



Frank "Butch" Claveau

July 11, 1925 - November 29, 2017

Frank "Butch" Claveau Jr., 92, of Scottville passed away on November 30, 2017 at his home.

Frank Xavier Claveau Jr. was born on July 11, 1925 in Scottville, Michigan to Frank and Alta (Merritt) Claveau Sr. He grew up in Scottville and graduated from Scottville High School in 1943. While in school, Butch was very active in sports and band. Butch was known as "Chumsky" when he was the quarterback for the Scottville Spartan football team.

His parents Frank and Alta were owners/operators of two businesses in Scottville, the Palace Ice Cream and Confectionery and The Palace Radio and Appliance Store of which Butch was employed before and after his US Navy service both times. Butch joined the U.S. Navy on June 29th, 1944 and returned home in 1946 and married the "love of his life", Eloise June Buckingham on December 1, 1946. They celebrated 70 years of marriage on December 1, 2016. His presence was again requested by the U.S. Navy on June 29th, (same month and day as before), 1950 for the Korean War and he served another two years before returning home to Scottville. In 1958 he went to work for Dow Chemical Company in Ludington and became an electrician and eventually transitioned to the Safety Department, where he was the Plant Safety Coordinator. Butch retired from Dow in 1990, after 32 years.

Butch was one of the original founding members of the Scottville Clown Band in 1947 that was known and referred to as the "Class of 47". He was an active member and played and marched with the band up until the last couple of years. He was just honored this summer at a Clown Band concert for his 70 years with the band.

Butch also played with the Pentwater Civic Band in their weekly summer concerts in Pentwater for close to 60 years. He also played the organ for the residents of Oakview Medical Facility every Sunday for 14 years while his parents were residents there and continued after they passed on.

He was a Life Member of the B.P.O.E and was very active in the local Ludington Elks Lodge serving in all positions and as the Exalted Ruler multiple times over the years. He also played the Hammond organ on Friday and Saturday evenings for the dinner hour at the club.

Butch was actively involved in the community of Scottville over the years. He was a Life member and active in the Scottville Optimist Club where he was instrumental in helping to start the annual Thanksgiving Turkey Dinner for the senior citizens of the county. He was Scottville Optimist of the Year for 2007-2008. He and his wife Ellie were Scottville Citizens of the Year in 1975 and were the Grand Marshalls for the Scottville Harvest Festival Parade. He served on the volunteer fire department and the city commission. Butch also organized and started the Scottville Youth Soccer Program.

Butch was an active advocate for the West Shore Community College Wellness Center and was a very active 5-6 day a week exercise participant from 2000 until about a year ago when his health prevented his participation any longer.

He really enjoyed steelhead fishing on the PM River and golfing with his brother-in-law Harold Merrill. He and his wife Ellie loved attending the Wednesday and Saturday night Sounds of the Forrest concerts in Baldwin. Butch was a faithful fan of the Ludington Boy's Soccer teams over the years, watching his grandsons play and then also continuing on in years by watching his great grand-daughter also play soccer.

Butch never met a stranger and truly enjoyed life to the fullest!

He was preceded in death by his wife Eloise (Ellie) in January, parents; Frank and Alta Claveau Sr, and his sister; Jean (Harold) Merrill. He is survived by his son; Bruce Claveau Sr. of Scottville and daughter; Rise (Larry) McIntosh of Ludington; his three grandchildren: Bruce Claveau of New Port Richey, Florida, Jordan (Samantha Wcisel) McIntosh of Ludington, and Landon (Jessica) McIntosh of Grand Rapids; his four great-grandchildren: Aryanna and Braylin McIntosh of Ludington, Zamorah McIntosh of Custer, and Ethan Claveau of Colorado Springs, Colorado; and several nieces, nephews and cousins.

Cremation has taken place and per Butch's wishes, no memorial service will be held. Any memorial contributions may be directed to the Scottville Clown Band Raymond Schulte Memorial Scholarship Fund, 405 N. Main Street, Scottville, MI 49454 or the West Shore Community College Wellness Center.

