



## George "Skip" Shipes III

October 9, 1952 - October 2, 2018

George "Skip" Shipes III, age 65, passed away on October 2, 2018 with his family by his side. Skip was born in Stuart Florida to the late Buddy and Vernal Shipes. He graduated from University of South Florida and was employed by Kmart Corporation for 29 years starting at the store level and working his way to attaining his dream job of sporting goods buyer at the international headquarters. After retiring from Kmart, Skip started his own business leaving him more free time to enjoy his grandchildren. Beloved husband of Ellen (nee Matton). Loving father of Matthew (Laura) Shipes, Amanda Shipes and Allison (Bradley) Adler. Proud grandfather of Caeden, Parker and Madison. Dear brother of James "Jimbo" Shipes, Gary Shipes and Scott (Donna) Shipes. Skip was an avid saltwater fisherman, member of the USF Alumni Association, NRA, Wounded Warrior Project, Fish America and IGFA. A memorial gathering will take place on October 13th at the Wm. Sullivan & Son Funeral Home 8459 Hall Road (3 Blocks E. of Van Dyke) Utica, from 1pm -4pm, followed by a celebration of life service at 4pm at the funeral home. Please share a memory at [www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com](http://www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com)

# Previous Events

## Memorial Gathering

OCT **13**. 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Wm Sullivan and Son Funeral Home  
8459 Hall Road  
Utica, MI 48317  
(586) 731-2411  
utica@sullivanfh.com  
<https://www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com/>

## Memorial Service

OCT **13**. 4:00 PM (ET)

Wm Sullivan and Son Funeral Home  
8459 Hall Road  
Utica, MI 48317  
(586) 731-2411  
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# Tribute Wall

NH

“ To Skippy's' immediate family:  
It would like to express my symoathy. It has been many years many many years since I last saw Skippy. My mom and Granny Emma Shines were sisters. My mom was Sarah, I grew up in Savanah and every summer we would go to Stuart for a visit. Some of my best memories were all of us gathering on the causeway for family reunions. I really loved Buddy and Vernal and all of their boys. The last time I was there was for Emma and Warren 6th anniversary I think. You will always be a very bright active young boy in my mind Skippy  
Toj Jimbo Gary and Scotty my love and sympathy to you too. I know how losing a brother feels Jimmy my brother passed away a few years ago.  
I live in WY now but will always remember you tow headed guys as happy active fun guys.  
Love Nancy Mathews Harold

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Nancy L Harold - October 17, 2018 at 12:26 AM



“ Rays of Light Spray was purchased for the family of George "Skip" Shipes III.



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October 13, 2018 at 09:47 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of George "Skip" Shipes III.*



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October 13, 2018 at 08:52 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of George "Skip" Shipes III.*



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October 12, 2018 at 01:30 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of George "Skip" Shipes III.*



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October 12, 2018 at 12:31 PM

RM

“ Royce Bullock and I took George to dinner at Tapparoonies’ to welcome him the week he was transferred to KIH. That began a friendship that lasted many great years. Too many memories to list them, but here are a couple. George was part of the sales team that hosted The Oak Ridge Boys at the Premier Center. To get us backstage, George introduced me as the person in charge of the Kmart Record Department. I had to put on a fast act and make up some quick answers to pull that off, while George kept looking over with that big smile that he always wore. Also, when we arrived at one of his parties, he was proud to show us that he had taken a sledgehammer to his concrete patio and used the pieces to border his flower garden. Big, strong guy with a great big heart. Ruthann and I are so thankful for the good times we had with George, Ellen, and their family.

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**Ray and Ruthann Minton** - October 12, 2018 at 12:04 PM

DL

“ Dave & Josette Lanni purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of George "Skip" Shipes III.



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**Dave & Josette Lanni** - October 12, 2018 at 08:54 AM

GE

“ I have a lot of great memories of Skip. My favorite was when we dressed up as the Blues Brothers. We had so much fun that evening I still remember him and I singing in his basement on Halloween.

*Ellen, Chris and I send our condolences to you and your family. May Skip live on in everyone's memories.*

*Gabe and Chris Ensenat*

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**Gabe Ensenat** - October 10, 2018 at 09:02 PM

PG

“ One of my first experiences working with George was when we travelled down to Puerto Rico to visit stores there. The first morning he pulled into a local "coffee shop" and asked if I wanted a cup of java. I said that would be great...however, when he returned, he was carrying two small (Dixie cup size) cups of "coffee". As it turned out it was a very syrupy dark roasted cup of java that was a certain wake me up blend. We shared a great laugh of that.

*George and I became good friends over time, especially once he got to KIH/KRC where we enjoyed hosting/attending many great parties. George was able to bring humor to so many aspects life and that will be missed.*

*Nancy and I want to offer our deepest and most sincere condolences to George's family and friends on the sudden passing of a beloved person!!! There is never a good time for anyone to be taken from us, but we all know he is in a much better place today enjoying a pain free experience. He will be looking down on all of us from this day forward.*

*Nancy and Pat Graw*

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**Patrick Graw** - October 10, 2018 at 11:10 AM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of George "Skip" Shipes III.*



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October 08, 2018 at 03:48 PM



“ *I called him George, and he was the person who promoted me to work for him at the Kmart Home Office way back in the mid 80's. He often joked that he "rescued me from the slums of Colorado." He was a great boss, and was very supportive of my career growth at Kmart over the years. He loved to laugh and he loved to "bust your chops" as we would say.*

*I have not seen or spoken to George for many years but I have fond memories of him and I offer sincere condolences to the family.*

*Charley Thompson*

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**charles thompson** - October 08, 2018 at 09:11 AM



“ *Our dear friend Skip was one of the kindest persons we ever knew. You'll always be remembered by us. Skip, may you rest in peace. John, and Tara Emigh*

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**John Emigh** - October 05, 2018 at 04:12 PM