



Archer Leigh Handy

February 23, 1952 - February 11, 2026

CLAYTON- Archer Leigh Handy, age 73, of Clayton, Michigan passed away unexpectedly at his home on Wednesday, February 11, 2026.

Archer was born on February 23, 1952, in Tecumseh, Michigan, one of three children to Clare E. and Arlene M. (Hunt) Handy. He graduated from Onsted High School in 1970 and received his teaching degrees from Eastern Michigan University and Siena Heights University.

On May 12, 1972, Archer married Nancy J. Pickford in Adrian, MI and they celebrated over 53 of the most beautiful years together.

Archie started his teaching career in the Onsted School system before moving on to Adrian Public Schools. He taught at both Michener and Alexander Elementary, retiring in 2013 after 30 years of teaching. His warm personality made him a great educator, and he always enjoyed running into former students when out in the community. Archie liked being active and adventurous, enjoying biking, kayaking and gardening, as well as running with friends. Archie and Nancy loved to travel, exploring many of our national parks and the beauty of our world. They are members of St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church, where he preached beautiful sermons as part of their ministry support team. He lived his life as Jesus commanded, loving God and all his neighbors. He volunteered his time with Salvation Army, receiving their volunteer of the year award. Archie's family was his love and joy. He was very proud of the title "Papa" and loved attending his grandchildren's sporting and school events whenever he could. He was known to be ready with a joke or

some trivial knowledge to entertain his family and friends.

In addition to his wife, Nancy, Archie is survived by his children, Michael (Amanda Hobson) Handy, Bethany (Andrew) Bartos and Rachel (Brandon) Kintner; grandchildren, Drew, Cullen and Makenna Bartos, Archer, Sawyer and Porter Handy; sister, Sylvia Stoner; father-in-law, Kenneth (Kaye) Pickford; in laws, Steven (Cheryl) Pickford, Kathleen (Gordon) Bousman, Kendra Barrett, Lisle (Janice) Pickford, Mary Jo (Brian) Kuney and Ken Sebenick; special puppy, Reba Leigh; grandpups, Flynn, Coty and Bella Rose; and a wonderful extended family including numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins. He was preceded in death by his parents; sister, Diane Sebenick; mother-in-law, Joyce Pickord; and brothers-in-law, Kevin Barrett, Sr., Dale Stoner and Darwin Sexton.

A memorial service will be held on Thursday, February 19, 2026, at 1 PM at St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church in Cambridge Junction Twp., with the Rev. Diana Walworth officiating. Following the service, there will be a gathering celebrating Archie's life at the Gauci Golf Resort from 3 to 6 p.m. Memorial contributions may be made to the Lenawee County Salvation Army or St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church, Cambridge Junction.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

FEB 19. 1:00 PM (ET)

St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church
11646 Old Monroe Pike
Onsted, MI 49265
(517) 467-7855

Celebration of Life Gathering

FEB 19. 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Gauci Golf Resort
8421 Sports Park Drive.
Onsted, MI 49265

Tribute Wall

DW

“ Each knows "Archer" in their own way. I've known him since Jr. High when he went by the aliases of "Groucho" and "the big Arch".

We were beer drinkin' buddies in high school -and them the best kind of buddies- but that came to an end when he married Nancy. Not that our high school relationship revolved solely around alcohol, not at all. Arch was studious and did his homework-and I copied it. Anyway, the years go by and folks mellow. We worked our "together times" down to a drink or two over a game of Euchre or Trivial Pursuit. Some times it was Sunday afternoon with Arch and Nancy stopping by after church or if it was a Friday or Saturday night they were out the door by 9! Whatever the time was, it was well scheduled in advance as Arch and Nancy have a full schedule going to all their grandchildren's sport games.

Anyway, this is a little about some of the Arch I know, but it is a shallow part. The deep part is him and Nancy are good people. They care about everyone. And these are he kind of people I want to be around. They made me a better person- if that's possible.

My condolences to Nancy and the kids for their great loss.

Dave Watson

dave watson - February 19 at 10:38 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Archer Leigh Handy.



February 18 at 04:06 PM

MO

“ MaryAnn Orban purchased the Simply Elegant S pathiphyllum for the family of Archer Leigh Handy.



MaryAnn Orban - February 18 at 11:51 AM

TF

“ The Samp, Grevel & Fellows Families purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Archer Leigh Handy.



The Samp, Grevel & Fellows Families - February 18 at 09:59 AM

BT

“ Bev Thiel purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Archer Leigh Handy.



Bev Thiel - February 17 at 07:48 PM

NB

“ Nancy Scott and Kathy O`Connell from St. Barnabas purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Archer Leigh Handy.



Nancy Scott and Kathy O`Connell from St. Barnabas - February 17 at 07:32 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Archer Leigh Handy.



February 17 at 04:33 PM



“ NM Football Coaches and Families planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Archer Leigh Handy.

NM Football Coaches and Families - February 17 at 02:07 PM



“ NM Football Coaches and Families purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Archer Leigh Handy.



NM Football Coaches and Families - February 17 at 02:07 PM



“ A sympathy card was purchased for the family of Archer Leigh Handy.