Tribute Wall

TW

“ Terry Williams lit a candle in memory of Frank "Butch" Claveau



Terry Williams - December 16, 2017 at 10:45 AM

LD

“ My thoughts go out to Butch's family, loved ones, and friends. Rest well, sir. You will be missed.

Lisa Dibble - December 11, 2017 at 03:58 PM

BB

“ Butch was such a special friend. We met when I took him through his orientation at the Wellness Center. Hundreds, if not thousands of people over the years benefited from knowing this kind and caring inspirational man. He always had kind words for people and tried to make them feel comfortable when they were new and learning the machines.

Even when he was battling cancer, he'd come out when he was able and do what he could by riding a stationary bike and chatting with his dear friends.

Butch left an empty spot at the Wellness Center.....one I don't think will ever get filled.

He loved his birthday being on 7/11. Mine is 7/16....we often joked about the great people born in July. Butch left many with wonderful memories to hold dear.

Rest in Peace my true friend.....I think of you often.

Barb Beckstrom - December 05, 2017 at 08:54 PM

JS

“ Butch was a very special member of the WSCC Wellness Center since 2000. He was the heartbeat of the "morning workout crew" and he will be greatly missed. His motto "Never Give Up and Always Go The Extra Mile" will continue to inspire his friends at the Wellness Center. Rest in peace my friend. ❤️

Julie Page Smith - December 04, 2017 at 10:46 PM

RM

“ *Butch and Eloise were neighbors and it just seems I knew them forever. Of course, memories are of Butch in the Clown Band. I was a baby sitter for them. After I married and moved away I tried to visit them every time I was home. Butch called me Zanny! I called and talked to him after Eloise passed. The spark was gone. He was a pillar to Scottville. He will be missed by all who live in the Scottville area and those who grew up in there but have moved away. I am really missing him*

Rosanna Gall Miller - December 04, 2017 at 06:28 PM

FS

“ *We grew up next door to Butch and Ellie. Great neighbors. Butch put in a good word for me and helped me get into Dow. I'll be forever grateful. Our condolences to Bruce and Rise' and their families.*

Fred and Martie Smith

Fred Smith - December 04, 2017 at 02:36 PM

DP

“ *I greatly respected Butch, enjoyed his personality and his love of the University of Michigan*

Don Palmer - December 03, 2017 at 06:58 PM

LS

“ *Linda Shively lit a candle in memory of Frank "Butch" Claveau*



Linda Shively - December 03, 2017 at 02:21 PM

LS

My heart out to the family. Butch was a great guy!

Linda Shively - December 03, 2017 at 02:23 PM

MS

“ *We will surely miss Butch at the Wellness Center. He was one of the early morning group. My deepest sympathy to the family*
Mary Ann Schultz

Mary Ann Schultz - December 03, 2017 at 09:39 AM

ST

“ My sincere condolence to Butchs' family. I was blessed to have met him through Art Anderson and the Clown Band. Years later, I was able to get better acquainted with him through the Scottville Soccer Association. At which time my son started to play soccer at the age of 5. RIP friend you will surely be missed my many.

Sherry Tauchus - December 03, 2017 at 01:25 AM



“ JoAnn Mugford Simmons lit a candle in memory of Frank "Butch" Claveau



JoAnn Mugford Simmons - December 02, 2017 at 09:35 PM



Butch will be greatly missed not only by his family but all the people who's life he touched along his life's journey. Rest in peace Butch your work here on earth is done.

JoAnn Mugford Simmons - December 02, 2017 at 09:38 PM

CW

“ My condolences to the Claveau Family. I always enjoyed and will remember Butch's dry sence of humor.

Charlie Weber - December 02, 2017 at 09:39 AM

CA

“ I am so sorry for your loss! We will miss his smiling face at Ponderosa. He always was so friendly and always had a smile for us.

Carol - December 02, 2017 at 07:43 AM