



Charles Russell "Russ" Abel

June 24, 1935 - October 21, 2022

Charles Russell Abel (Russ) passed away October 21, 2022, in Cadillac. He was born in Wexford County near Mesick on June 24, 1935. He was the second child and eldest son of the family of Erben and Norma Abel, descendants of early pioneers of that area. The Abel's are lifetime members of the community and the prominent farm along M-115 near Mesick continues to be family operated. Russ graduated from Mesick Consolidated Schools (1953), then furthered his education graduating from DeVry Technical Institute in Chicago earning an Associates of Science in Electronics, and later with a B.A. in Physics from Texas Christian University, Ft. Worth, TX (1967).

Russ was involved very early in the development of nuclear power in the late 1950's and early 1960's. He was one of the first reactor operators formally licensed by the US Government's old Atomic Energy Commission working at the General Dynamics (Convair) research facility in Fort Worth, Texas. He came to Consumer's Power in 1967 shortly after the completion of the Big Rock Point facility in Charlevoix. Over the years, at one time or another, he held most of the engineering and management positions at the power plant, and maintained his Nuclear Operators License throughout his career. Russ was the Production and Performance Superintendent at the time of his retirement in 1990. He was a resident of the village of Horton Bay for those many years while working at Big Rock.

Russ was very active in antique automobile and truck restoration, owning several and taking part in the Antique Truck Club of America. He was also a

Life Member of the Michigan Antique Flywheelers of Walloon Lake.

Russ was active in forestry programs and a member of the Michigan Forestry Association; he was also a Life Member of the American Forestry Association. He owned and operated a registered tree farm in Antioch Township (Wexford County) since 1967 and bought the adjoining house and 7-acres in 1996. He moved the family from Horton Bay to Antioch in 1999. Full-time operation of the tree farm commenced then and has continued to the present.

He is survived by his beloved wife of 63 years, Venita S. Abel (Davis); they married April 10, 1959 in Weatherford, TX after a short courtship. They raised three children: Michael R. of Plymouth, Patrick O. (Kim) of West Bloomfield, and Lisa R. Mason (deceased) formerly of Cadillac.

Survivors also include: grandson, Tyler M. Abel (Carley) and great-grandson Gunnar of White Lake; granddaughter, Macy A. Abel of Wixom; grandson, Matthew A. Rohloff (Alison) and great-grandchildren Marshall and Ruby of Petoskey; granddaughter, Kayleigh Woolem of Portage; granddaughter, Karolyn Riggs of Petoskey; brother, Richard E. Abel (Jill) of Meauwataka; sister, Marilee K. Cochrane of DeWitt; and brother, Michael E. Abel of Mesick, and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents Erben and Norma Abel, sisters, Eleanor LeVan and Jeannie English, and daughter Lisa Mason. Russ will rest near all at the cemetery in Antioch Township.

A memorial service will be announced at a later date. In lieu of flowers, donations would be appreciated in Russ's name to the Mesick United Methodist Church or St. Jude's Children's Hospital.

An online guestbook is available at www.petersonfh.com.

Tribute Wall

BA

“ Venita, Mike, Pat and families....I'm saddened to hear of Russ' passing. He was always a good friend and one of my best co-workers at the "Rock". Although I didn't get to stop often enough, when I did get to the Traverse area I always stopped in to chat.

One of my favorite memories of Russ when we were working and living in the Horton Bay area was his Saturday visits once in a while. I'd be home and hear a loud horn and a vintage Mack Truck was coming up my drive. It was Russ on a joy ride and he'd stop in for a coffee and some "BS". WE both enjoyed our toys.

He will be missed by many.
Bob Alexander

Bob Alexander - November 29, 2022 at 12:27 PM

SC

“ Rest in peace my friend.

Steven Cavagnaro - November 01, 2022 at 01:00 PM

CF

“ I am so sorry to hear of your father passing Mike. Prayers and love for your family. Carol Feltman

Carol Feltman - October 28, 2022 at 05:07 PM

BP

“ I always enjoyed visiting with Russ. Our last opportunity was very recent when we worked on Russ and Venita's sofa. May the God of all comfort, comfort each of the family during these days.
Ben and Jan Pike

Ben Pike - October 28, 2022 at 12:03 PM

RA

“ *My heart goes out to all Russ's family. May our God comfort you at this time. Russ and I rode the same school bus. He was a year behind me at MHS.
May he rest in Peace.*

Ron Altman - October 27, 2022 at 11:32 AM