dad and have good memories for all he did for his family, community service for others and his tradition of decorating the house at Christmas. Remeber those things and smile that great smile that you have, because of him. Matt Babich

Matthew Babich - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

NW

“ ART You were my best tomato growing friend and a great neighbor and also we loved those apples and red rasberries from the Oak park FARM Rest in heavenly Pease

Nora & Dave Walsh - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DJ

“ Gloria and family, we send caring thoughts your way. We will remember a very kind and gentle man with a great smile who's passion was helping others. Don and Mary Jo

Don and Mary Jo Jewell - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DM

“ Dennis and I were both so sorry to hear about Art. We thoroughly enjoyed the times we spent together at Judy and John's Christmas parties. He was always lots of fun and will be certainly be missed. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

Dennis and Marty McGinnity - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

CS

“ Our Prayers are with you at this time of sorrow.

Carla Stevens - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JV

“ Gloria: Words can not describe what our deep feelings are and how profound events impact our lives. Art and you both have significant meaning in my life. I will not forget how Art told me that my mother gave him a glass of milk as a thankyou for walking my sister Cathy home, one day. He was the kind of person you truly wanted as a friend. And he will be missed. My thoughts are with you. Sincerely; Joanne

Joanne Sanderson Voorhees - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JN

“ Gloria, next to Don Art ranked right up there as a favorite person of mine. He will be so missed. I so enjoyed when you stopped to have dinner with me. We were able to talk about some of our fun times. He is in the company of a lot of great people. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. Much Love Jan

Janice Neu - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DJ

“ Our thoughts are with you and we have beautiful memories of our times together. Please know you are in our hearts and prayers. Love, Don & Theresa Jewell

Don & Theresa Jewell - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DM

“ Gloria. Are deepest sympathies to you and your family. Dan & Margaret Bolen

Dan Bolen & Margaret - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

TW

“ Your Tallahassee "family" will miss Grandpa Art! All of us have such fond memories of him during his and Gloria's visits to Florida. Our thoughts and prayers are with all of you during this difficult time. Love you, DJ, Glenn, Ben, Cayce

The Woodsums - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

BO

“ Art was a wonderful man. He was an example of how we should all be living our lives. A gentleman, a patriot, a servant to others. We got to know Art better through his delivery of Koezel nuts via the Lions Club. My mother Daisy and her sister Avis would purchase and sell nuts and puddles for Art. After Avis passed away the delivery was always at our house. We'd always look forward to our visit at the kitchen table with Art on delivery day, which was always around the Holidays. Then there were the basketball games at Clawson High School when we'd sometimes get to sit together. When the Christmas in Clawson Craft Show decided to request a visit from Santa this past November, we new who to call. Art gave so generously of his time, to everyone and to so many organizations in the community. He is an irreplaceable good man who will be sorely missed by everyone that knew him. Our deepest sympathy to Gloria, his children, and grandchildren. It was an honor to know Art.

Betsy & Butch O'Brien - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JP

“ My memories go back many years. Gloria I am so sorry for your loss of a great guy in so many ways. I'll never forget how many kind and wonderful things you both did for Ed and our family over the years. I, ll see you soon . Love, Jeannette Pioch

Jeannette Pioch - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

TH

“ To the McRaes, My deepest sympathies, thoughts and prayers go to all of you. May God bless you and guide you thru this difficult time. Though I didn't know Mr. McRae other than a handshake or two here and there, I can say that raising a son like Jeff speaks everything about him. Take care and God Bless Tim Hanson

Tim Hanson - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JH

“ Gloria Sorry to hear about Art. I always enjoyed talking to him at Woody's at the big reunion. We had bumped into each other once in a while when we worked at G.M. Jerry

Judy & Jerry Hawkins - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

RS

“ Dear Gloria, Cathy, Don, Julie & Jeff: I am so sorry to hear of Art's passing. He served as my role model for the perfect husband, father and community activist. His values and principles are worthy of our emulation; and shall be his legacy. It has been a blessing to know him. Good by, Art

Ron Swart - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

BB

“ Dear Gloria: My prayers are with you and your family. Art gave much time and effort to the church and other good causes. I remeber him as the person who coached my son Ray and other yolung boys in a basketball team many years ago. Art was my supplier of fruit cakes this last year. That is another reason I will miss him. Love, Bob

Bob Blessman - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

BT

“ Hey Art....This is Bob Taft... It's a pretty nice view from way up there, isn't it???? Say, if ya get a good look at the Michigan Upper Peninsula, set your binocular's for Paradise, yeah i know your in Paradise. But i'm talking about the township of Paradise and ya see some guy waving like crazy, that will be me saying hi!!! You will be missed Art... You'll be missed.... Bob Taft...

Bob Taft - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

BG

“ To the McRae Family; I was sorry to hear of Art's passing. We had been friends for 60 years. My memories will be of him giving me pussy willows in the Spring and cornstalks in the Fall, among many other wonderful memories.

Barbara Weston Gute - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

CS

“ Dear Gloria and all your precious family, Our thoughts and prayers are with you. Today and in all the days ahead may the Peace of Christ be with you. Love, Barbara & Charlie

Charlie and Barbara Schiappa - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DC

“ Dear Gloria and Family We are deeply sadden by Art's passing and wish to extend our condolences and prayers. As both a church trustee and helper, I always enjoyed working with Art and appreciated his work ethic, honesty and compassion. In cowboy terms, he was a "straight shooter." His contribution to family, friends and the community made us all better. He will be missed. Don & Neva

Don & Neva Callihan - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

RL

“Gloria and family, Judy, John, Richard and Kathy, We truly hurt for you all--so sorry to hear about your loss. Our first thoughts were, "what a blessing it was to have had you all in our home on May 18 last summer to "celebrate" family, love, memories, and Debbie's Marie's daughter birthday!!" Art was such a pleasant, delightful guy to know and a compliment to Gloria who, too, is beautiful with her gorgeous smile and gentle personality. We know you will be strong in your faith and God will lift you all up and lead you thru these next days and beyond. May the comfort of great memories, laughter and peace of the holy spirit comfort and sustain you and know that Art and his love for each of you will never leave your spirits and your lives! You all are very dear to us. In addition to Barbara & Charlie, I have spoken with Marie & Cliff, Gerald & Jayne and Darrell's wife, Doris. Each one of the family members sends their deepest sympathy and love to you, Gloria, and to all the other family members. We are with you in prayer and spirit. We love you! God bless! Rebecca Becky P.S. You are blessed to have John "taking care of Art" and all of you--what a neat family you are!

Rebecca Dublin Landolt - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

ES

“Dear Gloria and family, Please accept my sincere condolences and know of my sincere and heartfelt appreciation for having had the opportunity to know Art and be better for it in living my own life. He set a wonderful example of love, selflessness, and generosity in just being Art, day in and day out, every time I saw him. He will be in my prayers as he progresses in the life beyond this one, as will you during this time of grieving at such a great loss for those of us here. With sincerest sympathy, Eric

Eric Sullivan - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DH

“ *The McRae Family It was truly a pleasure to have known Don. I worked with him at GM Parts Fab and would see him at the Old Timer's Party. He will truly be missed. My condolences to you and my prayers are with you*

Devonne Hatten - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM