



## Donald Edmond Girard

October 30, 1929 - June 21, 2012

Girard, Donald E. age 82 of Westland. God saw he was getting tired and recovery was not to be... so He put His arms around him and whispered, "Come with me." Born October 30, 1929. Passed into eternal life peacefully at home June 21, 2012 with his devoted wife, Betty (nee Winn) by his side. In January of this year, Donald and Betty celebrated 62 years of marriage. Cherished father of Gerald (Ana), David, Judy (Mario) Rossi, Glenn, Nancy (Jerry) Cheek and Ken (Cori). Loving grandfather of Dawn (David) Foster, Mark Girard, Charlie (Robin) Rossi, Nicholas Doud, Lara (Nathan) McKinley, Katrina (William) Sandlin, Jessica Davis and Megan Davis. Great-grandfather of Elliot and Jillian Rossi, Chastity, Paige and Dillian Sandlin and Bridgette Davis. Donald is also survived by his two dear sisters, Vera Freeman and Marion Bagwell and sister-in-law Joyce Schonscheck. Many nieces and nephews also survive. Donald is predeceased by his parents, Humphrey and Anna (nee Burke), in-laws Raymond and Maude Winn and grandson Kenny Girard, Jr. Donald was an avid outdoorsman and conservationist. He devoted many years to the Wayne County Sportsman Club where he was president for two terms and secretary for many years. His devotion also extended to the Pte. Mouilee Waterfowlers Club. He helped organize and run duck decoy contests for several years for that club. He also helped form the Lake Erie Wildfowlers at Crane Creek & Magee Marsh in Ohio. His tireless devotion to the outdoors and waterfowl was recognized with a Certificate of Appreciation from past Governor of Michigan, William J. Milliken. Don and Betty also

enjoyed working together for the Michigan Habitat Foundation. Donald was a Scout Leader for many years, going on to be Scout Commissioner of the Sauk Trail District. Five of Donald's six children were in the Armed Forces. Donald was a longtime employee (37 years) of the Detroit News and Free Press. Visitation will take place Sun 3-9 PM at Vermeulen Funeral Home 980 N. Newburgh Rd (between Ford Rd. and Cherry Hill), Westland. Instate Monday 9 AM until 9:30 AM Funeral Mass at St. Richard Catholic Church 35637 Cherry Hill (between Wayne Rd. and Newburgh) Westland. Entombment at Michigan Memorial Park in Flat Rock, Michigan. Memorials to St. Richard Catholic Church would be appreciated. To share a memory, please use the View and Send Condolences tab on this web page.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Donald Edmond Girard*

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December 07, 2023 at 05:11 AM



“ *Im truly sorry to hear about your lost. Donald will definitely be missed by so many. One thing that helps me deal or cope with loosing a loved one is the scripture John 5:28,29. It stats " Do not marvel at this, because the hour is coming in which all those in the memorial tombs will hear his voice and come out, those who did good things to a resurrection of life....." Soon we will be able to see Donald again because God (Jehovah) promises a resurrection hope. Also if you notice that it uses the term "memorial tomb" and not [Grave] which means Gods memory. Donald seems like a really nice guy, a person that God will definitely remember. I hope this gives some comfort. Dion R (Truth.1914@yahoo.com)*

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**Dion** - December 12, 2014 at 10:13 AM



“ *Don will be missed by many of us. I know John would be there if he wasn't up at Gaylord with his children this week, as Don was his Godfather. We send our love and prayers to all the family, especially his wife, Betty.*

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**Judy (ex-Sister-In-Law)** - December 12, 2014 at 10:13 AM

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“ When I think of my grandfather, his life, and how he affected those around him, I am reminded of a Tennyson quote that so adequately defines this man, “The happiness of a man in this life does not consist in the absence but in the mastery of his passions.” All that know him have witnessed his passion for many things and the happiness derived from them. Whether it was attending duck shows, garage and church sales, telling masterful stories, or being around his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. His enthusiasm for life, and strong heart and soul, taught all of us how much we could get out of life from following his prime examples. I think he loved being a grandfather and you always knew love when he was around – you could read it in his face and feel it in his heart. As one of his grandchildren I grew up spoiled under a devoted grandfather’s attention. I believe several of us can remember specific and special moments with him; those memories we will hold dearer now that he is gone. Some recollections have become shared memories, as we were all once little, and Grandpa would tell us stories of Herman, the horrific monster in the basement, who would cause us children to shriek with fright. Even with his stories that brought us apprehension and fear he offered us a lesson... for each time we faced the illusion of Herman and mastered the maze of the basement we’d discover a treasure purposefully left by Grandpa for us to find. My favorite treasure was a little wooden horse he’d found along his travels. Although Grandpa had given me many of them over the years this horse in particular struck something within me... maybe it was the care and detail with which it was made, or the knowing that he’d found it special for me, or maybe that it was one on a kind, like my Grandpa. Some nearly thirty years later I still have that horse. One of my fondest memories was when Grandpa and I would share a box of McDonalds nuggets. They, along with oatmeal cream pies and a glass a Pepsi, were our favorite treats. I also remember the hours we’d spend working on model trains, the duck shows we attended, or even the Pintail duck I so carefully painted for him since it was one of his favorites. These and many more are everlasting memories to carry with me, and I will always thank him for showing all of us what being a parent,

*grandparent and great-grandparent should be like. Thank you, Grandpa for your unconditional love, the lessons you have shared and the memories you have given. You were a great, generous man, a wonderful grandfather, and though I will miss you I know you will never be truly gone.*

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**Dawn (grand-daughter)** - December 12, 2014 at 10:13 AM

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“*Don was a very dear friend. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Betty and the family. He will be greatly missed.*”

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**George and Lee Uram** - December 12, 2014 at 10:13 AM