



Ralph R. Chapman

February 4, 1928 - May 1, 2015

Ralph R. Chapman of Lansing went to be with the Lord May 1, 2015 at home surrounded by family. Ralph was a faithful servant of God throughout his life. Those who knew him, knew his heart of service to his church, his work for educating children, to friends and to his family. He was born February 4, 1928 in Charlotte, Michigan to the late Fred R. and Mildred M. (Funk) Chapman. Ralph served in the US Army during WW II and was a principal for Waverly Schools for over thirty years. His joy in seeing children learn continued well into his retirement and you could often find him sharing a moment to teach and share with others. He was a Ham radio operator, a musician who played several instruments, often self-taught, and spent time portraying Johnny Appleseed to school and community groups.

Ralph is survived by wife, Doris A. (Gilmore); children, Dawn Common, Heather Ann (Dan) Young, Nathan R. (Cynthia) Chapman and Errin M. (Lillian) Chapman; 10 grandchildren; siblings, Robert (Patricia) Chapman and Anna Brown.

A funeral service will be held Wednesday, May 6, 2015, 11:00am at Cedarway Free Methodist Church, 4515 S. Cedar St., Lansing with the Reverend Keith Childerhose, officiating. Interment will be at Chapel Hill Memorial Gardens. The family will receive friends Tuesday 2-4pm and 6-8pm at the Holihan-Atkin Funeral Home, Grand Ledge. You can share your memories and condolences online at www.holihanatkin.com.

The family asks that in lieu of flowers, those who wish to honor Ralph's

memory would continue his legacy by seeking out ways to serve God and the people you encounter in the following days.

Cemetery Details

Chapel Hill Memorial Gardens

4444 W. Grand River Avenue
Lansing, MI 48906

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 5. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Holihan-Atkin-Barclay Funeral Home & Cremation Services
406 N. Bridge Street
Grand Ledge, MI 48837
(517) 627-2531
jasonbarclay@holihanatkin.com
<https://www.holihanatkin.com>

Visitation

MAY 5. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Holihan-Atkin-Barclay Funeral Home & Cremation Services
406 N. Bridge Street
Grand Ledge, MI 48837
(517) 627-2531
jasonbarclay@holihanatkin.com
<https://www.holihanatkin.com>

Service

MAY 6. 11:00 AM (ET)

Cedarway Free Methodist
4515 S. Cedar Street
Lansing, MI 48910

Tribute Wall

SH

“ To the Chapman family I am sorry to hear the passing of your father. I was a classmate of Errin and Nathan and we lived in the same neighborhood as they called us the grove area kids. May God heal your loss.

Scott Hatt

scott hatt - September 16, 2015 at 10:08 AM



“ Mr. Chapman was just a delightful man to know. I have a picture of him giving my 3 year old twin daughters a ride on a tractor when we did a Halloween party at Windemere View. One of a kind man. He will be missed!

Jeanne Hyvarinen

Jeanne Hyvarinen - May 11, 2015 at 05:50 PM

PO

“ I have many fond memories of working at Windemere View with Ralph as my Principal. He was a kind, compassionate man who cared about the children and staff under his leadership. He will be missed by many who knew him. He is in the loving care of our Lord and Savior. Ralph has won the victory of life eternally with our Lord.

Pamela Ogle - May 06, 2015 at 05:53 PM

MG

“ I will never forget the excitement when Mr Chapman would bring his electrical equipment to school, tesla coils and other fun stuff-it really made an positive (pun intended) impression on all of us at windermere park..i recall his stories about Johnny Appleseed, his respected "board of education' paddle (never actually used as far as I could learn), and also that when the lunchroom got too noisy he had the loudest whistle I have ever heard...a fine man and a fine family and a person who's faith was honest and real. I always looked forward to chatting with him when his sons invited me to their beautiful home.

Mark Gmazel - May 04, 2015 at 08:59 PM

DP

“ Dear Doris and Family,
Ralph was always a gentleman, a positive role model to children and adults alike and truly an inspiration in so many ways. As a colleague and friend, I was blessed to have known him. The sparkle in his eye and the warm and sincere smile will always be remembered.
In sympathy and sincerely,
Dan Pappas

Daniel G. Pappas - May 04, 2015 at 02:30 PM

JM

“ Dear Doris and family,
It is with great fondness that I remember Ralph. A gentleman always as well as friend all through our career together at Waverly. As I entered the administration there, inexperienced and somewhat intimidated, Ralph was there with a smile and encouragement. For a while I shared some lunches with him and Al and Jason. What a crew! I write this from Florida and regret I cannot be with you all to wish Ralph well in his new adventure. Like you know, he will be waiting with his smile, pan on his head and hearty welcome. Jack Midgley

Jack and Sandy Midgley - May 04, 2015 at 10:51 AM



“ He was my Principle at Windermere Park Elementary, and to this day I still remember him being Johnny Appleseed! May he RIP and my condolences to his family.



Michelle Prudden - May 04, 2015 at 08:59 AM

DV

“ He was my principal when I attended Windemere Park elementary. He was my son's principal when my son attended Windemere View. To this day my son, Keir, and I tell stories of his yearly Johnny Appleseed presentation to my granddaughters and we sing the Johnny Appleseed Blessing every Thanksgiving. I remember him as a gentle, kind soul who helped make my and my son's school days fun and loving. God rest his soul.

Debra (Penoyer) VanSandt

Debra (Penoyer) VanSandt - May 03, 2015 at 10:16 AM

RF

“ Roger and Karen Funk remember Ralph from visits to Hillman by Ralph and Doris and family. They would come to see Roger's Mom and Dad, Lester and Wilburta, and also Alta and Willard Funk. We remember a portrayal of his of Johnny Appleseed at the Hillman School many years ago when our children were still in school. We want to send our condolences to the family. God bless you and comfort you in your sorrow.

Roger and Karen Funk - May 02, 2015 at 07:49 PM

MB

I remember Ralph from Windemere Park. You just had to know about the board of education paddle and it kept you in line. I remember him coming into the noisy lunch room and yelling FREEZ! You had to stop what you were doing...even if you were chewing on some food! And even the lunch lady's had to freez also. He also would come into the 6th grade room at the begining of the year and offer 50 cent piece to anyone who could tell him the golden rule. The last time I saw him was in 1972 and he was behind out high school bus in his car and everyone yelling 'look it's Mr. Chapman' and everyone wanted to wave at him. He looked delighted! He's just one of those people that made a big impression on you when you were a kid.

Melissa Brown - May 11, 2015 at 04:22 PM