



Vern Cornwell

March 4, 1923 - March 23, 2019

Vern Cornwell, 96, of Sanford, Michigan, formerly of Rudyard, Michigan, died on March 23, 2019, in Mt. Pleasant, Michigan. He was born on March 4, 1923, in Leroy, Michigan, to Franklin Arthur and Lillie Mae (Whitaker) Cornwell.

Vern grew up in Battle Creek until third grade when his family moved to Rudyard. He graduated from Rudyard High School with the class of 1940. He married his high school sweetheart Lorraine Johnson on December 20, 1941. They began their family just as he enlisted in the United States Army. He served in World War II for four years as a medic before his discharge in 1945. After his return home, Vern and Lorraine expanded their family raising five sons. He worked a few odd jobs at Rudyard Electric, Cowan's Department Store, as a school bus driver, and with local construction companies before starting at the U.S Postal Service. He provided Rudyard and Kinross with their mail for 32 years. Lorraine became ill and died in 1996. Vern later met Elizabeth (Griffin) Wegner and they married on July 6, 1996. In 2014, they moved to Sanford, where he spent the rest of his days.

Vern was a member of the Rudyard Presbyterian Church, Rudyard Volunteer Fire Department, Rudyard school board member for 26 years, Rudyard Lions Club, Cub Master, Scout Master for 26 years, Silver Beaver Award recipient, and a member of the Sanford Seniors Wood Carvers.

Vern loved golfing, reading, doing cross word puzzles, spending time at Grampscamp, gathering with family at Christmas, birthdays and other special occasions, and fishing trout. He was also an amazing wood carver.

Vern is survived by his wife, Elizabeth Cornwell of Sanford; sons, Gary (Patti) Cornwell of Harpswell Island, Maine, Glenn (Jodi) Cornwell of Rudyard, Gene (Caroline) Cornwell of Des Allemonds, Louisiana, Greg (Gail) Cornwell of Rudyard; daughter-in-law, Sue Cornwell of Sun, Louisiana; step-daughter, Suzanne (Joe) Ramos of Breckenridge, Michigan; grandchildren, Michelle (Andy) York, Garrett Cornwell, Gretchen Cornwell, Garth (Amanda) Cornwell, Gavin (Melissa) Cornwell, Sarah (Kurt) Kwiatkowski, Kurt (Erin) Cornwell, Gene Cornwell Jr., Daniel (Tiffanie) Cornwell, Brady Bischof, Brandi Bischof, Jeremiah (Alicia) Cornwell, Tesha Thomas, Kelle Montenegro, and Amy Lyn Cornwell; great-grandchildren, Mitchell, Samuel, Madison, Kayleigh, Kegan, Deacon, Emily, Elea, Calder, Seneca, Gwendolyn, Grant, Klaire, Lily, Haley, Kurt, Loren, Trey, Mark, Destinee, Jada, and Zion; and great-great-grandchildren, Ivy and Olivia.

Vern is preceded in death by his first wife, Lorraine Cornwell; son, Giles Cornwell; granddaughter, Georgiann Cornwell; sisters, Stella Green, Iris Harrison, Theresa Hesselink, Thelma Kooyer; and brothers, Glenn, Leonard, and Albert Cornwell.

Visitation will be held on Friday, March 29, 2019, from 11:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. at R. Galer Funeral Home, 24549 S. M-129 in Pickford, Michigan. The Funeral Service will follow beginning at 1:00 P.M with Leroy Case officiating.

Burial will be at Oaklawn Chapel Gardens in the spring of 2019.

Memorial Contributions may be made to the Rudyard Presbyterian Church, P.O. 257, Rudyard, MI 49780.

Cemetery Details

Oaklawn Chapel Gardens

15264 S. M-129
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 29. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Family Life Funeral Homes - Pickford
24549 S. M-129
Pickford, MI 49774
(906) 647-3400
flfh@familylifefh.com
<https://www.familylifefuneralhomes.com/>

Funeral Service

MAR 29. 1:00 PM (ET)

Family Life Funeral Homes - Pickford
24549 S. M-129
Pickford, MI 49774
(906) 647-3400
flfh@familylifefh.com
<https://www.familylifefuneralhomes.com/>

Tribute Wall



“ Vern Cornwell

October 05, 2023 at 09:54 AM



“ Vern Cornwell

October 02, 2023 at 10:14 PM



“ Vern Cornwell

September 01, 2022 at 07:49 PM



“ *Deepest sympathy to the Cornwell family. I remember their home as being full of love and laughter. I, like many, have a small carved pin from Vern's skilled hands. Vern was my grandfathers' (Hank) best friend - we felt he was part of our family too. His legacy of faith and love live on through his children and grandchildren. Well done.*

Carol Jarvi Overholt

CAROL OVERHOLT - March 29, 2019 at 09:02 PM



“ *Pretty Please was purchased for the family of Vern Cornwell.*



March 28, 2019 at 11:42 AM



“ *Pretty Please was purchased for the family of Vern Cornwell.*



March 27, 2019 at 07:48 PM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Vern Cornwell.*



March 27, 2019 at 04:24 PM



“ *Vern was a friend to many. We were honored to have known him. We have one of his carvings - a loon with a baby loon. So beautiful! He will be missed by many. Prayers go out to the family.*

*Bert and Ellen Sutton
Dafter, MI.*

Ellen and Bert Sutton - March 27, 2019 at 12:40 PM

MI

“ *Leaving us with loving lasting memories!
Never wavering in your love for our Amy Lyn,
your “little princess!”.*

*Rest high.
Love,
Brent and Mary Izzard*

Mary Izzard - March 27, 2019 at 11:33 AM



“ *Magnificent Life Spray was purchased for the
family of Vern Cornwell.*



March 26, 2019 at 05:04 PM

JJ

“ *Uncle Vern was an exemplary man. He will be missed by all. I loved
his wonderful attitude and sense of humor . His carved robin is a
permanent fixture in my home and reminder of his great talent
Condolences and love to his beautiful family. Joann Halonen
Jennings*

Joann jennings - March 26, 2019 at 04:55 PM

JM

Uncle Vern was loved by his whole family, including nieces and nephews. He always had a hug for me, whenever we saw him. He was the last of his siblings. I know my brother Don will miss him greatly. He always talked about Uncle Vern--he taught him to carve. He missed those carving sessions so much after Uncle Vern moved !! May God grant you peace as you go through this sad time.

Cousin Judy and Bob.

Judy McCain - March 28, 2019 at 11:17 AM

SS

“ *I have a small wood carving Vern made of a little wren perched on a tree stump, and it's one of my favorite things that I own. It sits proudly on a shelf where I can see it daily, and I always marvel at the detail. Like his artwork, Vern was and still is an inspiration for many. His loss is deeply felt, but his legacy is a beautiful one. Rest in power, Vern.*

Stephanie A Swift - March 26, 2019 at 12:34 PM

YG

“ *Your G's purchased the Truly Beloved Bouquet for the family of Vern Cornwell.*



Your G's - March 26, 2019 at 08:46 AM

EJ

“ So sorry to hear about Uncle Vern. I have missed seeing him around town the past several years. Although I did not know him and my Aunt Lorraine very long, it was an honor to have been a part of their lives and I will always cherish the memories of him attending my wedding and being the father figure that gave me away. My son has some wood carvings that Uncle Vern gave him when he was just little. My sympathies go out to the family.

Esther Johnson - March 26, 2019 at 08:13 AM

EJ

“ Esther Johnson lit a candle in memory of Vern Cornwell



Esther Johnson - March 26, 2019 at 07:48 AM