



Harlan Pleiness

February 4, 1927 - February 14, 2025

Harlan E. Pleiness age 98 of Custer passed away on Friday, February 14, 2025. Harlan was born on the family farm in Riverton Township on February 4, 1927, the only child of William L. and Carrie V. (Young) Pleiness, and graduated from Scottville High School with the class of 1944. Harlan furthered his education at Michigan State University in the short course Agriculture program, proudly graduating in 1949. On November 22, 1952 he married Julian Kriscunas in Riverton Township and they celebrated 61 years together before Julian preceded him in death on February 27, 2014.

Born and raised on the family farm, Harlan carried on the family legacy of Dairy Farming in Riverton. He was a member of the American Guernsey Cattle Club and Dairy Herd Improvement Association; served as local president and held various district offices of the Michigan Milk Producers Association; was a longtime member of Michigan Farm Bureau; served his community on the Eden Township Board of Review and the Mason County Planning Commission; was a charter member of Our Savior Lutheran Church in Scottville, serving as an Elder and Chairman of the Congregation, and he and Julian participated in the church bowling league; and after retiring from farming – drove school bus for Mason County Central Schools for over 20 years where he especially enjoyed driving the athletic teams to their away game competitions. Always a farmer, Harlan maintained a beautiful garden at his home. He and Julian were also members of the Bells and Beaux Square

Dance club. Of all the different hats Harlan wore during his life, none gave him more joy than being a loving husband to his wife, a father to his children, and being able to be the biggest fan for his grandkids in all their endeavors. Saturday nights at the Pleiness home were always reserved for games of Pinochle – which was Harlan and Julian’s way of keeping family close.

Along with his wife Julian, Harlan was also preceded in death by his parents William and Carrie, and his son-in-law Walter Reed.

Harlan will be greatly missed by his children Sheri Reed of Custer, Barry (Kathy) Pleiness of Scottville, and Dale (Julie) Pleiness of Ludington; his grandchildren Chad (Annika) Pleiness of Freeport, Misty Pleiness of Goodrich, Erica (Rob) Smith of Ludington, Brian Pleiness (Tiffany Henderson) of Custer, Julie (Kent) Knudsen of Ludington, Gary Berndt of Custer, and Peter Berndt of Las Vegas, NV; his great-grandchildren Isabella and Jenson Smith, Caden, Kellen, and Arden Pleiness, Kloe, Kolton, and Knoah Knudsen; and many great friends made over a lifetime.

Funeral services will be held for Harlan at 11:00 am on Wednesday, February 26 at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Scottville with his friend and pastor, Rev. Kenneth Williamson officiating. Burial will take place at Center Riverton Cemetery later this spring. Friends may meet with his family for a time of visitation on Tuesday evening, February 25 from 6:00 – 8:00 pm at Wyman Funeral & Cremation Services in Scottville, and on Wednesday morning from 10:00 am until time of services at the church. Those who wish to make a memorial donation in Harlan’s memory are asked to please consider the Memorial Fund at Our Savior Lutheran Church.

Cemetery Details

Center Riverton Cemetery

2200 West Hawley Road
Ludington, MI 49431

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB **25**. 6:00 PM - 8:00 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>

Visitation

FEB **26**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Our Savior Lutheran Church
765 West US Highway 10
Scottville, MI 49454

Funeral Ceremony

FEB **26**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Our Savior Lutheran Church
765 West US Highway 10
Scottville, MI 49454

Tribute Wall

TW

“ Growing up in Riverton Township and working in Mason County; I knew many Pleiness Family members. To each of them; and friends, & business associates of Harlan Pleiness I extend sincere condolences.



TERRY S. WILLIAMS - June 29, 2025 at 06:52 PM

RS

“ Dear Berry, Dale and Sherry, we are so sad to hear Harlan passed. Our fondest memories are summers at the farm. Sherry was our best buddy!! Milking cattle, playing in the hay barn, naming the heifers, feeding the calves, rounding up the kittens, watching baby calves being born, collecting the grasshoppers from the corn that was brought in from the fields. Summers were so much fun!! Happy times remembering our parents, Marcine and Stanely playing cards. Eating good food made by Jullian. Drinking the best milk ever!!! Your dad was a kind, gentle, and a wise man. Always greeting you with a smile and having the best chuckle around. I will always treasure my memories at the farm. A big thanks and lots of love to your parents. May they both rest in peace.

Renee Schmoekel - February 24, 2025 at 09:47 PM

DG

“ Thoughts and Prayers to the entire Pleiness Family, Harlan will be missed, Sorry we won't be able to attend the service, we will be thinking of you, Debbie and Jim Garvey

Debbie Garvey - February 24, 2025 at 08:10 PM

BS

“ Barb, Deb, Renee and Sue Schmoekel purchased the Large Basket Garden for the family of Harlan Pleiness.



Barb, Deb, Renee and Sue Schmoekel - February 24, 2025 at 04:52 PM

DS

“ I was honored to meet Harlan at class. Several of us would then recess to McDonald's, where Harlan always enjoyed coffee, Apple pie and conversation. He was a wise, humble man and I will miss his gentle humor, impish smile and insightful mind.

Deborah S - February 24, 2025 at 04:45 PM

AE

“ God has him now and Harlan's life is just beginning 😊



Allen & Lisa Eichmeier - February 23, 2025 at 08:54 PM

DB

“ Dave, Dana, Renee & Brian purchased the Sweet Tranquility Basket for the family of Harlan Pleiness.



Dave, Dana, Renee & Brian - February 22, 2025 at 11:11 PM

YR

“ *Your MSU Brothers, Gerry, Jim and Rick purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Harlan Pleiness.*



Your MSU Brothers, Gerry, Jim and Rick - February 20, 2025
at 02:26 PM

QM

“ *Harlan always got me and my sister home safely when he was our bus driver. He will greatly be missed by all of the bus drivers that worked with him*

Quentin Malzahn - February 19, 2025 at 02:26 PM

LL

“ *My prayers to all of the Pleiness Family. Harlan was a good man and he will be missed.*



Linda Lawson - February 18, 2025 at 07:15 PM



“ Harlan was my bus driver for the longest time growing up. Every school year, I always looked forward to the one phone call a few days before the first day to hear his voice on the other end saying that he was my driver and my bus was #24. He basically watched me grow up. Even when I switched buses (definitely not my choice), I always looked for his bus in the lineup after school just to say hi and catch up a bit. I had been wondering about him because I haven't seen him in years. He is most definitely missed.



Chelsea Adams - February 17, 2025 at 11:15 PM

JD

“ Harlan was an extremely interesting person and one of the kindest I've ever met. Two superpowers that he possessed stand out in my mind. He could sleep while standing up! First time I witnessed it was while milking cows in the Pleiness' milking parlor. It happened quite regularly and he was definitely sleeping, not just resting with his eyes closed! The second one was a challenge that he and I took. I had a calculator and he had his brain. Very large numbers were shouted out with division, subtraction, multiplication and addition. These problems were lengthy and complicated. He beat me every time. I couldn't keep up with the calculator but eventually caught up to verify that he was always correct. Truly a man that will not be forgotten.

Jackie Daniels - February 15, 2025 at 09:05 PM