



Earl Sparkman

April 5, 1935 - February 27, 2023

Earl Douglas Sparkman, a resident of Ferndale, passed away on Monday, February 27, 2023 at the age of 87. A son of James and Margaret Sparkman, he was born on April 5, 1935 in Quebec, Tennessee. Earl spent his early years working on a farm before moving to Michigan in the 1950s. He proudly served his country in the United States Army. Upon his return home, he exchanged vows with Ruth Ann Bandel on August 27, 1960 in Garden City. Earl worked as a mechanic before starting Transport Refrigeration with his brother in 1967, from which he retired in 2002.

Earl belonged to several organizations, including the 82nd Airborne Division, Michigan Emergency Patrol, Fraternal Order of Police local 130 and the Michigan State Lodge, Elks Club, Rotary Club, and American Legion. He gave his time as a Boy Scout Leader and helped run the law enforcement torch run for the Michigan Special Olympics. Earl served as both a chaplain and auxiliary policeman for the Ferndale Police Department.

Beloved husband of the late Ruth Ann. Loving father of Mark (Autumn) and Vicki (Vincent) Bieda. Cherished grandfather of Dana (Jon) Rysdorp and Jerry Prudden. Treasured great-grandfather of Harleigh and Jax. Proud uncle of many nieces and nephews. Earl was preceded in death by six brothers and one sister.

A visitation for Earl will be held on Wednesday, March 1, from 2:00 to 8:00 pm at Wm. Sullivan and Son Funeral Directors, 705 W. Eleven Mile Rd. (4 blks. E. of Woodward), Royal Oak, 48067. Friends and family will gather on Thursday, March 2, from 10:00 am until time of funeral service at 10:30 am at the funeral home. Interment to follow at White Chapel Cemetery in Troy.

Donations in Earl's memory may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105 or to the Michigan Special Olympics.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 1. 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Wm. Sullivan and Son Funeral Directors-Royal Oak
705 W. Eleven Mile Road
Royal Oak, MI 48067
(248) 541-7000
royal@sullivanfh.com
<https://www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com/>

Funeral Service

MAR 2. 10:30 AM (ET)

Wm. Sullivan and Son Funeral Directors-Royal Oak
705 W. Eleven Mile Road
Royal Oak, MI 48067
(248) 541-7000
royal@sullivanfh.com
<https://www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com/>

Burial

MAR 2. 12:00 PM (ET)

White Chapel Memorial Cemetery
621 W. Long Lake Road
Troy, MI 48098

Tribute Wall

CC

“ Will miss that smile. What a guy. Will be missed. Carmen and Deb Cramer

Carmen & Deb Cramer - March 08, 2023 at 09:46 AM

DC

“ Earl was such a sweet and kind gentleman. It was such a pleasure to assist him in the dinning room at American House. He will be missed by many of the residents and the staff. I know I will miss his kindness and that strong voice of his. My sincere condolences and prayers to your family. May Cowboy Earl (his nickname) rest in Peace.

Donna Carriveau
Server @ American House

Donna Carriveau - March 01, 2023 at 03:53 PM

KA

“ Love you Uncle Earl kiss everyone for me ask mama to make you some fried apple pies

Kay - March 01, 2023 at 03:51 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Earl Sparkman.



March 01, 2023 at 09:02 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of Earl Sparkman.



March 01, 2023 at 08:23 AM



“ *Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet* was purchased for the family of Earl Sparkman.



February 28, 2023 at 08:30 PM



“ *Your Light Shines* was purchased for the family of Earl Sparkman.



February 28, 2023 at 06:21 PM



“ *Jeff Bauer #50* purchased the *Fiery Lily and Rose* for the family of Earl Sparkman.



Jeff Bauer #50 - February 28, 2023 at 06:01 PM

JJ

“ Earl was a fantastic member of Fraternal Order of Police, Lodge #130. Over the many years we worked together at the Lodge, there was never a job or task that he wouldn't help at. He will be missed by all of the old time members. RIP Brother.

john Jex, Jr. - February 28, 2023 at 05:59 PM

TF

“ The Keizer Family purchased the Dreams From the Heart Bouquet for the family of Earl Sparkman.



The Keizer Family - February 28, 2023 at 03:55 PM

TF

“ The Pressey Family purchased the Sweet Tranquility Basket for the family of Earl Sparkman.



The Pressey Family - February 28, 2023 at 01:48 PM



“ Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of Earl Sparkman.



February 28, 2023 at 01:48 PM



“ *Gracious Lavender Basket was purchased for the family of Earl Sparkman.*



February 28, 2023 at 01:15 PM



“ *Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of Earl Sparkman.*



February 28, 2023 at 11:40 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Earl Sparkman.*



February 28, 2023 at 10:57 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Earl Sparkman.*



February 28, 2023 at 10:55 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Earl Sparkman.*



February 28, 2023 at 10:34 AM



“ *1 file added to the album Earl's Photos*



Pat - February 28, 2023 at 10:19 AM



This picture is just SO Earl. He loved kids and helping people. This was during Dream Cruise, an assignment he loved since he was able to be out there with the people.

Carol Lapp - March 02, 2023 at 11:16 AM