



## Clyne 'Ted' W. Durst Jr.

October 27, 1930 - August 20, 2014

It is with great sadness that the family of Clyne W. "Ted" Durst, Jr. announces his passing on Wednesday, August 20, 2014 after a lengthy illness. He was 83.

Ted was born in St. Louis, Missouri to Dorothy (Bischman) and Clyne W. Durst, Sr. The family moved to Michigan and Ted attended school in Grand Ledge. Because he shared a birthday with President Theodore Roosevelt, he took the nickname "Teddy" as a boy. Ted attended the University of Michigan, earning both BA (1952) and JD (1954) degrees. In 1952, he married his high school sweetheart, Jean Luethjohann, and they had four children. Jean preceded him in death. In 1969, he married Joan and they had one child. In 1957, Ted moved to Adrian to join the Baker and Baker law firm. He became a partner in 1958 and continued to practice law with the firm until his retirement. He was a lifetime member of the Michigan Bar Association and the American Bar Association. He also taught for several years at Adrian College. In addition to practicing law, Ted founded several businesses through the years, including Roto Plastics. He served as an officer for Roto Plastics until last year.

In 1961, Ted was elected as a delegate to the Michigan Constitutional Convention as a representative for Lenawee County. He was instrumental in the passage of the new state Constitution, convincing Lenawee County voters to approve ratification. Ted considered his work at the Convention to be one of his greatest life achievements and was part of the reason he was named one

of 10 "Outstanding Young Men in Michigan" in 1962. Because of his work at the Convention, Ted was offered a position in then Governor Romney's cabinet. However, he chose to stay in Adrian to raise his family, and immersed himself in civic activism and volunteerism.

Ted was involved in numerous organizations and projects in Adrian and Lenawee County throughout the past 57 years. He generated ideas for improvements, and donated his time, personal funds, and legal expertise. He served as president of the Adrian Jaycees, YMCA director, chairman of the Adrian United Fund Drive, and president of the Adrian Chamber of Commerce, as well as, a member of the Michigan Judges Retirement Board, the Adrian School Board, and the Bixby Hospital Board. He is a long-time member (and past president) of the Kiwanis Club, maintaining perfect attendance for 47 years. In honor of his many contributions to Lenawee County, Ted was honored with the Maple Leaf Award by the Lenawee Chamber for Economic Development in 2006.

Through his work with the Kiwanis Club, Ted was integral in the development and construction of the Kiwanis Riverview Terrace property, bringing affordable senior citizen housing to Adrian. As chair of the Kiwanis Community Pride Committee, he spearheaded many city improvement projects, including the Adrian entrance signs on north M-52 and west U.S. 223, beautification of traffic islands around town, and restoration of the flagpole atop the county courthouse. Most significantly, Ted led the campaign to establish Trestle Park and the Kiwanis Trail, an 8-mile hiking and biking trail that runs through Adrian to Tecumseh. A new trailhead and park on West Maumee St. is planned for land donated by Ted and will be named the "Ted Durst Kiwanis Gateway Park."

During his later years, Ted was particularly proud of his work with the Lenawee Historical Museum. He served as vice president in charge of administration, and helped change the structure of the museum to a volunteer organization and set up a perpetual trust to fund continuing growth. Ted loved history and took great pleasure in sharing that love with others through the

museum's many exhibits.

Ted was a prolific reader and was rarely seen at home without a book nearby. He enjoyed a spirited debate, a good game of solitaire, noting endless ideas on a yellow legal pad, traveling the world, and watching the birds ("my dinosaurs") on his many feeders. He was a faithful University of Michigan fan and very proud to be a Wolverine.

Ted will be remembered with affection and pride by his wife, Joan; his children, Connie Durst, Cindy Durst, Chuck (Allison) Durst, Craig Durst, Jeni (Brian) Neff, Mike (Laura) Smith, Kathie Williams, and Greg Smith; his 11 grandchildren; his 5 great-grandchildren; his sister, Mary Jane Siego; and a large extended family. In addition to his first wife, he was preceded in death by his parents and siblings, Dottie Barden, Jack Durst, and Patty Neiman.

According to Ted's wishes, cremation has taken place. A memorial service is planned for Tuesday, September 2 at the Wagley Funeral Home in Adrian. Visitation will be held at 12:30pm with the service immediately following at 1:30pm. In lieu of flowers, Ted would have appreciated donations to be made to some of his favorite charities: the Lenawee Historical Museum, Hospice of Lenawee, the Lenawee Humane Society, and the Boys and Girls Club of Lenawee.

