



D. Hugh Clark

June 10, 2017

Donald "Hugh" Clark passed away on Saturday, June 10, 2017, at the age of 82. He was born in Livonia, MI. Hugh was preceded in death by his wife, Joleen, his parents Donald and Ruth and his sister, Susan (Clark) McNamee. He is survived by his son, Donald (Lynne) Clark, Valerie (Bruce) Gerhart and Kathy (Warren) Richter; along with seven grandchildren, Will, Allison and Lindsey Clark, Jennifer and Paul Gerhart, Clark (Anna Goldberg) and Lee Richter, and one great granddaughter, Sadie Joleen Goldberg Richter.

Hugh was a wonderful father and grandfather (Papa). He created a lasting influence on the interests and vocations of his children and grandchildren, as they continue his legacy of love for nature, science, the environment and canoeing. Hugh was a science teacher for 39 years at Harbor Beach High School and took special delight in bringing his students a weekly taste of nature, having Euell Gibbons days each Friday. He earned the rank of Eagle Scout as a youth and was a Scout leader for 35 years, taking hundreds of young men on wilderness adventures and nurturing a love and respect for the outdoors. For his distinguished service to Scouting, he was bestowed the Silver Beaver Award. He wrote for decades a weekly article for the Harbor Beach Times called "Talk for the Table" and he was a proud graduate of Michigan State College, having marched in the 1954 Rose Bowl parade.

Hugh was a member of the Wooden Canoe Heritage Association, where he

and Joleen developed deep friendships with fellow canoeists from around the country. He was also a master woodcarver who did thousands of basswood carvings never for personal or financial gain but for the pure joy of giving them away to relatives, friends and strangers. We are certain that many of the people reading this will feel a smile on their face because they have one or many of his carvings in their home.

In lieu of a memorial service, his children and grandchildren will hold a private memorial at a later date at Superior Provincial Park's Mijinemungshing Lake, which was a treasured canoeing area for Hugh and Joleen. Memorials may be sent to the Harbor Beach Lighthouse Preservation Society, the Harbor Beach United Methodist Church, or to the donor's choice. "Paddle on Papa."

Tribute Wall



“ Ramsey Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of D. Hugh Clark



Ramsey Funeral Home - June 13, 2017 at 03:14 PM

JJ

What a good man. That is more of a compliment than many people recognize. He did the right thing....time and time again. He was a great husband, father, teacher, and leader. That is what good men do. We can all only hope to emulate Hugh. Thanks, Ramsey's, for sharing.

Jim Jackson - June 13, 2017 at 09:25 PM

TC

A wonderful tribute to a wonderful life. Hugh made a major impact on all he came in contact with

tom clair - June 15, 2017 at 04:56 AM

BW

A good man indeed. Thank you Mr. Clark for all your years of service to our community of Harbor Beach, but more than that for setting such a great example to us in our youth. You will be missed.
Bonnie Arntz Wood

Bonnie Wood - June 16, 2017 at 11:05 AM



“ D. Hugh Clark

October 04, 2023 at 01:24 PM

RM

“ My sympathies to the family and friends of Mr. Clark (as he was known to me). I was a student in his chemistry class in 1966. I remember on one occasion when returning to class on a Monday, that he expressed some dismay at the fact that one or more of his students had "TP'd" his home over the previous weekend. He had the guilty parties return to clean it up. All in good fun.

Ron Moses - June 28, 2017 at 04:46 PM

RM

“ My deepest condolences to the Clark family. Mr. Clark was a great man and I always considered him as a guy that would always be around. So I must say, I was terribly shocked when I saw his obituary in the Minden City Herald this week. (I live in Reno, NV so the paper is not too timely here). I had Mr. Clark for my physics class teacher in 1958 and to this day, I consider Mr. Clark as the best teacher I ever had. His attitude in anything could not be beat and I don't recall ever seeing him when he did not have a smile on his face. He will definitely be missed by so many people.

Richard Moses - June 28, 2017 at 12:27 PM

BE

“ Mr Clark had the best laugh. He always had a positive comment. His eyes always had a twinkle of enthusiasm which meant we were about to learn something. He and Joleen together were always kind and caring. A number of years ago he presented me with one of his wonderful carvings, recognizing a promotion I had received in the Fire Dept. I was truly honored he created my likeness, mustache and all. Plus, I could share his story as folks asked about the carving. Don, Valerie, Kathy and families...prayers of comfort and peace during this difficult time. May God continue to bless each of you.

Bob Eick

Bob Eick - June 17, 2017 at 03:05 PM

RA

“ Hugh Clark was the kind of man that we all inspire to be, strong, wise and compassionate. Outdoors is where his heart lived and the students who were taught by him know it. In many ways he was the man I looked up to during High School, fatherly and tough. I ended up a scoutmaster and a teacher and it was because of Hugh. I didn't continue to teach as he did, but what he taught us about the nature, outdoors and adventure rings in my heart today. I can not thank him enough. Don, Val and Kathy my families prayers are with you. He will be remembered.

