



Franklin Gaffke

October 10, 1933 - January 26, 2022

Franklin Donald Gaffke, aged 88, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, January 26, 2022 at Harbor Beach Community Hospital surrounded by family. He was born October 10, 1933 in Harbor Beach to Emil and Clara (Schubring) Gaffke. He was raised as the youngest of five children on the family farm located in Gore Township, Port Hope, Michigan. After his father's death, he took over the farm where he enjoyed many years of farming and tending livestock.

He graduated from Port Hope High School at the age of 16 in 1950 and was a member of St. John's Lutheran Church.

Franklin and Irma Santana Villarreal were united in marriage on February 5, 1965.

He cherished spending time with family and friends and was a lifelong animal lover. He appreciated local wildlife and loved his dogs and cats. He also volunteered for Gore Township and Youth For Christ.

Surviving are his wife of 56 years, Irma of Port Hope, MI; along with six children; Sandra Welch and her husband Charles of Portola Valley, CA, Robert Gaffke and his wife Linda of Port Hope, MI, Joel Gaffke of Port Hope,

MI, Jason Gaffke and his wife Chalsie of Port Hope, MI, Robin Villavicencio and her husband Gregory of San Mateo, CA, Kenley Gaffke of San Francisco, CA; along with eight grandchildren; Samantha Welch, Erin Welch, Trenton Villavicencio, Angel Garza Gaffke, Joel Gaffle Jr, Jose Gaffle. Julian Gaffke and Emmitt Gaffke; along with three step grandchildren: DeAnna Wruble, KayLee Butler, Sara Brown; nine great grandchildren; his sister Edna Cardwell of Marion, IN; and many loving nieces and nephews who enjoyed visits to the family farm.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Emil and Clara (Schubring) Gaffke, sister Gertrude Selbig and his brothers Earl Gaffke and Orville Gaffke.

Funeral Services for Frank will be Monday, January 31, 2022 at 1 pm, at St. John Lutheran Church, with Rev. David Dodge officiating. Burial will follow in Port Hope Cemetery. Visitation for Frank will be Sunday, from 2-8 pm at the Ramsey Funeral Home of Harbor Beach. Visitation on Monday will be at the church, starting at noon until time of services at 1 pm. A scripture service and memory sharing will take place Sunday, at 6 pm in the funeral home.

Memories can be shared at www.RamseyFH.com

In lieu of flowers donations may be made in Frank's memory to any of the following charities:

National Kidney Foundation www.nkfm.org

Nature Conservancy www.nature.org

Youth For Christ www.bluewaterthumbbyfc.org

St John's Lutheran Church, Port Hope

Cemetery Details

Port Hope Cemetery

Port Hope, MI 48468

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 30. 2:00 PM.

Ramsey Funeral Home Of Harbor Beach

Scripture Service

JAN 30. 7:00 PM (ET)

Ramsey Funeral Home, Inc
425 State St
Harbor Beach, MI 48441
(989) 479-3407
<https://www.ramseyfh.com>

Visitation

JAN 31. 12:00 PM (ET)

St. John Lutheran Church
Port Hope, MI 48468

Funeral Service

JAN 31. 1:00 PM (ET)

St. John Lutheran Church
Port Hope, MI 48468

Tribute Wall



“ *Franklin Gaffke*

October 04, 2023 at 01:24 PM



“ *I remember cousin Frank and family from all the reunions. The Gaffkes always love reunions. And now there is a special one in heaven.*

Eileen S. - February 01, 2022 at 11:11 AM



Thank you for sharing. It means a lot to the family.

