



Grant O. Parker

April 19, 1925 - November 29, 2014

Grant Oliver Parker, 89, died peacefully at Charlotte Stephenson Manor in Adrian, MI, on November 29, 2014.

Born in 1925 to Isabell and Bert Parker in Sturgis, MI, Grant attended Sturgis High School and served in Europe as a Scout in the 76th Infantry Division of the United States Army under General Patton in WW II. He was awarded the Bronze Star. He cared for military amputees after the war as an orderly at Percy Jones Army Hospital in Battle Creek, MI, before graduating from the University of Michigan with degrees in economics and social work. Grant worked for the Michigan Department of Social Services and was part of a team that introduced Medicaid, Child Protective Services, Adult Protective Services, and services against domestic violence, ultimately finishing his career as the Director of the Office of Adult Services for the State of Michigan. After retirement, he and his “glorious” wife Helen resided in Perry, MI, and devoted four years of their lives to two terms of service in the Peace Corps in Papua New Guinea.

Grant loved Michigan’s history and outdoors. Favorite family activities included hiking, canoeing, camping and exploring, as well as cheering on his beloved Michigan Wolverines.

Anyone who knew Grant loved his infectious sense of humor and generous spirit.

Grant enjoyed writing and authored the book “Mayday,” a historical book

chronicling the Bath School Disaster, and several historical pamphlets. Grant and Helen dedicated their lives to helping others, preserving the environment, and promoting peace through quiet activism. They were married for 58 years.

Survivors include William Parker of Perry, MI, Daniel Parker (Marcy) of Versailles, KY, Susan Wilson (Tim) of Adrian, MI, seven grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren. Grant was preceded in death by wife Helen (Gould) Parker, and four sisters: Marguerite Sager, Nancy Wolgamood, Alberta Dowty, and Wilma Brandenburg.

A memorial service to honor Grant will occur in the spring of 2015. Donations may be contributed to Hospice of Lenawee. Grant's family wishes to extend their sincere gratitude to Hospice of Lenawee and the staff of Charlotte Stephenson Manor for their exceptionally compassionate care at the end of Grant's life. Arrangements have been entrusted to Wagley Funeral Home, Adrian, where online condolences and memories may be shared at www.WagleyFuneralHome.com.

Tribute Wall



“ Grant O. Parker

January 28, 2023 at 12:24 PM



“ Grant was a wonderful friend and colleague. His dedication to social issues, especially regarding vulnerable adults and strong laws and public policy to protect and promote the well being of senior citizens through the Michigan Department of Social Services and later as elder abuse coordinator for Citizens for Better Care produced long lasting benefits. And then he and his beloved Helen served the world with 2 stints in the Peace Corps! He shared his views on issues frequently in letters to the editor.

Grant was a devoted husband and father. When he was in his 80's, Helen got him a membership in Lansing's Court One where he joined Merle's (Barnhart) Pearls to play tennis for many years. His green thumb gave us tasty apples every fall for friends and residents of senior care facilities.

His legacy includes writing in 1992 a most comprehensive account of the Bath Michigan disaster of 1927 in a book "Mayday, History of a Village Holocaust" and donating the proceeds to the Bath School Museum.

A quiet and unassuming man, Grant did many things that had and will continue to have positive consequences in the lives of countless persons. He will be missed but remembered forever.

Vic & Elaine Weipert
Bath, Michigan.

Vic & Elaine Weipert - December 11, 2014 at 07:09 PM

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“ *May his soul will rest in peace. May your heart be filled with good memories to help you cope through this difficult time. And , may God help you through this Holidays & always . Thinking of you. I am only a call away. Love . wafa & family*

Wafa Mualla - December 10, 2014 at 03:40 PM