



Chester Ward Southwell

November 4, 1934 - February 1, 2021

Chester W. Southwell

Chester Ward Southwell peacefully passed away at home on Feb.1., 2021 at the age of 86. He was born on Nov. 4, 1934 in Adrian, Mi., the son of Ward and Goldie (Grubbs) Southwell. Chet was drafted into the Army at the age of twenty and was stationed in Germany where he served until 1957.

After returning home from his military service, he became a lifetime member of the American Legion. Chet married Anita Mapes from Onsted, Mi. on Aug. 29, 1958 and they remained there until she preceded him in death on Jan.9, 1988. Through thirty years of marriage, they built a life of raising children, working, traveling and bringing together many friends and family. He is survived by his five children; Debra (Tim) Gorman of Bakersfield, CA. Bruce (Gabrielle) Southwell of Toledo, OH., Cynthia Chambers of Toledo, Oh., Connie Southwell of Na'alehu, Hawaii and Grant (Trish) Southwell of Bakersfield, CA. Six Grandchildren; Meghan Gorman, Elijah And Zachary Chambers, Sara, Garrett and Kyle Feliz.

In 1991 he married Gordene Anderson and she survives him along with her children; Lonny (Cheryl) Hartman, Dadene (Paul) Burke, Gordy (Jo) Hartman, Loretta Jo Hartman, Corky (Lori) Anderson, eight grandchildren and four great grandchildren; Chet had 5 brothers; Larry Southwell and David Southwell both of Gilletts Lake, Mi. Dean (Myra) Southwell of Norvell, Mi. And he is preceded in death by his parents and brothers Richard Southwell of Grass Lake, Mi. and Frank Southwell of Florida and one sister Patricia Todd of Brooklyn, Mi. He is survived by many nieces and nephews as well.

Chet was a skilled tradesman for Ford Motor Company for thirty years during which time he received accolades and awards for suggestions and innovations that he made to their production line processes. He retired in 1991 and along with Gordene moved to Darby, Mt. He spent his retirement years working on his dream log home, hunting and fishing and spending time with his beloved dog Rudy Pierre. Chet was a prolific hunter and throughout the years he acquired many trophy animals. In December 2004 he captured a record sized Shiras moose that was entered into the 2004 - 06 Boone and Crockett Club Big Game Awards. He returned to Michigan in his latter years where he resided in Tecumseh.

During this time, he obtained his dream automobile, a 1932 Packard Dual Cowl Super 8 Phaeton which he restored to its full glory. The completed car was exhibited at the 2017 Lake Bluff Concours d' Elegance where it won Best in Show and the People's Choice awards. Chet had a great zest for life and would always share many wonderful stories of his adventures. A visionary man with many extraordinary talents, he was an adept builder, carpenter, mechanic and machinist. Chet was a true example of the American Dream. He will always be remembered for showing that through hard work and determination you can achieve any of your goals and aspirations. He will be greatly missed by his children, family and friends and remembered fondly for his many accomplishments and the inspiring way in which he lived.

Chet's family and friends will gather on Friday, February 5, 2021 at Eineder Funeral Homes – Brooklyn Chapel (137 S. Main St. Brooklyn, MI 49230) from 4PM-8PM. A private funeral will be held for family and friends. Pastor Jeff Sheeks of the First Baptist Church of Brooklyn to officiate. Burial to follow at Maple Shade Cemetery, Onsted, Michigan. Covid-19 mandates will be observed, masks and social distancing is required. In lieu of flowers, memorial suggestion is to Arbor Hospice or the Onsted American Legion. Please leave a message of comfort for Chet's family or sign his guestbook at www.EinederFuneralHomes.com.

Cemetery

Events

Maple Shade Cemetery

Onsted, MI, 49265

FEB

5

Family and Friends Gathering 04:00PM - 08:00PM

Eineder Funeral Homes - Brooklyn Chapel

137 S Main St PO Box 396, Brooklyn, MI, US, 49230

Comments



“ So sorry to hear of Chets passing. He was a great neighbor in Onsted. Our thoughts are with you at this time.