Ralph - June 16, 2017 at 03:56 PM



“ Mr. Clark was a wonderful teacher and a great encourager for hundreds (or more!) of us who were privileged to be his students. Words cannot express my gratitude for all he did for Harbor Beach ... and for encouraging my career in science. He made my happy many years ago, and I know he will be joyful forever.

Mark Schmalz - June 15, 2017 at 11:28 PM

RB

“ My condolences to the Clark family. I too was blessed to have received one of Mr. Clark's carvings. I was a student of his. I have a Santa Claus that I hang on my tree every year and have cherished it for years! Rest In Peace Mr. Clark.

Rose Bucholtz - June 14, 2017 at 09:47 PM

SR

“ Remember having your dad drive me home after babysitting and we would stop past the stop sign in the middle of the cross streets all the way down Garden st! Of course they'd been out with Mom and Dad! My carvings are priceless to me ! a priveledged to own some!

susan Bosch rutkowski - June 14, 2017 at 10:55 AM

EM

“ What a wonderful tribute to a man that touched SO many lives. What a asset he was to all of us who lived in Harbor Beach. I will never forget him being my teacher. Keep cherishing the memories and now now that Hugh will be your newest angel to watch over the entire Clark family. Gods blessings to each of you.



Ellen M.Rapson - June 14, 2017 at 08:40 AM

CH

“ So sorry to hear this news, Don, Kathy and Val. Mr. Clark was one of the finest people I've known, and one of the best teachers. He expected the best work you could do, but could always get a laugh out of you in the process. He never got the memo that girls could not excel in science and math -- I've tried to live up to those standards ever since. We were lucky to have him as a teacher and an advocate. I have to say I don't remember the wood carving, but how fantastic to see all the pictures of the work on Facebook. A gifted man and an inspiration. All the best to your family; I know you are surrounded by love and grace. Carol Hendrick

Carol Hendrick - June 13, 2017 at 10:21 PM

PS

“ Such special people that our family was so blessed to share our lives with...Hugh and Joleen were the best! I will never forget the "bikini cake" Jolene ordered (my first one) complete with Boy Scout colors and insignia for Hugh's birthday. He loved it! I am so excited for Hugh and Joleen to continue their life together...forever. Pam Semp

Pam Semp - June 13, 2017 at 06:48 PM

SM

“ My favorite story told by Hugh at one of the many teacher parties was about the "fish bladder." My favorite story told by Jolene was about telling you girls the facts of life. I'm lucky to have known them. Sue Micinski

Sue Micinski - June 13, 2017 at 06:29 PM



“ 45 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Ramsey Funeral Home - June 13, 2017 at 02:52 PM

DD

“ *Sending Prayers to the Clark family for your loss. I have many memories of Mr Clark in high school and his fun enthusiasm for science.*

Peace to you and yours, Deanna Duggan-Carmody, Mike and Family

Deanna Duggan-Carmody - June 13, 2017 at 08:13 AM

ES

“ *The "Paddle On" comment by his children are good thoughts to live by, something he would want all those who knew him... to do. Rest in peace, Surely missed. God Bless*

Eileen V Schubring - June 11, 2017 at 05:45 PM

CB

“ When I heard of Hugh's passing, the first thing that came to mind was the last photo in the slide presentation at Joleen's funeral. It was a rear view of the two of them canoeing off in the distance enjoying life. I am sure they are planning a reunion canoe trip. I had the pleasure to be able to work with both of them over the years and what a delightful and fun couple to have known. Prayers to all the family.

Carol and Russ Brown

Carol Brown - June 11, 2017 at 03:43 PM

PH

Had Mr. Clark for both Biology classes in high school. He was always a fun teacher. Later he came and talked to our Girl Scout troop when they were working on their Silver Award. He was a wealth of knowledge about nature and made us each little canoe pins with our names on them. Enjoyed reading his articles in the HB paper for years, and I loved being able to call him if I found a bug or plant that was a mystery to me! Prayers to his family. "Paddle on" for sure Mr. Clark, you have earned an eternal vacation with your love Jolene.

Patricia Hagedon - June 13, 2017 at 07:06 PM

SG

God created such a man to touch and change the lives of many in a short time upon this earth.

sandra glide - June 13, 2017 at 08:03 PM

GG

Mr. Clark left this world a much better place because of the lives he help mold through the years.

Thoughts and Prayers for those he left behind.

Gladys Grzybowski - June 13, 2017 at 08:41 PM

KA

Mr Clark taught me stuff about nature that I still remember today. He was a great teacher.....God Bless you all.

Kathy "Collick" Ambler - June 13, 2017 at 09:45 PM



*Best darn teacher I ever had, and that includes two college degrees!
R.I.P. Mr. Clark....*

Larry Lubeski - June 14, 2017 at 02:09 PM