



## Edward William "Duke" Stakenas

February 24, 1926 - November 13, 2019

Edward William "Duke" Stakenas aged 93 of Free Soil passed away on Wednesday, November 13, 2019 at his home. Ed was born on February 24, 1926 at home on the family farm in Sherman Township, the son of William R. and Anna Marie (Merkis) Stakenas, and graduated from Scottville High School with the class of 1945. On September 2, 1950 he married Clara Rose Froncek at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Manistee and they celebrated 63 years together before Clara preceded him in death in 2014.

Ed had a passion for music and was an original member of the Scottville Clown Band "Class of 47." He thoroughly enjoyed his many years spent with the band playing saxophone, marching in countless parades, developing long-lasting friendships, and wore the title of "Transportation Czar" with great pride. Ed was also able to show his love of music by playing at the Rendezvous in Walhalla every Saturday night, rarely missing except for special family events.

Ed was the founding President of Stakenas Farms in Free Soil, now operated by his sons William and Carl and their children. In his retirement, he continued to live on the farm where he could still oversee the operation and give his two cents from time to time. Ed has served the farming community as a long time member of the ASCS Board, on the Dairy Council and the Michigan Milk Producers Association Board, as well as serving on the Sherman Township Board of Review. He and Clara were former members of Sacred Heart and St.

Jerome Catholic Church, and attended St. Mary's Catholic Church in Custer.

Following Clara's death, Ed reconnected with high school sweetheart Evelyn Daniels of Manistee and they have enjoyed each other's companionship the past four years. The Stakenas family would like to especially thank Evelyn for sharing her time and family with us.

Along with his beloved Clara, Ed was preceded in death by his parents, and his brothers Raymond and Robert.

Ed will be greatly missed by his children Raymond and wife Deborah of Grand Rapids, James and wife Paula Cardinal of Clarksburg, MA, Carl and wife Kay, and William and wife Terri all of Free Soil, Patrick and his partner Amalia Rosen of Newport Beach, CA, and Victoria Selinger and husband David of Hockessin, DE. He will also be missed by his grandchildren Raymond Stakenas and wife Melissa Okey, Kathleen Stakenas, Kellianne Stakenas, Adam Cardinal-Stakenas and wife Elizabeth Beer, Thomas Stakenas and wife Stephanie, Martin Stakenas and wife Kala, Jennifer Whalls and husband Adam, Loryn Schlinker and husband John, Hailee Larson and husband Kyle, Lyndsay Earl and husband Seth, Kyle Stakenas, Alec Stakenas and fiancée Amanda Cooper, Grant Stakenas, Nicole Stakenas and fiancé John Roberts, Jordan Stakenas, Ian Selinger, Erin Selinger, and Anna Selinger; his thirteen great-grandchildren Adrian and Jamie Cardinal-Stakenas, Greyson and Isabella Stakenas, Haidyn and Reese Larson, McKenzie and Madisyn Earl, Hudson Stakenas, Leah Whalls, Kyngstin and Maddix Stakenas, and Luna Okey; his special friend and companion Evelyn Daniels and her family, along with several nieces, nephews, cousins, and many great friends.

The Celebration of Mass will take place for Ed at 11:00 am on Saturday, November 23 at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Custer with Rev. Daniel DePew as celebrant. Friends may meet with his family on Friday evening from 6:00 –

9:00 pm at Wyman Funeral & Cremation Services in Scottville, and on Saturday morning from 10:00 – 11:00 am at St. Mary's Church. Those who wish to remember Ed with a memorial donation are asked to consider The Raymond J. Schulte Music Education Scholarship Fund of the Scottville Clown Band.

# Cemetery Details

## South Victory Cemetery

2950 West Fisher Road  
Ludington, MI 49431

# Previous Events

## Gathering of Friends

NOV **22**. 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM (ET)

Wyman Funeral & Cremation Services - Stephens Funeral Home  
305 E. State St.  
Scottville, MI 49454  
(231) 757-3333  
wyman-stephens@sbcglobal.net  
<https://www.wymanfuneralservice.com>

## Gathering of Friends

NOV **23**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Mary's Catholic Church  
85 South Madison Street  
Custer, MI 49405

## Celebration of Mass

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NOV **23**. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Mary's Catholic Church  
85 South Madison Street  
Custer, MI 49405

# Tribute Wall



“ Wyman Funeral & Cremation Services created a Tribute Video in memory of Edward William "Duke" Stakenas



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**Wyman Funeral & Cremation Services** - November 21, 2019 at 09:47 PM

EK

“ I just learnt about Edward's passing. I want to expend my sympathy to your family. We had never met, but i read his letter to my aunt. I read Robert's letters about Edward. Warmest regards, Elena, Sophia's Merkis granddaughter from Minsk, Belarus.



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**Elena Katilas** - January 30, 2020 at 02:02 AM

EK

“ Elena Katilas lit a candle in memory of Edward William "Duke" Stakenas



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**Elena Katilas** - January 29, 2020 at 02:20 PM

TW

“ Terry Williams lit a candle in memory of Edward William "Duke" Stakenas



Terry Williams - January 24, 2020 at 02:20 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Edward William "Duke" Stakenas.