Dick and Gail Kimball

Dick Kimball - February 07 at 07:23 AM



“ Was sad to hear of Mr. Southwell's passing. My memories of him are of an exceptional father supporting his son Bruce and daughter Connie in sports. I can clearly remember the day he drove his yellow customized Ford truck up to the school in Oyster. The Harley hood tilted forward showing a 351 no doubt all chromed out. I think my mouth was stuck fully open in awe. He was a superstar in life and I enjoyed hearing a bit more about his life after I entered it. He truly had a full life tha anyone would envy. He also was one of the only people in my life I knew as Chester. A name shared with my father. RIP

Gregory Tripp Sr. - February 06 at 11:36 AM



“ The man I call dad never missed a day of work. He never called in sick. He worked on our old house every night after work until bedtime. He worked for years remodeling our old house . Room by room everyday , every weekend , even over holidays until it was finished (which I don't believe it ever was to him). Sometimes for the big jobs he would bring in my grandpa and my uncles. Always having fun and a few beers while they worked. When I was older he visited one time to my house and he admired my painting project. He asked me where I learned to paint like that and I said Dad .. I learned from watching you. The dad I knew always took us to visit grandparents and cousins and uncles and aunts. We always had relatives stopping over and friends to see my parents and the house and what next adventure was going to take place. The dad I knew loved card parties and pig roasts in the back yard in summer. Taking his old Jewett to parades with all of us kids riding with him. He went hunting on usually one big trip every year somewhere wild and far away. It wasn't unusual for him to be dropped off by an airplane in the middle of nowhere for a couple of weeks. The dad I knew hunted down a mountain lion with just his little dog , by himself in the mountains of Montana. I said dad those can jump forty feet you know..... he wasn't worried at all. One year the forests around his house were burning all around his property and he said he wouldn't go if the fire came to him. He was going to face it down on his own .Always and ever fearless. The dad I knew could fix anything , build anything, make anything happen by the sheer force of his mind and his hands. He never doubted. He never looked back. If life was a mountain he climbed it straight up and not one obstacle ever stopped his ever going forward ever upward ,ever onward to the top.

Debra Gorman - February 06 at 12:58 AM



“ Amazing life. Great memory. :)

Gregory - February 06 at 11:28 AM



“ Hi Deb. This is Michael Jones. So sorry about your dad. I enjoyed reading about him.

Michael jones - February 12 at 05:53 AM



“ What a story teller so enjoyed the family when they lived in Onsted. He lived life to the fullest. Sympathy to all in your loss.

Larry & Margie Reed - February 05 at 08:01 PM



“ Sending our deepest condolences to the entire Southwell family. I have so many great memories of swimming In the pool, riding in the Jewett and spending time with the family.

Elizabeth Gutierrez-Jackson - February 05 at 12:51 PM



“ Our deepest sympathy. We will always cherish the time we had in Montana. My dad always so enjoyed his time with Chet

carolyn slusher - February 05 at 09:38 AM



“ What a wonderful life! Chester sounds like he had an incredible time on this earth and one for his family to cherish. So sorry for your loss. He will surely be missed.

Lora Lauver - February 05 at 07:31 AM



“ With Distinction was purchased for the family of Chester Ward Southwell.



February 04 at 07:22 PM



“ To the entire Southwell family, we are so sorry for your loss of Chet. I remember visiting his home in Montana and was so impressed with the house he built and the car he restored. Our prayers are with you all.
Our deepest condolences,
Jennifer and Craig Grafmiller

Jennifer Grafmiller - February 04 at 12:31 AM



“ Wildflower Seeds - Build A Memory Garden was purchased for the family of Chester Ward Southwell.



February 03 at 05:21 PM



“ Wildflower Seeds - Build A Memory Garden was purchased for the family of Chester Ward Southwell.



February 03 at 05:10 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Chester Ward Southwell.



February 03 at 03:55 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Chester Ward Southwell.



February 03 at 02:15 PM