



Smokey Howell

July 7, 1936 - July 6, 2011

Howell, Mr. Gerald G. "Smokey" of Saginaw, Michigan passed away on Wednesday, July 6, 2011, at Covenant Medical Center-Cooper. Age 74 years. He was born on July 7, 1936, in Saginaw, to the late Leonard and Margaret (Pickell) Howell. Smokey served in the U.S. Army while stationed in Gelnhausen, Germany from 1959–1961, and was honorably discharged in 1965. Prior to his retirement, Smokey was employed at Schmerheim Electric for 20 years as a truck driver. He accepted Christ as his Lord and Savior on July 19, 2008, and was Baptized at the United Pentecostal Church in Bridgeport, officiating was Pastor Kevin Leaman. Smokey was well known for his show cars, especially at the Green Acres parking lot on Friday nights during summers. Over the years, Smokey worked in pyrotechnics for Dave Oppermann, shooting off firework shows in Evansville, IN; Hoyt Park, Saginaw; and with friend, Bob Schiff, shot off a show for Pyro Spectaculars on a barge on the Hudson River in New York City. Following his retirement, he also worked with Tom Denton, installing furnaces and air conditioners. Surviving are his brother and sisters and their spouses, Leonard Jr. (Ruth) Howell, Saginaw; Mary Ellen (Cliff) Gregory, Shields; Barbara M. Johnson, Midland; special nephew and niece, Darren Sr. (Carol) Howell, Zilwaukee with whom Smokey was involved in their lives for over 20 years, working along with Darren and his kids teaching them thing about cars and attending many car shows with them, being included in activities, picnics, parties and more. Smokey was proud to purchase a car hoist for Darren to put in his pole barn so they could work on cars. He was so proud he could do that for them. When attending car shows, they would drive two of Smokey's vehicles so that all three of his vehicles could be on display. In return, Smokey helped the family where he could and made himself a part of their family. When it got to where he was unable to drive, his brother Leonard and wife Ruth would take him places so he wasn't left behind. His sister Mary would always make sure he got big trays of cookies during the holidays. Also surviving are another special nephew and niece, Steven (Diane) Howell, Sr., Reese, whom they would let Smokey store his vehicles in their barn; niece, Amy Jo (Douglas) Wortley, Saginaw, whom he enjoyed giving a big jar of loose change, all taped up and smiling as she opened it little by little, during the holidays; great-nephews, Darren Jr. and Jeff Howell; Steven Howell, Jr.; great-great-nephews and niece, Cameron Howell; Gregory Wayne Wortley; Sarah Karen Wortley;

special friends, Dave Oppermann, Bob Schiff, Tom Denton, and Aaron and Wendy Reynolds, who were neighbors who helped him along the way. He was predeceased by his niece, Karen Ann Gregory; his nephew, Wayne Gregory; and his brother-in-law, Donald Johnson.

Smokey's funeral celebration will take place 11:00 a.m. Saturday, July 9, 2011, at the Wakeman Funeral Home, Inc., 1218 N. Michigan Ave. The Rev. Kevin Leaman will officiate with burial in the Veteran's section of Forest Lawn Cemetery, with military honor guard conducted under the auspices of American Legion Post # 439. Friends are welcome to visit with the family at the Wakeman Funeral Home, Inc. on Friday from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., then on Saturday from 10:00 a.m. until the time of service. Memorial contributions may be given to Alzheimer's Assoc., American Cancer Society, or Cystic Fibrosis Assoc. Memories and sympathies may be shared with Smokey's family on his Obituary page at www.WakemanFuneralHome.com

Cemetery

Forest Lawn Cemetery

3210 S. Washington Ave.
Saginaw, MI, 48601

Events

JUL **Visitation** 02:00PM - 04:00PM

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Wakeman Funeral Home, Inc.
1218 N. Michigan Ave., Saginaw, MI, US, 48602

JUL **Visitation** 06:00PM - 08:00PM

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JUL **Visitation** 10:00AM - 11:00AM

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JUL **Service** 11:00AM

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Comments



“ Jerry always called me HOOK POO cause I always in barefeet. JERRY was always laughing because I would always wrap my blig toe.aroundj my next toe. I have thought thru out the years how he's been doing. When he would be at ary Ellen,s house and he was there then the laughter would start all over. When we would go o ver to Gary Novak,s

house "tHE LOUNGE" and play pool, listen to music, and watch the Friday nite Movie we could Laugh until our sides split. If it was a sad show, Jerry would mock the movie tTHhouglht what the movie SHOULD BE like. I have many wondeful memories about Jerry. He was one of my favorite highligts thruout the years. I'll never forget him. Karen HOOK POO!

Karen Waterman - July 08, 2011 at 07:29 PM



“ Jerry worked for our Dad(George St. Mary) at George's Standard Service station on Hoyt and Sheridan for several years. We have many great memories of Jerry. He was a very devoted employee to our Dad and had a superior knowledge about cars. My brother tells of this thing they had about screaming "seven" at the top of their lungs. Jerry picked this up from Joann Workley from Laugh In. This was a private joke the guys had. There were a bunch of guys that hung around the gas station such as Don Demers, Gary Novak, Al Drouliard, Mike Bart, and George, Jr and many more. They had great times down there. So sad to hear Jerry passed on and wish to send our most sincere sympathy.

The St. Mary Children - July 08, 2011 at 02:49 PM



“ Jerry was one of those people who loved to do for others. I grew up next door to him, living with my grandparents, George and Florence Austin. Jerry was a WONDERFUL friend to them. After Gram passed, Jerry would spend evenings watching television with my grandfather. He watched over Georgie like he would his own father. Jerry and my grandfather both loved cars, and they would talk about them continuously and work together on them. Nothing pleased either of them as much as "tinkering".

Jerry also loved children. He loved to joke with them, and he loved to help them. I swear, I think that at one time or another, he fixed every bicycle in the neighborhood. The kids were always asking for "Mr. Howell" when they would walk past. He also had a crazy sense of humor, and you could always get a laugh out of him. He was simply fun to be around.

Jerry has left a lot of great memories in the minds of many. May God bless you, Jerry.



Gail (Austin) Roethlisberger - July 08, 2011 at 08:28 AM



“ I have such great childhood memories of him. My grandparents George and Florence Austin lived next door to Jerry for many many many years. He helped teach me how to drive and lectured me on taking good care of a car. His kindness and humor and friendship to my grandparents will remain a wonderful memory for me for the rest of my life. <3 Lisa Austin

Lisa Austin - July 07, 2011 at 02:19 PM