Sandra Welch - February 01, 2022 at 12:28 PM

NS

“ MY UNCLE A FIGURE LARGER THAN LIFE WAS VERY INSTRUMENTAL IN MY YOUTH, HARD WORK WAS JUST AN EVERY DAY THING HE DID. FROM THE COWS & FEILDS TO THE GARDEN & THE MACHINE SHED, RAISING KIDS AND STILL FIND TIME TO GO FISHING DOWN BY THE LAKE. I REMEMBER SNEAKING A LOOK TO WATCH THEM BUTCHING A COW THAT I FOUND OUT LATER (MUCH) WAS BUTCH A FAVORITE OF US KIDS. YOUR EATING BUTCH WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN THE THING TO SAY SO IT WAS KEPT UNDER WRAPS. PICKING CHERRYS, PLUMS, TOMATERS, SWEET CORN FOR SUPPER. TRIPS TO BAD AXE & HARBOR BEACH GAVE YOU THE "BIG' CITY GLIMPSE EVERY SO OFTEN. FIREWORKS IN STAFFORD PARK AND WATCHING THE PARADE FROM THE SINCLAIR DINOSAUR STATION WERE HIGHLIGHTS IN THE SUMMER. EVERYONE THAT KNEW HIM WILL SURLEY MISS HIM. BLESS EVERYONE WHO CARRIES HIM IN THEIR HEART.

NORMAN SELBIG - January 31, 2022 at 01:39 PM

SW

Thank you for sharing these wonderful memories of the family.

Sandra Welch - February 01, 2022 at 12:29 PM

TL

“ Tina Learman lit a candle in memory of Franklin Gaffke



Tina Learman - January 31, 2022 at 10:25 AM

SW

Thank you for thinking of Frank. It means a lot.

Sandra Welch - February 01, 2022 at 12:30 PM

RV

“ *This candle is from Felipe Villarreal Jr Pearland Texas sending our condolences to the family and his sister Irma he loves you always talking about his sisters in Michigan*



Rosalinda Villarreal-Ybarra - January 30, 2022 at 08:56 PM

SW

Thank you for sending the beautiful candle. We lit it during the viewing of Frank and mom was so happy to hear it was from you. Love from Frank's kids - Sandy, Bob, Joel, Jason, Robin and Kenley.

Sandra Welch - February 01, 2022 at 12:31 PM

LB

“ *2 files added to the tribute wall*



Larry Brown - January 30, 2022 at 02:19 PM

LB

In 1957 a snow storm, that bolck the Kinde road and all roads around the Port Hope area.

Larry Brown - January 30, 2022 at 02:22 PM

PB

“ Patricia & Larry Brown purchased the "Heaven" Large Light Box for the family of Franklin Gaffke.



Patricia & Larry Brown - January 29, 2022 at 11:53 AM

EL

“ Elmer And Ruth Leese lit a candle in memory of Franklin Gaffke



Elmer and Ruth Leese - January 28, 2022 at 10:40 PM

LB

“ Larry & Pat Brown lit a candle in memory of Franklin Gaffke



Larry & Pat Brown - January 28, 2022 at 08:56 PM

LA

Sorry to hear of Franklin's passing. We were good neighbors for many years.

Larry - January 28, 2022 at 09:00 PM

DK

“ Darwin & Linda Krueger lit a candle in memory of Franklin Gaffke



Darwin & Linda Krueger - January 28, 2022 at 04:02 PM



“ Alice J Schave lit a candle in memory of Franklin Gaffke



Alice J Schave - January 28, 2022 at 11:14 AM



My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family at this time God bless you all.

Alice J Schave - January 28, 2022 at 11:19 AM

CN

“ Uncle Frank, you are now dancing in heaven with siblings and the heavenly host! I so appreciated your generosity in helping our family through the tough times when I was little. This morning I was smiling (and kinda squirming) as I had flashbacks of baling hay with you, being dropped off in a field to hoe sugar beets and being saved by you from that gander that chased me. Sorry I sheered so many pins on the baler. You taught me so much about farm and family life. I appreciate you and love you. Always have, always will. Hugs to all up there in the cold. See you soon!

Cathy Norris - January 27, 2022 at 05:52 PM



“ *White Standing Spray was purchased for the family of Franklin Gaffke.*



January 27, 2022 at 04:29 PM