# Previous Events

## Service

SEP 2. 1:30 PM (ET)

Wagley Funeral Home (Adrian)  
1501 W. Maumee St.  
Adrian, MI 49221  
(517) 263-1400  
info@wagleyfuneralhome.com  
<https://www.WagleyFuneralHome.com>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Clyne 'Ted' W. Durst Jr.*

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January 28, 2023 at 12:24 PM



“ *Jeni and Joan,*

*We are thinking of you and sending lots of love and hugs your way. Ted was a generous, intelligent and lovely man. I smile when I remember his patience and kindness...allowing us to be the teenagers that we were all those years ago. His life was well lived and he will be missed.*

*Love to you both,  
Emily Middleton and Family*

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**Emily Middleton** - September 01, 2014 at 10:31 PM



“ *Ted is one of my most favorite people...Ever.....What a Kind and Gentle Man.*

*Greg Smith (Stepson)*

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**Greg Smith** - September 01, 2014 at 07:26 AM



“ *Connie - With sympathy upon the passing of your Father.  
Mary Beth Knight Reasoner, AHS Class of 1972*

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**Mary Beth Knight Reasoner** - August 29, 2014 at 07:27 PM

JF

“ Ted was a good brother-in-law. He was helpful in many situations and ready with good advice. He always talked way above our heads, but we never let him know it. You will be missed.

Jerry and Barb Freeburn - August 29, 2014 at 07:20 PM



“ Blooming Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Clyne 'Ted' W. Durst Jr..



August 29, 2014 at 02:10 PM

GH

“ Our prayers and thoughts go out to you Joan and the family in this time of sadness. Ted was a very good friend and partner with Gil and I. Ted was involved in many ventures, both personal and business with Gil. Ted became my boss thirty some years ago when I came to work for Baker, Durst, Marr and Nelson. Over the years he taught me so much. When a question was asked of him, he had the answer before you could finish the question...he loved a good debate, whether it be sports, politics, law or anything else. He will be sadly missed. Rest in peace friend. Sue and Gil Henry

Gil Henry - August 29, 2014 at 09:29 AM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Clyne 'Ted' W. Durst Jr..



August 28, 2014 at 11:37 AM

DN

“ Our sympathy and prayers to all of the Durst family. We enjoyed the years as neighbors. I am sorry we will not have returned from Wisconsin in time to personally convey our sympathy to all of you.

*Don and Donna Nelson*

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**donna Nelson** - August 28, 2014 at 12:30 AM

JB

“ Uncle Ted Was A Great Guy Who Helped Me Out Many Times. I Will Miss Talking Michigan Sports With Him. Rip

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**jaasen barrett** - August 27, 2014 at 10:00 PM

KN

“ It is a struggle to find the right words to express what Ted has meant to the Nelson family over all these years....a mentor, a friend, but I think in reality he became almost an unofficial tour guide through the everyday challenges of life for us...that constant voice of reason. Just know that we share your sadness. Kristin & Dane

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**Kristin Nelson** - August 25, 2014 at 06:21 AM

MM

“ our deepest sympathy's to the Durst family we will keep you all in our prayers....

*The Marr family*

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**Mac Marr** - August 24, 2014 at 11:43 PM

LL

“ Connie, Cindy, Chuck & Craig-  
Sorry to hear about your Dad. The Telegram stated he decided to  
move his family to Adrian and we're glad he did. We'll always  
remember the neighborhood "art" classes, plays, and movies just to  
name a few.

Even though he called our MSU sweatshirts "monkey" shirts, we bid  
a fond farwell to the great Sand Lake talking tree.

Your friends always--  
Linda Lemon LaRocque  
Juna Lemon Casper (Mark)  
Jackie Lemon Reynolds (Dave)

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**Linda Lemon LaRocque** - August 24, 2014 at 06:05 PM

JW

“ I always found Ted to be a caring and kind person. He would be  
willing to listen to what I had to say. I am proud to have him as a  
cousin. Miss you Ted! Jerry Wolf

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**Jerry Wolf** - August 24, 2014 at 10:29 AM

MK

“ Sending sympathy, love, and prayers to the Durst Family!

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**Mary (Nelson) Kemerer** - August 23, 2014 at 10:56 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for  
the family of Clyne 'Ted' W. Durst Jr..



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August 23, 2014 at 12:16 PM

SM

“ *My deepest sympathies and condolence.*

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**Scott McClure** - August 23, 2014 at 02:59 AM

PL

“ *Dear Durst family,*

*I have only known Ted and Joan for eight years and during that time they both have extended warm hearts and welcome.*

*The last time I was there Ted took us on an informative and interesting history tour of Adrian, including a private tour of the museum He was so proud of Adrian and explained the different buildings, streets, etc., as we drove along. His expression of fond memories and history of the museum was amazing. He was dedicated and knew the history of every piece in the museum.*

*He extended a welcome open invitation (my son is married to his daughter, Jeni) and along with Joan, I was always welcomed and treated with kindness.*

*I am sorry for your loss. Please know that I am keeping you in my thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.*

*Phyllis Lee*

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**Phyllis Lee** - August 22, 2014 at 10:21 AM

GL

*A great brother-in-law and friend. Ted will be missed. Gary and Dee Laser*

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**Gary Laser** - August 30, 2014 at 08:01 PM