November 22, 2019 at 10:33 AM



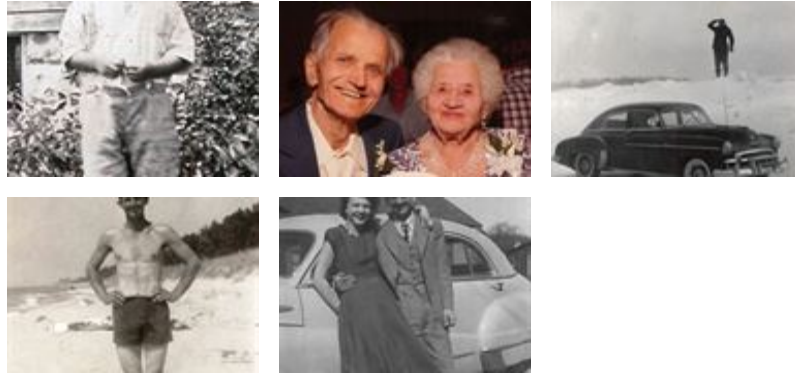
“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Edward William "Duke" Stakenas.



November 22, 2019 at 10:02 AM



“ 39 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



**Wyman Funeral & Cremation Services** - November 21, 2019 at 09:17 PM



“ *Be My Love Bouquet with Red Roses* was purchased for the family of Edward William "Duke" Stakenas.



November 20, 2019 at 03:11 PM



“ *Erin and Anna Selinger* purchased the *Beautiful Heart Bouquet* for the family of Edward William "Duke" Stakenas.



**Erin and Anna Selinger** - November 20, 2019 at 08:42 AM

CF

“ Cardinal-Stakenas Family purchased the Truly Beloved Bouquet for the family of Edward William "Duke" Stakenas.



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**Cardinal-Stakenas Family** - November 19, 2019 at 09:10 PM

KM

“ We did not spend a lot of time with Ed and Clara other than family events, but they were always full of life and after hearing the stories of clown band and rendezvous gigs I know Ed touched many lives having a positive effect. Prayers for the whole family from our family. Kirk Myers, Kay's senior brother.....

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**Kirk Myers** - November 19, 2019 at 07:48 PM

FL

“ On behalf of the Myers family (Arvilla, Tammy, Shelly, Kim and Yvonne) I would like to express our deepest sympathy. Ed was a big part of our life when we lived on old man Sims property. I remember spending Christmas with the family and summer riding tractors and baling hay. Ed and Claire always had time for us girls plus our little brother. May they again be together in heaven.

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**Fran Leukhardt** - November 19, 2019 at 12:23 AM

DR

“ *To the Entire Stakenas Family,  
I am very sorry about the death of Mr. Stakenas. I have had the privilege and honor of working and playing trumpet with Jim, his son, for over 30 years in Massachusetts. I had the honor of meeting Mr. Stakenas at Jim's retirement from the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts and found him to be a warm and caring individual with a great love of family. I have heard much about the farm and other family members over the years and Ed's antics with the Clown Band. You should all be very proud of his life and accomplishments. Although he is gone the memories will be with you all forever. Having worked on a dairy farm during much of my youth, I know you will be proud of the legacy he passed on to you and the continuing legacy all of the present members of the Stakenas family have had to maintain and support the family farm in many ways. Having just lost my father in August, I know what you are feeling and hope you may have many years of happy memories to come.*

*Dr. Curt Robie*

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**Dr. Curt Robie** - November 18, 2019 at 02:27 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Edward William "Duke" Stakenas.*



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November 18, 2019 at 07:47 AM

MR

“ We are very sorry to hear of Ed passing. He was a good friend, a great music player and Scottville Band leader and player.. The Rendezvous was one our favorite Saturday night places to go to hear him play.. In years back I sang with him a few times at the Rendezvous which was just great. Our sympathy goes out to all his family.

*Bill& Mary Ann Ransom*

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**Mary Ann Ransom** - November 17, 2019 at 08:35 PM

DR

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you all at this sad time. Dean always enjoyed stopping at the farm and he always enjoyed Clara's lunches.

*Dean and Marilyn Raven*

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**Dean and Marilyn Raven** - November 16, 2019 at 05:43 PM



BP

“ My sincere condolences to all of you as you experience the loss of of such a well respected and loved man. May you know how many lives he has touched, mine included. I have wonderful memories of him. Especially those of my father Warren and Mr. Stakenas discussing farming, family, or other nonsense! You each have a name to be very proud of and you continue to work hard because of the values and love he shared with you and our community. May God bless you during this difficult time.

*Beth Ann (Larsen) Pobojewski*

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**Beth Ann Larsen Pobojewski** - November 16, 2019 at 04:12 PM

RG

“ I do enjoyed all the visits with ed when he would come to the farm to visit me and him howe. Between the two of them was a great deal of wisdom in many subjects!!

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**Rose grams** - November 16, 2019 at 12:48 PM

CB

“ As soon as I saw Ed's picture, my mind flashed to the Rendezvous and the many Saturday nights I spent there dancing to the music of the band. There were so many fun songs, and I especially liked when they played "Roll Out the Barrel." I heard him play in my college years, and here I am now, retired from teaching and still remembering. Edward was a big spark in Mason County and will be warmly remembered by so many. He and his music enriched many lives. Blessings to him and to his family.

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**Cheryl Bogner** - November 16, 2019 at 08:56 AM

SB

“ When the Scottville Clown Band came to Grand Rapids for the Pulaski Day parade Ed invited me to sit on the old bus with him and watch the marchers go by. It was very cold! Love from Sonia Lapenas Bergers

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**Sonia Bergers** - November 16, 2019 at 08:32 AM

BT

“ From our farm in Victory and hearing my dad talk about Ed to going to Saturday night dances at the Rendezvous and talking to him between sets. He was a great person and will be missed.

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**Bev timpy** - November 15, 2019 at 09:27 PM

LQ

“ *Dean and I consider ourselves and our family as a small branch off from the Stakenas family ( Ed and Clara along with all of their children have always welcomed us with open arms ). Ed will truly be missed by all who knew him !*

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**Laura and Dean Quick** - November 15, 2019 at 06:55 PM