



Sperry Burton Claypool

October 27, 1932 - July 20, 2023

Sperry Claypool died peacefully on July 20, 2023 in Munson Medical Center in Traverse City after a fall injury at the age of 90.

He was born on October 27, 1932 in Sylvania, Ohio to Harry and Gladys Claypool. He lived in Sturgis and Mt. Clemens, Michigan as a child and later moved to Cadillac as a junior in High School. His big personality allowed him to make quick and lifelong friendships here. He graduated from Cadillac High School in 1950 and then served in the Navy stationed at San Diego then Japan during the Korean Conflict. Upon discharge he attended the University of Michigan.

Sperry discovered the love of skiing as an adult, and skied almost every day that he could until age 85. He couldn't understand why everyone didn't also want to, to the occasional chagrin of his daughters. He became a professional ski instructor, made so many connections, and almost everyone in Cadillac and Caberfae that met him never forgot him. He has taught many generations of Cadillac to ski, as well as ski race, and will always be remembered fondly for this.

Sperry met his wife Gertrude Widmayer, who was visiting Cadillac from Ann Arbor, through skiing, which changed everything, and they have had a wonderful, full life. They married on September 4, 1954 in Francisco, MI.

Sperry had a huge personality in a small body. He was loved by all for his endless ability to talk to anyone, about anything. He is famous in the area for “Sperryisms” - advice and stories that were very special.

Sperry made a career at the Michigan Department of Transportation, as a civil engineer. He followed that career with a second career at Keystone Realty, and later Coldwell Banker.

Sperry jumped into his passions with both feet. He enjoyed skiing, watersports, golf, tennis, fishing, hunting, and almost anything outdoors. He was an excellent example to everyone.

Sperry is survived by his wife of 68 years, Gertrude; and three daughters: Anne (Ron) Wohlford of Holmes Beach, FL, Patricia (PK) (Tom) Harrison of Boon, and Marie (John) Lapinski of Northville, MI; grandchildren, Eric Wohlford (Gisela Marrero), Lisa Rudolph (Devon), Claire, Grace and Jack Lapinski, and Ashley Kretzchmar (Matt); great grandchildren: Benjamin and Samuel Wohlford, Calvin Rudolph, and Daniel Kretzchmar.

Sperry was preceded in death by his parents and two grandchildren, Angela and Alex Harrison.

Sperry's exceptional life is now complete. He leaves a very large legacy of love, laughter, long interesting stories, and the countless people who he helped along the way.... many, many skiers especially. He laughed a lot, talked a lot, loved a lot, and oh, how, he lived!

There was only one Sperry! No last name needed.

Memorial services will be held, 11:00 AM, Saturday, August 19, 2023 at the

First Congregational Church UCC, 200 E. Harris Street, Cadillac, MI.

The family would like to thank John Doud, minister at the First Congregational Church UCC for his longstanding spiritual support, but especially during Sperry's last week with us. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Sperry's longtime church, First Congregational Church UCC.

An online guest book is available at www.petersonfh.com.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

AUG **19**. 11:00 AM (ET)

First Congregational Church UCC, Cadillac
200 E Harris St
Cadillac, MI 49601-2125
(231) 775-7632

Tribute Wall

JR

“ Thoughts and prayers to the Claypool family . Remembering all the times your family and ours spent time together . Whether it was playing at your grandparents home, playing at the MDOT picnics, playing at the lake, or skiing out at the ski club. Great memories last forever . Sperry and our father are probably finding number one clouds to ski down. Our thoughts & prayers.

Julie (Olson) Raymond and the Olson family

Julie Raymind - August 20, 2023 at 02:58 PM

SH

“ I am so sorry to hear of Sperry's passing, I learned so much from him and he was just a pleasure to be around. My deepest condolences to Gert and the entire family - Sara Parmenter Haskin

Sara Haskin - August 07, 2023 at 08:53 AM

 Karen Rowley

“ So sorry to hear of asperity's passing. We knew him from church. He was a really nice man, always cheerful. Sending sympathy, Dick & Karen Rowley

Karen Rowley - July 27, 2023 at 02:50 PM

DN

“ It was a great pleasure to have known Sperry! I came to know him through skiing and through the years skied many runs together, both at Caberfae and in Colorado. He always called me “Douger” and was fun to listen to in the upper lounge at the ski club. He never lacked for conversation! My sincere condolences to the Claypool family. Sperry will be remembered fondly by all of us lucky enough to have known him. Doug Nelson

Doug Nelson - July 26, 2023 at 04:51 PM

SS

“ Our sincere sympathies to the Claypool family. It was an honor to have known Sperry.

Dan and Sherry Stafford

Sherry stafford - July 26, 2023 at 12:07 AM



“ My heart goes out to PK and the Claypool for the recent loss in your family.. Sending our deepest sympathies and prayers to you all at this time.

Dan and Rita Shankel

Rita L Shankel - July 25, 2023 at 01:32 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Sperry Burton Claypool.



July 25, 2023 at 07:55 AM

DB

“*Condolences to the Claypool family. You were blessed to have a kind, caring patriarch who was a friend to all. R.I.P., Sperry. You were "one of the good guys".*

Daniel Brooks - July 25, 2023 at 06:56 AM

PH

Miss you so much every single day, Poppa. Are you and Alex talking and talking and talking? I love you soo very much. I'll see you when it's my time. You will never be forgotten. Middle

pk Harrison - July 25, 2023 at 07:07 AM

CA

*Pk and family, I do know how hard it is to lose our parents and so thankful that you had so many years with your daddy! I met him many times and always just a kind, happy easy going man. He was always so positive and smiling!
God bless you all and the days ahead, God is welcoming him home.*

Cindy Apps - July 25, 2023 at 05:01 PM

JS

Incomparable Sperry. My heartfelt condolences to the beautiful Claypool Family.

Jackie Swanson - July 26, 2023 at 10:43 PM

JC

Gert, Anne, P.K., Marie and families, We are thinking of you and wishing you comfort and peace. Extending our sincere sympathy and friendship.

John & Linda Coffell - July 28, 2023 at 09:47 AM