



Raymond L. Kussmaul Jr.

February 18, 1942 - September 6, 2020

BROOKLYN – “Oh! I have slipped the surly bonds of Earth...and touched the face of God.”

Raymond L. Kussmaul, Jr., 78, of Brooklyn, formerly of Clinton, died of Parkinson’s Disease Sunday afternoon, September 6, 2020, at Tecumseh Place, where he had been a resident for nearly three months. He was born February 18, 1942, in DeWitt, MI to the late Raymond, Sr. and Dorothy Mae (Thorne) Kussmaul.

Ray graduated from Adrian High School in 1960; a proud member of the first graduating class. He began working for Tecumseh Products prior to his career with Ford Motor Company. Ray earned his Associate’s Degree while working for Ford. He retired after 33 years with Ford as a Hydraulic Machine Repairman. Ray also found true joy in commercial beekeeping, and as a private pilot.

On April 22, 1962, Ray married Sharon Wood at the Adrian United Methodist Church. She survives to cherish over 58 years of marriage.

Ray was a member of the Clinton and Adrian United Methodist Churches. He was a member of the Clinton zoning board for 10 years, as well as a member of the AOPA, EAA, and the American and Michigan Beekeeping Associations. In his spare time, he found his calling as a “vanishing pioneer.” He enjoyed cutting woods, mowing, and clearing brush and land. He loved all things that fly – honeybees, birds, and aircraft. As a commercial beekeeper, he was district representative for over 25 years. Ray learned to fly in 1965. His passion for flight took him all over the world in adventures including to the Bahamas; and an unforgettable expedition to the North Pole in the 1970s.

In addition to his loving wife, Sharon, Ray is survived by his children, Richard Ray (Patrice Ann) Kussmaul of Clinton, David Lee Kussmaul of Edmonton, KY, Kendra Joy (Brian) Roell of Marquette, MI, and Pamela Wren (Victoria) Mata of Milwaukee, WI; three grandchildren Jayce Richard Kussmaul, Zachary Michael Roell, and Emma Ray Ann Mata; sister, Carol Jean Burnette; brother, John Earl Kussmaul; several nieces and

nephews; and his “fur person,” Piper the cat.

Ray was preceded in death by his parents; son, Michael Sean Kussmaul; daughter in infancy, Kerry Lynn Kussmaul; and brother, Larry Edward Kussmaul.

A private family service will be planned to celebrate Ray’s life. Wagley Funeral Home, Adrian has been entrusted with arrangements. The family suggests that memorial contributions to honor Ray’s life be made to Tecumseh Place or Careline Hospice. Online memories and condolences may be shared at www.WagleyFuneralHomes.com.

Comments



“ I am sorry to hear of Raymond's passing. He was an old school mate. Prayers for the family.

Judy Jordan - September 12 at 10:54 AM



“ Judith Holcomb lit a candle in memory of Raymond L. Kussmal Jr.



Judith Holcomb - September 11 at 01:50 PM



“ Dear Sharon and family, it is with great sadness that I hear of the passing of my bee mentor and friend, Ray! I share your grief and pain at this time and offer condolences and prayers for strength. Please let me know if there is anything I can help with. You all are in our thoughts and prayers. I looked up to Ray with much admiration and will miss him immensely.

Judith & Mark Holcomb

Judith Holcomb - September 11 at 01:47 PM



“ I'm glad I was able to meet Ray at Honey Acres. He enjoyed riding his golf cart to the airport when we would come to skydive.. He was such a happy, kind man. My thoughts are with Sharon and his family during this sad time.

Ronda Cheever - September 10 at 08:03 PM



“ Sharon & Family,
We are so sorry for your loss. Ray has always been a ray of sunshine for us over Deep Lake! Great to have such great neighbors. Praying for you and sending comfort & strength. The Whites-Steve, Jodi & Nora.

The White Family - September 08 at 05:21 PM



“ So sorry to hear of Rays death. Hope the many memories you have will be a comfort to you. You are in our hearts and prayers. Bill and Norma Zimmerman

Norma Zimmerman - September 08 at 03:55 PM



“ Wendy Meckley lit a candle in memory of Raymond L. Kussmal Jr.



Wendy Meckley - September 08 at 11:06 AM