



## Rev. Dr. Ronald A. Houk

June 15, 1933 - June 12, 2015

Rev. Dr. Ronald Arlington Houk, aged 81 of Ludington passed away on Friday, June 12, 2015 at Mercy Health St. Mary's Hospital in Grand Rapids. Dr. Houk was born on June 15, 1933 in Ludington the son of Arlington and Reva (Kistler) Houk, and graduated from Sparta High School. He served his country during the Korean Conflict with the United States Army and earned his Bachelor's Degree from Asbury University in Kentucky. Dr. Houk continued his education at Asbury Theological Seminary and began his career in ministry on June 7, 1958, the same day he wed AnnaBelle Miller in Benton, Illinois. They have celebrated 57 years of marriage and ministry by each other's side.

Dr. Houk earned his Master's Degree from Garrett Theological Seminary on the campus of Northwestern University and was bestowed with an Honorary Doctorate degree from Asbury University. In the Army, he served as a Chaplain. He also served as a Minister in the United Methodist Denomination at Dunaway UMC in Winchester, KY, Muskegon Central UMC, Shelby UMC, Eaton Rapids UMC, St. Joseph's UMC, and as Superintendent of the Lansing District, where he also started a street ministry. In his retirement, he served as Pastor of Crystal Valley/Walkerville UMC, Fountain UMC, and at Community Church in Ludington. He enjoyed returning to the Houk family heritage of fruit farming, and also liked to spend time growing many varieties of vegetables in his garden.

Dr. Houk was preceded in death by his parents and his sister Audrey Warren. He will be greatly missed by his wife AnnaBelle, his son Jonathan Houk and fiancée Molly Stivers, his daughter Jennifer MacDonald and husband Rommie, his grandchildren Michael and Melody Houk, and step grandchildren Jake and Gretchen Stivers, his sister Barbara Miltibarger and her husband Lowell, his niece, numerous nephews and cousins, along with the many churches and communities he served.

Funeral services will be held for Dr. Houk at 3:00 pm on Saturday, June 20 at the United Methodist Church of Ludington, 5810 Bryant Avenue with burial to follow at Summit Township Cemetery. Friends may visit with his family on Friday evening from 6:00 – 8:00 pm, and Saturday afternoon from 2:00 – 3:00 pm at the church. Those who wish to make contributions in memory of Ronald are asked to consider the Clark Retirement Community in Grand Rapids, or the United Methodist Church of Ludington.

# Cemetery Details

## Summit Township North Cemetery

4800 Hawley Road  
Ludington, MI 49431

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUN **19**. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

United Methodist Church of Ludington  
5810 Bryant Road  
Ludington, MI 49431

## Service

JUN **20**. 3:00 PM (ET)

United Methodist Church of Ludington  
5810 Bryant Road  
Ludington, MI 49431

# Tribute Wall

LB

“ Annabelle,  
What memories we have at Dunaway of your time with us. I don't think you will ever know how much both of you meant to me. All of us youth at the time owe you a deep debt of gratitude for your working with us, directing us in service, youth groups, Eldorado Youth Camp, and keeping us on the straight and narrow. I remember the trio - what adventures and what fun. Although I've not seen you for a long time, I want you to know the huge influence you had on my life and I can't imagine Ron not being here- still. I could go on and on about all our adventures, but there is not space to tell all and I probably should not tell all in a public forum. This is a shock to me and will remain so for a very long time.  
Love to you,  
Liz Berryman

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**Liz Berryman** - July 03, 2015 at 10:51 AM

RW

“ Next weekend will mark our 46th anniversary and we were blessed to have Rev. Houk preside over wedding. We can't say we remember very much about the premarital counseling but by God's grace we struggled through those early years. Some seven years and two daughters later we had both received Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.  
We subsequently had another daughter and a son. Today we are also blessed with 11 grandchildren and a great grandson.  
  
We obviously never know during our walk through this life the effects of prayers and intercessions others have made upon our lives. We choose to believe those of Rev. Houk made a difference.