February 17 at 09:45 AM

RG

“ *My memories of my time spent with Archie are some I will cherish forever*

Rodney Gerth - February 16 at 07:02 PM

DS

“ *Doug Straub purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Archer Leigh Handy.*



Doug Straub - February 16 at 02:35 PM

LM

“ *Love the Martins purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of Archer Leigh Handy.*



Love the Martins - February 16 at 01:50 PM

WB

“ *With love, the Byards purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Archer Leigh Handy.*



With love, the Byards - February 16 at 11:11 AM

KW

“ Kristin Braun, Lucy Oliver Piper & Wynn purchased the *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* for the family of Archer Leigh Handy.



Kristin Braun, Lucy Oliver Piper & Wynn - February 16 at 10:48 AM

SV

“ I taught with Archie at Alexander Elementary in Adrian. Archie always had great stories and jokes. Sending hugs and strength to his family. He is at peace, telling his jokes in heaven. (photo of Archie as Betsey Ross, Jill Walsh, his teaching partner, as the Statue of Liberty and me, Susan Vellanti, as Uncle Sam. Great memories!



Susan Enola Vellanti - February 16 at 10:22 AM

AB

“ 7 files added to the tribute wall



Andy Bartos - February 15 at 09:42 PM

RP

“ We are saddened by the passing of Archie. Our warmest thoughts and heartfelt condolences for Nancy, family, and friends during this time.

Richard and Judy Plum

Richard and Judy Plum - February 15 at 07:38 PM

SO

“ My heart aches with the loss of Archie. My mind's eye will continue to see his smiling face, and I will always remember his light hearted joking. RIP Archie. I am so sorry you've left us.

Sally Oliver - February 15 at 06:14 PM

DD

“ Nancy , words are inadequate, but hugging you and all your family with my prayers . *Deb Deline*

Deb Deline - February 14 at 09:10 PM

TF

“ The Speiser family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Archer Leigh Handy.



The Speiser family - February 14 at 01:51 PM

LF

“ Love, The Villarreal and Brewer Family purchased the Be My Love Bouquet with Red Roses for the family of Archer Leigh Handy.



Love, The Villarreal and Brewer Family - February 14 at 12:08 PM

DB

“ So sorry for your loss May God be with you

Diane Bowen - February 14 at 11:37 AM

JP

“ Nancy and family. We are so sorry for your loss of Archie. He always had a smile on his face whenever we saw him. May He Rest in Peace. †
Jack & Jeannette Pfeffer 💜

Jeannette Pfeffer - February 14 at 10:11 AM



“ Crystal Cross Bouquet was purchased for the family of Archer Leigh Handy.



February 14 at 08:49 AM

JD

“ *Nancy and Family,
My heartfelt condolences to you all.*

I am stunned and in utter disbelief at Archie's passing!

My good friend Archie ran a support group for men with prostate cancer and I was fortunate to meet Archie in the spring of 2006 and join it.

Because of his leadership, I and many others learned various treatments that have kept us cancer free and learned many different treatments for various side effects. I am grateful for his outstanding leadership and in his debt!

*With sympathy,
Jim Driskill*

Jim Driskill - February 13 at 10:32 PM



“ *Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Archer Leigh Handy.*



February 13 at 08:58 PM

NA

“ 5 files added to the tribute wall



Nancy - February 13 at 08:32 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Archer Leigh Handy.



February 13 at 07:44 PM

JC

“ *Josh and Erin Cilley* purchased the *Beautiful in Blue* for the family of Archer Leigh Handy.



Josh and Erin Cilley - February 13 at 06:58 PM

MI

“ 1 file added to the album photos



mike - February 13 at 05:50 PM

MI

“ 8 files added to the album photos



mike - February 13 at 05:39 PM

FG

“ From Charles and Jane Grodi purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Archer Leigh Handy.



From Charles and Jane Grodi - February 13 at 05:27 PM

TF

“ *Tarhata Carr and family. purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Archer Leigh Handy.*



Tarhata Carr and family. - February 13 at 05:02 PM

DG

“ *Sincerest condolences on Archie's sudden passing. He is remembered fondly by his teacher friends: Tom Adams, Dave Guldin, Jim Walsh, Connie Aichele, Ann Cebulski, and Randy Fielder.*

David E Guldin - February 13 at 03:17 PM

CH

Always loved attending workshops with Archie. Such a pleasant guy to be around. He made an impact on many and will be missed.

Cindy Swift Howard - February 13 at 06:15 PM

BB

“ *I was shocked and saddened when I got the news of his passing. Archie was a good friend and fellow teacher. We shared many years together at Alexander and many bike rides on the Kiwanis Trail. I as well as many others will miss him. My condolences to Nancy and his family.*

Bill Barss - February 13 at 02:25 PM

ES

I was saddened to hear of Archie's passing. I worked with him at Michener School and such a great teacher.

Elaine Stevenson - February 13 at 06:41 PM

PL

Nancy and family. I was sorry to read of Archie passing away, we saw you both so many times riding your bikes together. My husband picked you two up when it was pouring down rain and gave you a ride home. Prayers are with your family! Patti Sipes Lamb

Patti Sipes Lamb - February 13 at 07:02 PM

EH

So sad to hear about Archie. I taught with him at Michener. Those were good years at a wonderful school. Thinking of Archie's family. You are in our thoughts and prayers.

Ellen Hicks - February 14 at 09:52 PM

TF

Sorry for your loss.

Tom Etter & Family - February 16 at 02:21 PM

OC

Sincere condolences to my dear friends, Nancy and Sylvia. My prayers for you as you grieve the loss of your husband and brother. May precious memories comfort your hearts. Sending love to you both.

Oda Coon - February 19 at 06:51 PM