



Harlan "Sonny" Behm

June 19, 1919 - January 19, 2013

ADRIAN – Harlan H. "Sonny" Behm, 93, of Riga, passed away Saturday, January 19, 2013, at the Hospice of Lenawee Residence.

He was born June 19, 1919, in Deerfield, MI, the son of Robert and Lydia (Jasmund) Behm.

Sonny was a member of Trinity Lutheran Church of Riga. He was a farmer who loved to attend auctions and go antiquing. He enjoyed collecting and working on cars and refinishing furniture.

He is survived by a sister, Margaret Russell of Riga; sister in law, Marjorie Behm of Adrian; nephews and nieces, Paul Russell of Blissfield; Gary Behm of Adrian; Shayna (Steve) Pickle of Adrian and Shelley (Gregg) Hardy of Tipton; and his dear friend, Bonnie Armbruster of Saline.

He was preceded in death by his wives, Virginia (Rothermal) and Virginia (Hills) brothers, Nelson and Willard Behm.

Visitation will take place from 3 to 5 p.m. Tuesday, January 22, 2013, at Wagley Funeral Home, Tagsold Chapel in Blissfield, with a memorial service beginning at 5 p.m.

Contributions in memory of Sonny may be made to Hospice of Lenawee.

Online condolences are welcome at www.WagleyFuneralHome.com.

Tribute Wall



“ Harlan "Sonny" Behm

January 28, 2023 at 12:24 PM



“ Deb & Steve Cook lit a candle in memory of Harlan "Sonny" Behm



Deb & Steve Cook - January 27, 2013 at 12:34 AM



We truly miss Sonny - he will always have a front seat at our Auctions & a special place in our hearts

Deb & Steve Cook - January 27, 2013 at 12:37 AM



There isn't a day that goes by that I don't miss you. You were the kindest, loving, caring man. Always "saved me a seat". God bless you Sonny until we see each other again.

Bonnie Armbruster - February 18, 2025 at 11:03 PM



“ I like Jim and Rich was a neighbor of Sonny's for many years and new him from a young age especially when me and my brother were old enough to help him with his many treasures that he found in his travels between that and chasing our dogs back and forth it was always interesting to have a talk with Sonny..

Todd Neyrinck

Todd Neyrinck - January 22, 2013 at 03:53 PM



“ We are in Florida and are not able to attend the services. My grandparents lived across the road from Rob and Lydia Behm. I have known the family all my life. Rob and Lydia relocated from their Lipp Hwy. address to the home next door to us on Riga Hwy. and once again we were neighbors. Sonny moved to the same home after his parents died. Sonny never failed to greet me with his warm smile. I will always be grateful that he was in my life. Jim Fojtik

Jim Fojtik - January 22, 2013 at 10:38 AM

BA

Jim he was a great man, I feel the same way very grateful and blessed he was in my life ...

Bonnie Armbruster - January 22, 2013 at 09:00 PM

“ Harlan “Sonny” Behm was a wonderful man. Kind, caring and loving. He would give anyone the shirt off his back if they needed it.

Sonny's life revolved around going to auctions, buying and selling. Working on pieces in his workshop that needed a little fixing. Visiting with his friends at auctions was a highlight for him also. He was a collector of vintage cars, buying and selling them. Recently, he sold his last car and tractor at an auction. He walked over to the guy and shook his hand with a big smile and said “thanks for winning the bid”.

When I introduced Sonny to the show American Pickers he loved it. Right up his alley. We often watched it together. His knowledge of antiques their use, value etc. was amazing. Can you imagine at 93 ½ years what he has seen?

I am very blessed to have known this wonderful man for almost 7 years. He stole my heart. When he could no longer stay at home and moved to Hospice of Lenawee, he soon stole the hearts of the staff as well. Being 93 he knew how he liked things to be done and each staff member quickly learned his likes and dislikes of pillows, blankets, bed, food etc. always saying to them or me “thank you honey”. We all agreed why shouldn't he have what he likes at 93! Each and every one of them are angels. They took such good care of him. “Always making sure that he was comfortable”. It was difficult for the last 2 months and 3 days knowing this would be his last Thanksgiving, his last Christmas. When Christmas was approaching he said to me, “I wonder if I'll get any Christmas cards”? My family and friends sent him so many. Deb and Steve at his favorite auction set out to make a sign, buy the cards, and announce to people at auction, please sign a card for Sonny and I'll make sure he gets them as she did. As we sat one evening opening all the cards and reading them, there was once again so many people that cared about him and loved him. Sonny had the biggest smile and said how nice so many people remembered me. He was tickled that over 65 cards came to him even one from my nephew

and his wife in the Netherlands. They didn't know him but they are wonderful Christians and were happy to send him a card.

The cooks put on a wonderful dinner for the families for both holidays. We enjoyed that so much. He and I put up a little Christmas tree on a table in his room. We sat in the evenings looking at the little blinking lights. He was so appreciative of everything that was done for him.

So many wonderful memories and conversations we shared. Taking him for a ride on a Saturday afternoon in his truck was the highlight. He really enjoyed it. I will never forget the look and bright smile on his face when I said "would you like to go for a ride in your truck"? We went to his home which was his last visit there and last ride in his truck.

Life is so short, please take some time today to hug your family and friends, tell them how much you appreciate and love them. Be as kind, caring, loving and respectful as this man was to everyone.

Sonny, I will always miss your sweet smile and hearing you say sleep tight, don't let the bed bugs bite, our sunshine song...and most of all hearing you say when I left at night...I love you honey thanks for coming, I really appreciate it...

*You are my sunshine,
Love,
Bonnie*

Bonnie Armbruster - January 22, 2013 at 09:10 AM

RF

“ *My wife Holly and I have lived next door to Sonny for many, many years, and a better neighbor you will not find. We will miss him. Our thoughts and prayers are with Sonny and his family.*
Rich and Holly Fojtik

Rich Fojtik - January 22, 2013 at 08:35 AM

RF

“ *Rich Fojtik lit a candle in memory of Harlan "Sonny" Behm*



Rich Fojtik - January 22, 2013 at 08:22 AM



“ *Every week Sonny Would share a story with me. I enjoyed talking with him and watching him buy items from the auction to redo. My family will deeply miss him . Many prayers to all his friends and family . April ,Kelly Jerah , Kayla , Hanah and Jace .*



April Shankleton/Hamblin - January 21, 2013 at 07:43 PM

BF

“ *1 file added to the album New Album Name*



Bonnie his friend - January 21, 2013 at 12:48 PM