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**Ron and Myrna Weaver** - June 21, 2015 at 08:35 PM

GK

“ *With sympathy...and gratitude for all the attention he gave my parents in their later years. Gary & Janice Kinney*

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**Gary Kinney** - June 17, 2015 at 09:06 AM

NG

“ *My son, Christopher Greenwood submitted his memories of Rev. Houk previously...as a Mother, you will understand why I'm proud of my son. Well, Rev. Houk was an important man in the formative years for our sons; To this day, they're both involved in, and don't shy away from leadership within their churches. Yes, Rev. Houk and his family are truly devoted to God and are very special to our family. We attended his first service in St. Joseph, Michigan. From that day forward, our families became best of friends. Christmas Eve always included inviting friends to our home where we shared a light meal before heading off to the 11:00 service... Rev. Houk even squeezed in a few minutes to join us between services! We left St. Joseph many years ago, but we didn't leave behind our love and respect for the Houk family. Rev. Houk, you have left many unforgettable memories for you family and friends to cherish...and that smile, we'll never forget. To AnnaBelle, Jennifer, Jonathan, the grandchildren and additional family members, you are in in our prayers today and in the days ahead. With our love and sincere sympathy.....Ron and Nancy Greenwood*

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**Nancy Greenwood** - June 16, 2015 at 08:49 PM

JS

“ So many memories of Rev. Houk. September 2, 1967 he presided at the wedding of my husband and I at the Shelby Methodist Church. What a wonderful, professional, spiritual and faith driven man. He was someone I highly respected and was proud to have him bless our union. Jim and I moved to Lansing after marriage, but when visiting my parents (Howard and Alice Ohlyne Benedict) we attended services in Shelby. In February 1970 he baptized our oldest daughter, Jamie Lin. Softly, gently and with Christian love he performed another one of the most special events in our lives. He will forever remain in our memory and in our hearts. God Bless each of you in the days ahead. Sincere condolences. Jim and Linda (Benedict) Schultz

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**Jim and Linda (Benedict) Schultz** - June 16, 2015 at 01:38 PM

KM

“ Ron, in true New Testament fashion, loved having groups eat as they met. I remember a W MI CABINET meeting in E. Lansing where he took us to a new Oriental restaurant. Mistake! They served persons at separate times; we were 1 1/2 hours eating.

*Ron loved God, was a good friend, true servant of God, an earnest proclaimer and doer of our faith. He excelled in recruiting young people into Ordained Ministry. I will miss him.*

*Ken McCaw*

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**Ken McCaw** - June 16, 2015 at 10:23 AM

WU

“ *West Michigan Conference Cabinet UMC purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Rev. Dr. Ronald A. Houk.*



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**West Michigan Conference Cabinet UMC** - June 15, 2015 at 02:37 PM

JC

“ *How well I remember Ron! He had great fun telling stories about me in relation to an earlier life, as it were. It was being introduced to the Lansing District that the communion cups spilled and a slow stain crept to the front of the table. Later in cabinet, Ron used that image, which was painful for him at the time, to offer a devotional that I carry with me to this day!*

*And he served faithfully on the cabinet, becoming a friend. I know you will find solace in the faith by which he lived, even as you miss him and grieve his absence. May the peace which passes all understanding keep you in its care.*

*Judy Craig*

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**Judith Craig** - June 15, 2015 at 10:38 AM

CG

“ *First and foremost, I want to express my deepest sympathies to Mrs. Houk, Jennifer and Jonathan, along with the rest of his loved ones. I knew the Houk's from their time in St. Joseph, MI while Rev. Houk was the minister of our church. To those who knew Rev. Houk and me, you would know that we did not always agree with each other, whether it be political or religious matters, but I knew I always respected the man. He knew his Lord and he knew his bible, and for that knowledge being passed on to me, I will be forever grateful. Now, not only was he a great theologian, but he was an incredible card player. It was he and his wife that taught my family to play a game called Crazy Rummy....and boy that guy was good. I will always remember the wonderful times I spent with he and his family not only in St. Joseph, but always our weekend jaunts to their house in Ludington. Rev. Houk, you will be missed, but at least I know that one day we will meet again to continue our more spirited debates.*

*Your "liberal" friend,*

*Christopher J. Greenwood*

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**Christopher J. Greenwood** - June 15, 2015 at 09:43 AM