



Virgil Lawrence Ball

September 1, 2019

Virgil Lawrence Ball, age 88, Pickford, Michigan, passed away on September 1, 2019, in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. He was born in 1930 in Levering, Michigan, to Archie E. and Esther A. (Kaufman) Ball.

The Ball family moved to the Pickford area while Virgil was in elementary school, living in Rockview, south of Pickford. He graduated from Pickford High School and earned his bachelors degree from Bob Jones University. He later earned a masters degree from Eastern Michigan University. Virgil married Annette Kamper of Rudyard, Michigan, in 1954. They moved with their daughter Trina to the Philippines in 1960, where they served as missionaries with Far Eastern Gospel Crusade in Ifugao Province and Manila until 1976. While living in the Philippines, they had four more children, twins Keith and Kevin, Konna and Marlan. In 1977, they moved to Alaska, serving in Chistochina, Anchorage, and Glennallen, with SEND International, formerly FEGC, until retiring to Pickford in 1998.

During retirement, Virgil began building his and Annette's dream house and enjoyed being closer to family. He was involved in a ministry to inmates at Kinross Correctional Facility, secretary for the Eastern Upper Peninsula Amateur Radio Club and enjoyed visiting his children in California, Paraguay, Colorado and New Mexico. He later lived at Hearthside Assisted Living in Sault Ste. Marie and enjoyed years of being their resident gardener. He was a

lover of books and a voracious reader.

Virgil leaves behind his brother, Clayton (Belva) Ball of New Jersey; sister, Maxine (George) Rhinehart of Ohio; daughters Trina Ball of California and Konna (Peter) Parker of South Korea and Colorado; and son, Marlan (Rachel Archer) Ball of New Mexico.

Virgil was preceded in death by his wife, Annette Ball; sister, Helen Cowell; brother, Harvey Ball; twin sons, Keith and Kevin; and granddaughter, Christa Sauerman.

Services will be held Saturday, September 14, at R. Galer Funeral Home, 24549 S. M-129 in Pickford. Visitation will be held from 11:00 A.M. until 1:00 P.M. with the funeral service to begin at 1:00 P.M. Burial will follow in Cottle Cemetery in Marquette Township, Michigan.

Memorial contributions may be made to Hearthside Assisted Living Patio Furniture Fund, c/o SHSS, 1501 West 6th Ave., Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783, for furniture in the garden Virgil loved to tend.

Cemetery Details

Cottle Cemetery

5431 E Townline Road
Pickford, MI 49774

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP 14. 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

SEP 14. 1:00 PM (ET)

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Tribute Wall



“ *Virgil Lawrence Ball*

October 05, 2023 at 09:54 AM



“ *Virgil Lawrence Ball*

October 02, 2023 at 10:14 PM



“ *Virgil Lawrence Ball*

September 01, 2022 at 07:49 PM



“ We remember fondly meeting the Ball family during the early years of our marriage when they began to attend Chapel by the Sea. They were serving with SEND North in Anchorage at the time and Marlan and Kona joined up with our youth group. We really enjoyed getting to know them. Virgil became our Sunday School teacher during those years. We appreciated his teaching style and his joyful attitude toward life, and particularly toward the Lord.

I recall having them over to our house for dinner on at least one occasion, and the kids with the youth group on many occasions. During that time we decided to help with the Ball's financial support as missionaries. A year or so went by and we made the decision to minister at Camp Li-Wa. That position required us to raise missionary finances. Virgil and Annette let us know they would support us...the same amount we were supporting them! We used to laugh about that, but God supplied the rest. It was in very short order we had enough to move to Fairbanks, and all these years later God has been faithful to all of us in supplying our needs, as He always is!

Our last memory was visiting them in upper Michigan when Virgil was in house building mode. Annette was still living. It was our last time seeing them both, Virgil still his positive and joyful self, a good last memory.

*Ted and Marilyn Franke
Palmer, Alaska*

Ted Franke - September 10, 2019 at 04:08 PM

FL

We were sad to hear of Virgil's passing, but also comforted knowing he is at home with his Lord Jesus Christ. Having known him and his wife Annette through the years, we knew how difficult it was for him when he lost her. Now they are together and catching up with family and friends and rejoicing . We send our sympathies to the family and regret that we were unable to attend the funeral.

Floyd and Karen Lamoreaux - September 14, 2019 at 01:40 PM

FR

Just thinking today of the many times we enjoyed clam chowder together on Fridays at the Caribou Cafe in Glennallen, AK. Enjoyed knowing both Virgil & Annette during our AK years and we were able to visit Virgil once in Michigan to see the house he was renovating. Also just ran across his name in a book written by a Wycliffe worker when they were in the Philippines together.

John & Freda Rasko

Freda Rasko - January 23, 2020 at 12:24 PM

CT

Remembering the time in the Philippines when Virgil came through Angeles City and stopped to visit our family at Clark Air Base where we were stationed from 1972-74. His International Scout transmission broke down and he was told it would take weeks to get the new set of bearings to repair it. I took him to my favorite Filipino mechanic and explained the problem. My mechanic found a set of bearings but the roller bearings were too long for the Scout's bearing race, so he ground each individual bearing down to the correct size and reassembled and installed them in the Scout's transmission. Virgil and I were amazed at the ingenuity of the Filipino's ability to find a quick solution to the problem. Our family was truly blessed with the time we spent with Virgil. What a great testimony for our Lord.

Capt. Ron Thompson - April 09, 2024 at 05:54 PM