



Willard Allen Ryckman Sr.

November 14, 1918 - March 30, 2024

Willard Allen Ryckman Sr., 105, passed away peacefully on March 30, 2024. He was born in 1918 to the late Seymour and LaVerne (Jenkins) Ryckman on their family farm in Orange Township, he led a life filled with love and devotion to family.

After graduating from Kalkaska High School in 1937, Willard married Maxine Rugg, his high school sweetheart. Together they raised four sons and a daughter, sharing 55 years of happiness. During their time together, they loved travelling throughout the world, visiting Europe, Africa, Mexico, and all throughout the United States. During WWII, he proudly served in the United States Navy aboard the USS Bayhem Ag71, which travelled 32,000 miles between 1944-1946. On June 14, 2019, Willard was presented with the Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition for his dedication, sacrifice, and service to our country.

Willard worked hard throughout his life, first as a bookkeeper for Kalkaska State Bank, then running gas stations for Ryckman Oil Co., and later selling insurance and annuities in the local community. In his spare time, Willard loved going outdoors and enjoying the beauty of spending time camping with his family as well.

Family was everything to Willard, and he cherished his grandchildren and great-grandchildren dearly. He was proud of the adults that his own children grew up to be as well. He was also a passionate Blazer's sport fan, especially of Kalkaska basketball and baseball, earning recognition for his support over

65 years. Willard and Maxine loved hosting and putting on team dinners for the teams while their children were still involved.

Willard was a founding member of the Rotary Club, embodying a spirit of service and community. He leaves behind a legacy of love and dedication that will be missed by all and remembered as a loving husband, father, grandfather, and great grandfather. Willard will be lovingly remembered by his daughter Mary Sue (Olli) Wendelin; sons Douglas (Martha) Ryckman, Ronald W. (Mary) Ryckman; 11 grandchildren; 24 great-grandchildren; 9 great-great-grandchildren; sisters Gene Woodhams, and Virgil Uitvlugt; daughter-in-law Rebecca Ryckman; and sister-in-law Kay Ryckman.

He was preceded in death by his wife Maxine E. Ryckman; parents Seymour (LaVerne) Ryckman, sons James E. (Patricia) Ryckman, Willard Allen Ryckman Jr.; grandchildren Jimmy, and Carlene; brothers Seymour (Marie), DeVere (Betty), and Clesson Ryckman; brothers-in-law Victor Woodhams, and Martin Uitvlugt.

Memorial contributions may be made in Willard's honor to the Kalkaska County Commission on Aging or Kalkaska Public Schools Athletic Department.

A visitation will be held from 4:00pm to 8:00pm on Thursday, April 4, 2024, at Kalkaska Funeral Home. An additional visitation will be held at 10:00am on Friday, April 5, 2024, at Kalkaska Funeral Home followed by a funeral service at 10:30am. A burial will follow taking place at Evergreen Cemetery.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Kalkaska Funeral Home & Cremation Services.

Cemetery Details

Evergreen Cemetery

272 West St.
Kalkaska, MI 49646

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 4. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Kalkaska Funeral Home
152 S Cedar St
P.O. Box 1457
Kalkaska, MI 49646

Final Visitation

APR 5. 10:00 AM - 10:30 AM (ET)

Kalkaska Funeral Home
152 S Cedar St
P.O. Box 1457
Kalkaska, MI 49646

Funeral Service

APR 5. 10:30 AM (ET)

Kalkaska Funeral Home
152 S Cedar St
P.O. Box 1457
Kalkaska, MI 49646

Graveside Service

APR 5. 12:00 PM (ET)

Evergreen Cemetery
272 West St.
Kalkaska, MI 49646

Tribute Wall



“ *My deepest condolences to you and your family. My great grandparents homesteaded on Bass Lake Rd. Maybe we are related.* ”



Peggy Patrick-Kruse - July 03, 2025 at 02:46 PM

RO

“ *We are sorry to learn of Willard's passing. A very nice guy whom we have known for many, many years. Went to school with his sons Allen & Jim, good athletes & good guys, & Jim's wife Barb who was also a very pleasant person. This is a void to the community over all. Rest in peace, Willard!* ”

Will & Patty Rodgers

Rodgers - April 11, 2024 at 10:28 PM

KP

“ *Kathryn Pawson lit a candle in memory of Willard Ryckman* ”



Kathryn Church Pawson - April 05, 2024 at 11:45 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Willard Allen Ryckman Sr..



April 04, 2024 at 11:36 AM



“ Vivid Recollections was purchased for the family of Willard Allen Ryckman Sr..



April 04, 2024 at 10:48 AM



“ From Guy and Betsy King planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Willard Allen Ryckman Sr..

From Guy and Betsy King - April 04, 2024 at 10:48 AM



“ Dreams From the Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Willard Allen Ryckman Sr..



April 04, 2024 at 10:29 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Willard Allen Ryckman Sr..



April 04, 2024 at 09:04 AM



“ Guenter Weber planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Willard Allen Ryckman Sr..

Guenter Weber - April 04, 2024 at 09:04 AM



“ So happy I was Blessed to get to help care for him. A true highlight of my career was getting to take him to a Pit Spitters game last year and have him point out the things I missed on the field. A precious, precious Friend to have. Mary C

Mary Cunningham - April 03, 2024 at 10:54 AM



“ Diana Uitvlugt lit a candle in memory of Willard Ryckman



Diana Uitvlugt - April 03, 2024 at 07:50 AM

CI

“ *Rest in peace Willard. Such a sweetheart of a man. I met him while working at the Kalkaska COA! Loved the man.*

Cindy Ingalls - April 02, 2024 at 06:50 PM

KF

“ *Kathy flores lit a candle in memory of Willard Ryckman*



Kathy carlisle flores - April 02, 2024 at 06:34 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Willard Allen Ryckman Sr..*



April 02, 2024 at 03:58 PM

KK

“ *Ken and Joan Benjamin, Topeka, KS purchased the Basket of Memories for the family of Willard Allen Ryckman Sr..*



Ken and Joan Benjamin, Topeka, KS - April 02, 2024 at 01:33 PM

KK

“ Ken and Joan Benjamin, Topeka, KS planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Willard Allen Ryckman Sr..

Ken and Joan Benjamin, Topeka, KS - April 02, 2024 at 01:33 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Willard Allen Ryckman Sr..



April 02, 2024 at 11:07 AM