



Clesson L. Ryckman

March 18, 1934 - November 17, 2019

Clesson L. Ryckman, 85, of South Boardman, passed away peacefully November 17, 2019 at home on the family farm with his loving wife of 64 years and his children by his side.

Clesson was born on the family farm on March 18, 1934 to Seymour and LaVerne (Jenkins) Ryckman. In 1952, he graduated from Kalkaska High School where he was a standout varsity basketball player and member of the band and glee club/chorus. He farmed his entire life, initially with his dad, then took over the farm in 1955. He was the executive director of the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service for 20 years – first in Kalkaska, and later in Grand Traverse and Leelanau counties. He also served on the Conservation Board for many years and was once named conservationist of the year.

On July 17, 1955 Clesson married the love of his life, S. Kay Sherwood. They had known each other since grade school and were high school sweethearts. Clesson loved God, his family, friends, farming, deer hunting, his community and John Deere tractors. He enjoyed watching baseball, basketball and football. He also loved music and shared his beautiful bass voice while singing in the choir where he was a trustee and member of the East Boardman United Methodist church.

He was an honest, strong, wise, hard-working man with a quick wit who was always loving, supportive and protective of his family. Forever ready to lend a helping hand whenever needed for his family, his church and his community.

He was a strong supporter and regular attendee of Kalkaska High School Sporting events and attended hundreds of his children's and grandchildren's sporting events and activities over the years.

He is survived by his wife of 64 years Kay; children, Lynda Raymond, Lori (Bill) Garrock, Craig (Kathy) Ryckman; brother Willard Ryckman; sisters, Gene Woodhams, and Virgil Uitvlugt; grandchildren, Stephanie, Jessica (Rod), Ryan (Brooke), Tony, Kaitlyn (Sam), Jared, Natalie and Grant; great-grandchildren, Shay, Joel, Nathan, Silas and Arlo; cousin and best friend, Robert (Bev) Scully, and numerous loving nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Clesson was preceded in death by his parents; brothers, Seymour Ryckman and DeVere Ryckman; sisters-in-law, Marie (Seymour) Ryckman, Maxine (Willard) Ryckman and Betty (DeVere) Ryckman; and brothers-in-law, Victor James (Gene) Woodhams Sr. and Martin (Virgil) Uitvlugt.

The family wishes to express their sincere and special thanks to Laura Casey and the Heartland Hospice Team.

Per Clesson's wishes, no services will be held at this time. A celebration of life will take place early summer of 2020 for family and friends on the family farm.

Memorial contribution may be made in his name to BU 4747, heartland Hospice, 4020 Copper View Suite 113, Traverse City, MI 49684

He will be missed here on Earth but will forever be in our hearts.

Arrangements have been entrusted to the Kalkaska Funeral Home and Cremation Services.

Tribute Wall

RD

“ Dear Kay and Family,

We are saddened by the news of Clesson's passing. Please add us to the long list of those sending their thoughts and prayers to you during this time. May God strengthen you now and smile and comfort you when fond memories of your lives together replace the tears of his passing away from this life.

Our parents, Carroll and Lois Dick, spoke very highly of you and Clesson on numerous occasions when we would visit them in South Boardman. I remember dad once said that Clesson is the Gentle Giant of the family. After meeting Clesson for the first time, it was certainly clear to us why dad felt that nickname was appropriate. No one will know how many lives he has touched during his lifetime but we know for sure that those that have been, will treasure the experience forever.

The Carroll & Lois Dick Family

Roger Dick - December 02, 2019 at 02:13 PM

TS

“ *My thoughts and prayers are with you all. Sorry for the loss of a very sweet man.*

Tina Swan - November 28, 2019 at 10:11 AM

EL

“ *We are so sorry for your loss!!!! We feel blessed to have known this kind, strong man!!!! Kay, and group, our hearts hurt for you!!!! May God hold you all close during this very hard time. Love , Jerry and Ellen*

Ellen - November 28, 2019 at 05:31 AM



“ Kay, Lynda, Lori and Craig,
Sending loving thoughts, comfort, and
understanding to you and your family.
Thinking of you all and giving you the
warmest of hugs from my heart.

Lisa Monache-Miller



Lisa Monache-Miller - November 27, 2019 at 10:03 AM

SS

“ Kay and Family,
You are all in our thoughts and prayers. We know that Cleeson is in
Heaven and no longer having to deal with cancer and all of its
hardships. Please know that we are thinking of you and asking God
to hold you all in the palm of Hand and give you comfort and peace.
Sharon and Dave Stockford

Sharon and Dave Stockford - November 23, 2019 at 10:27 PM

SA

“ Lynda & Lori,
Prayers of comfort & love as you & your
family go through this difficult time of loss.
Know your dad is at peace & is in his eternal
home with the Lord.

Sandi



Sandi - November 22, 2019 at 11:42 AM

JT

“ Dear Kay and family -

We were heartbroken to learn of Clesson's passing & thank Craig for his thoughtfulness in letting us know.

Our Lord gives us special people who come into our lives unexpectedly & touch our hearts forever.

Clesson was one of those special people when he and John went into training together for ASCS (FSA) so many years ago.

John looked up to Cless as the older brother he wished he had and Clesson became Johns mentor as his faith, dry humor, morals and farming wisdom and ethics taught him and so many others.

An added bonus was getting to know you Kay, and Linda, Lori and Craig. Right from the start you all made us feel like part of your family!

To you all - we express our heartfelt sympathy and love.

To our Lord, we thank and give you praise for bringing this wonderful man into our lives.

We will never forget him!

With love -

John and Sharon Twiss. Gulf Shores AL

John & Sharon Twiss - November 22, 2019 at 08:55 AM

MM

“ *A man of integrity and wisdom. Enjoyed getting to know him and learning from him. My wife enjoyed playing euchre around the kitchen table with Clesson and Kay. Truly a man of God!*

Mark Mitchell - November 22, 2019 at 08:52 AM

RW

“ Clesson was a very special man who helped me during my difficult teen years. Honest, hard working and devoted to his family and the farm. We spent a lot of time together milking cows, baling hay and feeding cattle. I will treasure those years all of my life! Clesson was truly a gem and will be missed greatly by all those who knew and loved him!

Randy Wiltshire - November 21, 2019 at 10:28 PM



“ Clesson was and is a great guy, always loved talking to him about farming, deer hunting, and many other things, he helped me out with equipment issues and helped in other ways that he didn't have to and I m always grateful, he will be missed, to Kay and family my condolences, and if need anything at all just holler

Sean Dagenhart - November 21, 2019 at 03:12 PM

BK

“ I've known Clesson since we moved to Ryckman rd. 50 years ago. My brother worked for him on the dairy farm back then. I became good friends with Clesson years ago when I joined the choir at Church. He loved to sing, and almost taught me to read music! Lol. I will miss his elbows during practice, and his fist bumps and giant handshakes! He loved the Church, the Lord, his family, basketball, the Tigers, deer hunting, and farming! He was my friend...I respected him, admired him, and loved him! He was my friend.

brad kniss - November 21, 2019 at 08:56 AM

JC

Clesson was a wonderful guy. I've waited on him and his wife for almost 11 years at the Big Boy in Kalkaska. He was always a pleasant man. He was loved by so many people and will be greatly missed.

Jennifer Chaffee - November 21, 2019 at 08:41 PM

KT

Clesson was my favorite from the time I was 5 yrs old.

.Everytime the family came to Traverse City and stopped in I was in his lap..I got lots of teasing from Uncle Seymour..please let me know when the celebration of life will be

Karen Neiman Treadway

Karen K Treadway - November 24, 2019 at 07:32 PM