



## Ralph E. Davis

April 27, 1930 - December 27, 2012

Ralph Ernest Davis, 82 of Adrian passed away unexpectedly on Thursday, December 27, 2012 at Bixby Medical Center. Ralph was born on April 27, 1930 in Beaver, Pennsylvania. He was the youngest child of Ernest and Hazel (Armstrong) Davis. He married Sylvia “Jean’ Mercer in Canonsburg, Pennsylvania. Ralph and Jean were married for almost sixty years and she survives.

Ralph graduated from Beaver High School in 1949. He attended Geneva College before enlisting in the United States Army. He was stationed in Alaska where he worked as a chemist. Ralph returned to college after being honorably discharged and was awarded a B.S. in Biology from Adrian College and went on to earn a Masters in Counseling from the University of Michigan. He worked as a chemist for Ashland Oil Company and was credited for discovering a way to make petroleum jelly clear. Ralph became a teacher in the Adrian Public Schools system and taught for more than thirty years. He worked as a counselor and teacher at both Drager and Springbrook Middle Schools.

Ralph was an active member of the First Presbyterian Church where he was ordained as a deacon in 1967 and also served as a youth leader. He was very proud of his years of perfect attendance. He joined the Lenawee County Sheriff’s Department Mounted Division in 1964 and was a lifetime member. He

became a member of the Adrian Evening Lions Club in 1964 and volunteered for many community service projects and was a Little League coach for many years.

Ralph was well known for his random acts of kindness. He would keep a gold dollar coin in his pocket and give them away with a quip and a big grin. To many they became a cherished keepsake. He delighted in telling stories and making people happy. In retirement he was a fixture in his neighborhood lending a helping hand to all in need. He mowed lawns, shoveled driveways, ran errands and acted as a chauffeur to many. He delighted in going to garage sales, spending time at his lake cottage and wintering in Phoenix, Arizona. He loved attending his grandchildren's sporting events and was always cheering (loudly!) from the sidelines. His eyes always sparkled and his smile lit up a room. His laughter was infectious and he always had a joke to tell. He was a very kind, genuine and giving person.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by their children, Allen Davis of Tipton and Gayle (Sam) Mitchell of Adrian; four grandchildren, Tory and Trey Mitchell and Zackary and Ashley Davis; and a sister, Mary Lou (Carl) Davidson of Phoenix.

He was preceded in death by a sister, Dorothy Furedy of Glendale, Arizona. Memorial services will be held at 12:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 3, 2013, at the First Presbyterian Church of Adrian with Reverend James Splitt and Reverend Linda Farley officiating. The family will receive friends at the church on Thursday from 11 a.m. until the service at noon. A luncheon at the church will follow the service. Arrangements have been entrusted to Wagley Funeral Home where online condolences are welcome at [www.WagleyFuneralHome.com](http://www.WagleyFuneralHome.com).

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN 3. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

First Presbyterian Church  
156 E. Maumee Street  
Adrian, MI

## Service

JAN 3. 12:00 PM (ET)

First Presbyterian Church  
156 E. Maumee Street  
Adrian, MI

# Tribute Wall



“ *Ralph E. Davis*

---

January 28, 2023 at 12:24 PM



“ *Dear Gayle and Allen,  
We were so sorry to return from Phoenix and learn of both your parents' passing. We are saddened to know that we won't see them again here at the lake. There are so many memories of them, but especially of the day he told me that his house was once owned by a Kishpaugh. He knew so much history of the lake, and I wish I had plumbed his memory a bit more! He always knew the answers. We will miss both of them so much. Our sympathy to all of you. Karen Kishpaugh and Jim Kay*

---

**Karen Kishpaugh** - May 29, 2013 at 09:41 AM



“ *Dear Mrs. Davis, I am so sorry for your loss. I remember being in one of his classes in the old high school. He was always a happy man. He could sure make his students laugh. Always had something funny to say. I remember how I used to have such a crush on him, as I'm sure other young girls did. He was a good man and he will be missed. God bless you, Mrs. Davis. Deanna (Smith) LeDroit*

---

**Deanna M. LeDroit (Smith)** - January 07, 2013 at 08:28 PM

JH

“ Dear Mrs. Davis and family,  
I was deeply saddened to hear of Mr. Davis' passing. What an extraordinary man. I remember, as a young person in the Adrian school system, knowing that Jean and Ralph Davis were among the most respected educators in our community. What a privilege it was for us to have either one (or both!) of you touch our young lives. ~ May decades of wonderful memories sustain you during these difficult days. Know that I will keep your family close to my heart in thought and prayer.  
Jeanne (Hewes) Huyser



---

**Jeanne (Hewes) Huyser** - January 05, 2013 at 08:18 AM

SG

“ My thoughts and prayers are with all of you during this difficult time. He was so full of life and love and he touched alot of people during this life here on earth. I know that I will always remember his zest for life and family. He was always smiling and always had a kind word. He was always ready for an adventure. I think about the time he loaded a minature pony in the back of his car drove through the middle of town with the pony's head hanging out the window and delivered it to his wife for her birthday. He inspired me in more ways than I can say.  
Rest in peace Mr. Davis.  
Shirley Vallade-Greene

---

**Shirley A. Greene** - January 03, 2013 at 09:24 AM

KD

“ *Uncle Ralph was one in a million. We all enjoyed his sense of humor and his generosity. He always had a twinkle in his eye and a story to tell. His yard sale adventures were legendary and we always enjoyed his visits to Arizona. We are so grateful that he was just here in December. We will always treasure the time we spent with him and be inspired by his love of family and his care for Aunt Jean. We will miss him forever.*



*Terry & Kathy Davidson and family*

---

**Kathy & Terry Davidson** - January 02, 2013 at 12:37 PM

MD

“ *Mary Lou Davidson lit a candle in memory of Ralph E. Davis*



---

**Mary lou davidson** - January 02, 2013 at 09:49 AM

SH

“ *My prayers and condolences to Mrs Davis and Family. I have good memories of Mr Davis in science class at Drager Middle School in 1961-62. He was a very special teacher.*



*Sincerely, Sue (Cassell) Hirschy, class of '66*

---

**Susan (Cassell) Hirschy** - January 01, 2013 at 08:51 PM